

Sing a Song of Studying

Tahseen Bashir

Six years old. Twinkling eyes. Tan complexion. Rehan was a class one student. He was always holding a set of two or three books in his hand, which he wouldn't even place on the desk! Teachers had a tough time keeping Rehan in class as he would always find ways to roam around the school, holding his set of books. Studying just had no appeal for this little boy.

One day I asked Rehan if he could sing. His shy smile was confession enough that the boy could sing a song or two. With some persuasion he agreed to entertain his class fellows with a song. He sang beautifully and the class cheered for him heartily.

Our school is almost in the lap of the lush green Margalla Hills. I tried to talk to Rehan about the mountains and the trees, all the lovely colours that we are surrounded by. Anything to get him to stay in class and to put his pen on paper. He started to speak to me about places he had visited etc.

In his notebook that day, Rehan wrote the letter A. He wasn't going to be won over easily!

His interest in schoolwork was slowly growing but every day he had the same request: He would first sing to the class and then do his work.

The author is a teacher at the Federal Government Junior Model School, F-6/3 Islamabad