



# Learn English Through Stories

M Series

M1

**Adapted and modified by  
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

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## Introduction

Sara Crewe is a very rich little girl. She first comes to England when she is seven, and her father takes her to Miss Minchin's school in London. Then he goes back to his work in India. Sara is very sad at first, but she soon makes friends at school.

### 1. Chapter 1: School in England.

One cold winter day a little girl and her father arrived in London. Sara Crewe was seven years old, and she had long black hair and green eyes. She sat in the cab next to her father and looked out of the window at the tall houses and the dark sky.

'What are you thinking about, Sara?' Mr. Crewe asked. 'You are very quiet.' He put his arm round his daughter.



*'What are you thinking about, Sara?' Mr. Crewe asked.*

'I'm thinking about our house in India,' said Sara. 'And the hot sun and the blue sky. I don't think I like England very much, Father.'

'Yes, it's very different from India,' her father said. 'But you must go to school in London, and I must go back to India and work.'

'Yes, Father, I know,' said Sara. 'But I want to be with you. Please come to school with me! I can help you with your lessons.'

Mr. Crewe smiled, but he was not happy. He loved his little Sara very much, and he did not want to be without her. Sara's mother was dead, and Sara was his only child. Father and daughter were very good friends.

Soon they arrived at Miss Minchin's School for Girls and went into the big house. Miss Minchin was a tall woman in a black dress. She looked at Sara, and then gave a very big smile.

'What a beautiful child!' she said to Mr. Crewe.

Sara stood quietly and watched Miss Minchin. 'Why does she say that?' she thought. 'I am not beautiful, so why does she say it?'

Sara was not beautiful, but her father was rich. And Miss Minchin liked girls with rich fathers, because it was good for the school (and good for Miss Minchin, too).

'Sara is a good girl,' Mr. Crewe said to Miss Minchin. 'Her mother was French, so she speaks French well, she loves books, and she reads all the time. But she must play with the other girls and make new friends, too.'



*Miss Minchin was a tall woman in a black dress.*

‘Of course,’ said Miss Minchin. She smiled again. ‘Sara is going to be very happy here, Mr. Crewe.’

Mr. Crewe stayed in London for a week. He and Sara went to the shops, and he bought many beautiful, expensive dresses for his daughter. He bought books, and flowers for her room, and a big doll with beautiful dresses, too.

Miss Minchin smiled, but she said to her sister Amelia: ‘All that money on dresses for a child of seven! She looks like a little princess, not a schoolgirl!’



*Mr. Crewe bought many expensive dresses for his daughter.*

When Mr. Crewe left London, he was very sad. Sara was very sad too, but she did not cry. She sat in her room and thought about her father on the ship back to India,

‘Father wants me to be happy,’ she said to her new doll. ‘I love him very much and I want to be a good daughter, so I must be happy.’

It was a very big, and very beautiful doll, but of course it could not answer.

Sara soon made new friends in the school. Some little rich girls are not very nice children – they think they are important because they have money and lots of expensive things. But Sara was different. She liked beautiful dresses and dolls, but she was more interested in people, and books, and telling stories.



*The stories were all about kings and queens and princesses.*

She was very good at telling stories. She was a clever child, and the other girls loved to listen to her. The stories were all about kings and queens and princesses and wonderful countries across the sea.

‘How do you think of all those things?’ asked her best friend, Ermengarde.

‘I have all these pictures in my head,’ said Sara. ‘So it’s easy to tell stories about them.’

Poor Ermengarde was not clever. She could never remember any of her school lessons, and Miss Minchin was always angry with her.

Sara often helped Ermengarde with her lessons. ‘Listen, Ermie,’ she said. ‘You remember that French king, Louis the Sixteenth? Well, this is a story about him. One day in 1792 ...

‘And so Ermengarde learnt her lessons through Sara’s stories, and she loved her friend very much. But not everybody was Sara’s friend. Lavinia was an older girl. Before Sara came, Lavinia was the richest and the most important girl in the school.

