Ruhi Grade 3 Lesson 1 Vignette 1:

The Story of the Honest Merchant

You know that every Manifestation of God exhorts us to be truthful and honest. We are to be fair and just in all of our dealings with one another; the Manifestations of God themselves reflect these qualities to the utmost perfection in what they do and what they say. Even before He declared His Mission, the Bab had become widely known for His undeviating fairness. At the age of around fifteen, He had left His home in Shiraz and joined His uncle in business in Bushihr. His uncle was a merchant, and the Bab soon took over the complete management of the trading-house in Bushihr. Often those who were closely associated with Him in those days testified to the purity of His character, to the charm of His manners, and to His high integrity. A certain man once gave Him some goods to sell on his behalf. When the man received the funds for the goods, he was surprised to find that the sum was much greater than what he had expected. He immediately wrote to the Bab, requesting Him to explain the reason and offering to return some of the amount. But the Bab refused to accept it! “What I have sent you is entirely your due,” the Bab replied. You see, there had been a time when the price of the goods had been higher than what the Bab had finally sold them for. So, the Bab, setting the highest standard of honesty and justice, had added some of His own money and sent the man the amount he would have received if the goods had been sold at the peak price.