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Tara Calls a Meeting



SAVE EARTH

Tara Calls a Meeting

Tara eagerly awaited the Saturday evening meeting. She had visited all the neighborhood homes, inviting them to attend. At 5:45 PM, Tara arrived at the park where the meeting was to be held. As minutes ticked by, some of Tara's playmates, grandparents, and only a few parents showed up. Disappointed by the turnout, Tara still spoke about climate change and what could be done to control global warming.



Determined to understand the reason for the low attendance, Tara visited her neighbors the next day, Sunday. She was shocked to learn that those who didn't attend the meeting were preoccupied with watching television or playing games on their mobile phones. Tara concluded that electronic media had become an addiction – hard to escape.



Tara recalled a BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) podcast about Vadgaon, a village in western India, where a siren goes off at 7 PM every evening, signaling all residents to switch off their TV sets and mobile phones. The devices can be turned back on when the village council sounds the siren again at 8:30 PM.



Vadgaon's village council president, Vijay Mohite, explained that the decision was made on August 14th to break the addiction to electronic devices. Vadgaon has a population of about 3,000 people, primarily farmers and sugar mill workers. During the Covid-19 pandemic, children became reliant on TV and mobile phones for online classes, and when schools reopened, they continued using these devices for entertainment. Many adults also spent excessive time on their devices, neglecting interpersonal communication.



Since the new norm began, one homemaker said it became easier for her husband to return home from work, help the children study, and for her to focus on her kitchen work. Inspired by the podcast, Tara shared it with her neighbours, hoping they would follow in Vadgaon's footsteps and implement an

'electronic de-addiction protocol' in their community.



New Words

1. Turnout- the number of people who attend an event.

2. Addicted- being unable to stop doing something, even if it is harmful.

3. Protocol- a set of rules or procedures that should be followed.

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

Comprehension

1. When did Tara invite her neighbors for a meeting?
2. What was the purpose of the meeting?
3. What did Tara discuss at the meeting?
4. What does BBC stand for?
5. What was the decision made in Vadgaon on August 14th?
6. What is Vadgaon's population, and what are their main occupations?

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

Prompts

Pair up

1. Gadget Swap

Instructions:

- a. Discuss your favourite non-electronic hobbies or interests.
- b. Teach each other one of your hobbies or interests, such as drawing, dancing, or playing a musical instrument. Share your experiences with the class.

2. Community Awareness Campaign:

Materials: Poster paper, Markers, coloured pencils, or crayons

Instructions: Together, research the

impact of excessive screen time on energy consumption and interpersonal communication.

Design a poster or infographic that highlights the benefits of reducing screen time and incorporating energy-saving practices. Share your poster with the class.

Watch the video on digital detox using the QR code.



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