But Sara’s father was richer than Lavinia’s father. So now Sara was more important than Lavinia, and Lavinia did not like that.

‘Oh Sara is so clever!’ Lavinia often said. ‘Sara is so, good at French! Her dresses are so beautiful, and she can sing so well! And she is so rich! Of course, Miss Minchin likes her best!’

Sara did not answer when Lavinia said these things. Sometimes, it was not easy, but Sara was a kind, friendly girl, and she did not like to be angry with anyone.

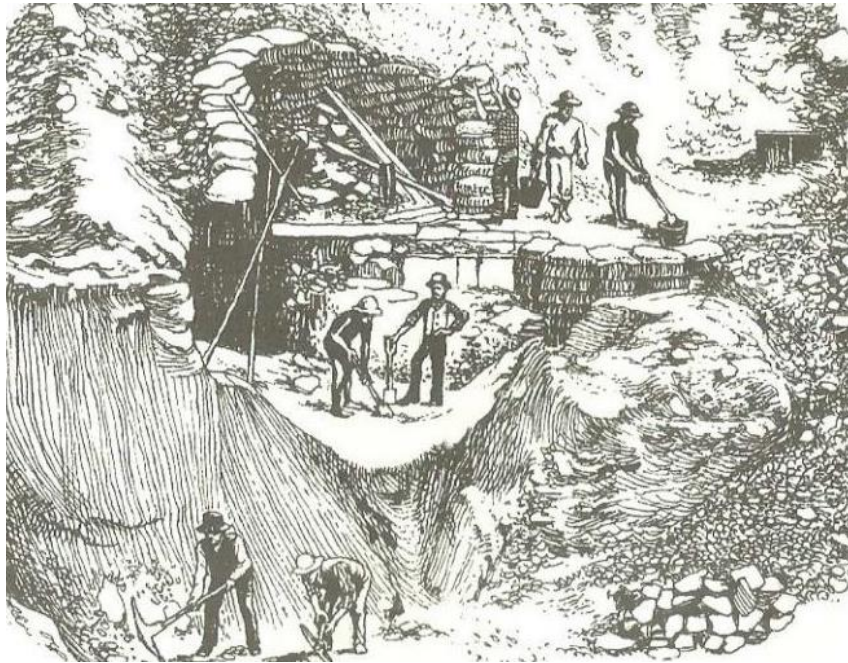


*Now Sara was important, and Lavinia did not like that.*

## 2. Chapter Two: The Diamond Mines

And so three years went by. Sara's father wrote to her often, and Sara wrote loving little letters back to him. One day a very exciting letter arrived. Everybody in the school talked about it for days.

*'My friend,' wrote Mr. Crewe, 'has some mines in northern India, and a month ago his workers found diamonds there. There are thousands of diamonds in these mines... These mines, but it is expensive work to get them out. My friend needs my help. So, little missus (this was Mr. Crewe's special name for Sara), I am putting all my money into my friend's diamond mines, and one day you and I are going to be very rich...'*



*"There are thousands of diamonds in these mines..."*

Sara was not interested in money, but a story about diamond mines in India was exciting. Nearly everybody was very pleased for Sara, but not Lavinia, of course.

'Huh!' she said. 'My mother has a diamond. Lots of people have diamonds. What's so interesting about diamond mines?'



‘But there are thousands of diamonds in these mines,’ said Ermengarde.  
‘Perhaps millions of them!’

Lavinia laughed. ‘Is Sara going to wear diamonds in her hair at breakfast, then?  
Or is it “Princess Sara” now?’

Sara’s face went red. She looked at Lavinia angrily, but said quietly, ‘Some  
people call me “princess”. I know that. But princesses don’t get angry or say  
unkind things, so I’m not going to say anything to you, Lavinia.’

