The Warrior Queen: Rani Lakshmibai

"Main apni Jhansi nahi doongi!" (I will never surrender my Jhansi!)
— Rani Lakshmibai

📖 Short Story: The Fearless Princess Manikarnika

Long ago in Varanasi, a energetic girl named **Manikarnika** (affectionately called *Manu*) was raised with extraordinary skills. While other young girls played with dolls, Manu trained in martial arts, horseback riding, fencing, and archery!

When she married Maharaja Gangadhar Rao of Jhansi, she became **Rani Lakshmibai**. When foreign rulers tried to unfairly take away her kingdom, the brave queen raised her sword and declared with burning courage: *"Main apni Jhansi nahi doongi!"*

In the battle of 1857, she tied her young son Damodar securely to her back, mounted her favorite horse *Pawan*, and fought fearlessly on the frontlines. Her immense bravery inspired an entire nation to rise up for freedom!

🌟 Quick Fun Facts About Rani Lakshmibai:

- **Childhood Name:** Her birth name was Manikarnika, and her family lovingly called her Manu.
- **Women's Army:** She formed a special regiment of trained women soldiers to defend Jhansi!
- **Poetic Tribute:** Famous poet Subhadra Kumari Chauhan wrote the iconic poem: *"Khoob ladi mardani woh toh Jhansi wali rani thi!"*

⚔️ Fearless Leadership Challenge

Rani Lakshmibai showed that girls and boys are equally brave, strong, and capable of leading! Write down 1 leadership skill you want to practice today:

My Leadership Goal: _____