

# Simple Abundance

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My teacher's name was Ms. Sohaila. She was thin and tall with dark curly hair and small bespectacled eyes. She must have been thirty years old when she taught us. She was always on the go, sometimes even barely aware of which way her dupatta was flying!

Our red brick school had fruit trees on one side\_\_ guava, mango and orange. There was a big play ground where we all used to sit and bask in the sun in winter. We were surrounded by Nature's abundant gifts.

The school was simple, abundant and nurturing just like Ms. Sohaila was.

When I was in class sixth, I used to get confused between the words 'week' and 'weak'. Ms. Sohaila told me that since the word 'week' has dual power, the power of two 'e's, it cannot possibly be fragile, since it is strengthened by the double letters. That means 'week' is the set of seven days. And the word 'weak' is the opposite of strong because it only has a single 'a' and one lone 'e'. Since that day I have never had any trouble telling the two words apart.

Now as a preschool teacher, I use similar strategies to help my students learn spellings and vocabulary through association. The best tricks of the teaching trade are the ones that keep learning simple and accessible.

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