‘To me, you are a princess,’ Ermengarde said to Sara later. ‘And you always  
look like a princess, in your beautiful dresses.’ Sara was a princess to another  
girl, too. This was Becky. She was a servant in Miss Minchin’s school, and she  
was only fourteen years old, but she worked all day and sometimes half the  
night. She carried things upstairs and downstairs, she cleaned the floors, she  
made the fires, and she was always tired and hungry and dirty. She and Sara  
had very different lives.



*Becky cleaned the floors, made the fires...*

But one day Sara came into her bedroom, and there was Becky, sleeping in a  
chair.

‘Oh, you poor thing!’ Sara said.

Then Becky opened her eyes and saw Sara. She got up at once. ‘Oh, Miss!’ she  
said. ‘I’m very sorry, Miss! I just sat down for a minute and...’

‘Don’t be afraid,’ said Sara. She gave Becky a friendly smile. ‘You were tired. That’s all.’



*There was Becky, sleeping in a chair.*

‘Are you – are you going to tell Miss Minchin?’ asked Becky. She began to move to the door.

‘Of course not,’ said Sara. ‘Please don’t run away. Sit down again for a minute. You look so tired.’

‘Oh, Miss, I can’t!’ Becky said. ‘You’re very kind, Miss, but Miss Minchin...’

‘Please,’ said Sara. She took Becky’s hand. ‘You’re only a little girl, like me. Let’s be friends.’

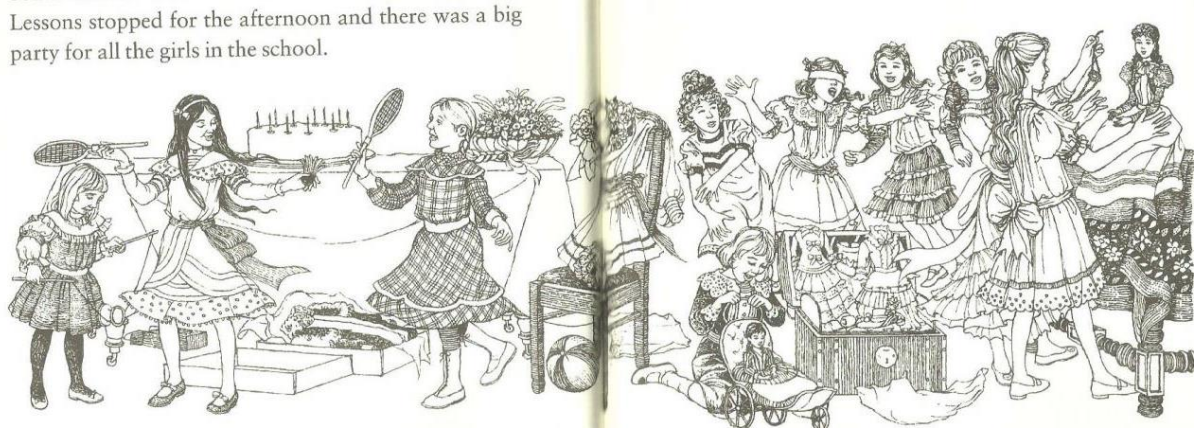
And so, Becky sat down again, and soon she and Sara were friends. Nobody knew about this, of course. Rich little girls at Miss Minchin’s school did not make friends with servant-girls, and it was a wonderful thing for Becky. Nearly every day she and Sara met in Sara’s bedroom, just for five or ten minutes. Becky was always hungry, and Sara often bought nice things for her to eat. They sat and talked, and sometimes Sara told Becky some of her stories. Becky loved that.

‘Oh, Miss,’ she said. ‘You tell them so beautifully! Sometimes I like your stories better than things to eat.’

And after those visits to Sara’s room, Becky always felt better – not so tired, and not so hungry.

Some months later Sara had her eleventh birthday. Lessons stopped for the afternoon and there was a big party for all the girls in the school.

Lessons stopped for the afternoon and there was a big party for all the girls in the school.



*Everybody at Sara's party was very happy.*

'This party is expensive for us,' Miss Minchin said to her sister Amelia. 'But it looks good for the school.'

