Raami and Shaami discover the Bone Zone

"Come one, come all, come into this Bone Zone. We make a promise to one and all. After all what is shown. All your fears will be shown. Come one, come all." The huge black tent that was covered from all the four sides resembled a "House of Horror" from outside. There was the familiar skull sign with two crossbones; pictures of phantoms and skeletons plastered all over the tent wall and its small entrance in the corner had bones of different sizes and shapes hanging. Indeed it was an eerie looking scene outside this weird zone in the carnival area! But, equally strange was this long queue of children waiting to get into this mysterious zone. Some even had a petrified look on their face, but at the same time were excited and too eager to see what was inside.

"Hello Raami, and Shaami, good to see you here!" The twins' science teacher, Mrs Mani was standing near the entrance area with an amused look on her face. "Don't look so scared Raami, there is nothing to be scared of", their teacher said looking at Raami whose face was already looking pale and she was clutching her sister's hand tightly. "My friends are telling me that there are ghosts inside," said Raami in a low muffled voice, biting her fingernails. Mrs Mani started laughing and said, "No, no, my dear, there is nothing of that sort. Don't you know ghosts don't exist? Now enter, and All the Best to You. Have a nice time!" It took them a while to adjust their eyes inside the dimly lit tent that initially did look a bit creepy. The twins then spotted a few children sitting ahead and started moving towards them. "Look Shaami, look over there," Raami was pointing towards small glowing things on the wall, and her eyes were already popping out. "Don't be silly Raami, they are just those skeleton glow toys, and for God's sake, please stop shaking now and look in the front" Mr. Shaami gaily to her sister. The sound of the drum beats and some sort of a tribal tune playing in the background was growing louder and louder now. All the children stiffened and Raami looked nervously around. Slowly, she put her arm around Shaami's shoulder and sat down where the rest of children were sitting.

All of a sudden, the tent became dark and a dense white smoke started forming in the front. Equally suddenly, four big skeletons had jumped out from nowhere and started their rap dance. There was an initial murmur from the children, but slowly it became clear to everyone that those dancing skeletons were actually some masked people with their bodies covered in skeleton like cloaks. The children started clapping.

When the dance got over, there was light filled in the front area and in came a person dressed as a magician who was greeted by more whistle and claps from the children. "Nice to see this brave lot of children enjoying themselves. Let me introduce myself! I am Mohan from the National Science Education Academy and we intend making science education fun for children so that you all may learn to appreciate your facts and surroundings in a better way. This session is a part of a series of our activities for school children and today we will be learning something about our bones and skeletal system." All the children were listening in rapt attention to their Mohan Uncle. "Firstly, imagine all of you if you did not have any bones in your body", asked their uncle and then continued, "wouldn't you look funny and sloppy just like a beanbag? You would be lying as a puddle on the floor with just your skin and organs. It is the bones in your body that help you stand erect and also walk. Besides providing a framework to your body, your bones also protect the delicate and the soft insides of your body". "Now slowly, all the children come behind me in the next room in groups of four, where each group would spend ten minutes each".

When the twins entered inside with two of their other friends, they were amazed to see a huge human skeleton inside. "Is it a real skeleton uncle?" asked Raami in a bewildered tone. "No, no, where will you find a fifteen foot man, this skeleton has been specially created for school children. See the ribs cage, can you count the bones there?" Raami slowly touched the bones on the vertebra column and found herself slowly lifted by Mohan Uncle who gently placed her inside the hollow rib cage. Quite a funny sight that was with Raami perched inside the rib cage looking down at everyone! She was thoroughly enjoying her new jungle gym. Raami raised her left hand and moved it inside the hollow skull, "Look how well our brain is protected by these strong skull bones, isn't it looking like a helmet?". With a naughty smile on her face, slowly Raami came down like a monkey and snatched away Shaami's purse and placed it in between the ribs.

What followed later was pure fun! Mohan Uncle gave them a detailed explanation of all the bones along with the names. Quite a few skeletons fell out from their respective cupboards that day, and Raami could already imagine herself as the Team Leader of her group in arm wrestling, which she had decided to name as the "Skeleton Team"!