That afternoon there was a visitor to the school- Miss Minchin's lawyer. He went with Miss Minchin into her office, and they closed the door. In the schoolroom next door there was a lot of noise from Sara's party. Everybody in there was very happy.

But in the office Miss Minchin was not happy. She looked at the lawyer angrily. 'What are you saying? Mr Crewe has no money? What about the diamond mines?'

'There are no diamond mines,' said the lawyer. 'Well, there are mines, but there are no diamonds in them.'

'But Mr. Crewe's good friend...,' began Miss Minchin.

'Mr. Crewe's good friend,' said the lawyer, 'ran away with all Mr Crewe's money. Ralph Crewe was ill with a fever, and when he heard about this, he got worse. A week later he was dead.'

'Dead!' cried Miss Minchin. 'But what about his daughter Sara? And this expensive birthday party?'

‘Sara Crewe has no money,’ said the lawyer. ‘Not a penny in the world, Miss Minchin. Not a penny.’

‘She must leave my school at once,’ Miss Minchin said angrily. ‘She must go this afternoon!’

‘Where?’ said the lawyer. ‘Out into the streets? An eleven-year-old girl? That’s not going to look very good for your school, Miss Minchin.’

Miss Minchin’s face went red.

‘You can’t put her out in the streets,’ said the lawyer. He stood up. ‘But perhaps she can work for you.’

The lawyer left, and Miss Minchin called her sister Amelia. ‘Bring Sara Crewe here at once,’ she said.

Two minutes later Sara, in her beautiful blue party dress, stood in front of Miss Minchin.

‘Have you a black dress, Sara?’ Miss Minchin said coldly.

‘Yes, Miss Minchin,’ said Sara. ‘But it’s very small.’



*“She must leave my school at once,” Miss Minchin said.*

'Go and put it on at once,' said Miss Minchin. 'Your father is dead. There were no diamond mines, and your father's friend ran away with all his money. You have nothing. Not a penny. But I am going to be very kind to you. You can stay in my house, but now you must be a servant and work for your bread. You can sleep in a servant's room upstairs, next to Becky's room.'

## 3. Grammar Page

### Parts of Speech

Words are divided into different kinds or classes, called **Parts of Speech**, according to their use; that is, according to the work they do in a sentence. The parts of speech are eight in number:

1. **Noun.**

2. **Adjective.**

3. **Pronoun.**

4. **Verb.**

5. **Adverb.**

6. **Preposition.**

7. **Conjunction.**

8. **Interjection**

1. **A Noun** is a word used as the name of a person, place, or thing; as, **Akbar** was a great **king**.

**Kolkata** is a big **city**.

**The rose** smells sweet.

**The sun** shines bright.

**His courage** won him **honour**.

Note: The word thing includes (i) All objects that we can see, hear, taste, touch, or smell; and

(ii) Something that we can think of, but cannot perceive by the senses.

2. **An Adjective** is a word used to add something to the meaning of a noun; as, He is a **brave** boy.

There are **twenty** boys in this class.

3. **A Pronoun** is a word used instead of a noun; as,  
John is absent, because **he** is ill. The book are where you left **them**.

4. **A Verb** is a word used to express an action or state; as  
The girl **wrote** a letter to her cousin.  
Kolkata **is** a big city.  
Iron and copper **are** useful metals.

5. **An Adverb** is a word used to add something to the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb; as,  
He worked the sum **quickly**.  
This flower is **very** beautiful.  
She pronounced the word quite **correctly**.

6. **A Preposition** is a word used with a noun or a pronoun to show how the person or thing denoted by the noun or pronoun stands in relation to something else; as,  
There is a cow **in** the garden.  
The girl is fond **of** music.  
A fair little girl sat **under** a tree.

7. **A Conjunction** is a word used to join words or sentences; as,  
Rama **and** Hari are cousins. Two **and** two make four.  
I ran fast, **but** missed the train.

8. **An Interjection** is a word which expresses some sudden feeling; as,  
**Hurrah!** We have won the game. **Alas!** She is dead.