

**PROSE-POEM-SUPPLEMENTARY PARAGRAPH – (UNIT- 1)****THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY****KHUSHWANT SINGH**

Khushwant singh (1915-2014) was an Indian novelist, lawyer, journalist and politician. As a writer, he is best known for his keen secularism (religions), sarcasm (irony) and love for poetry. This story gives us a real picture of human relationship in a joint family. It is a perception (view) of Khushwant Singh of his grandmother. He describes how he had spent his childhood with his grandmother in a village.

**“Her silver locks were scattered untidily over her pale, puckered face, and her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer”.**

He also describes the change that came in the relationship in the city. When the author was a child, his grandmother used to wake him up in the morning and get him ready for school. She would say her morning prayer in monotonous(boring) sing song way while she bathed him and dressed him in the hope that he would listen and get to know it by heart, She would fetch his school equipment's (slate, chalk, ink,etc.). She would take him to school and help him in his studies in the evening.

**“Education is the passport to the future”.**

When they settled in the city, she was more concerned of his studies. When the author went to university studies and went abroad for his higher studies she accepted her seclusion with resignation. She did not show her sentiment and emotions. She was the embodiment of all good virtues and she bequeathed (give) the same as rich legacy. Her life was a lesson for him throughout in his life. The elders would guide the younger generation in teaching them how to care others. They inculcate ( teach) important aspects like thoughtfulness, kind-heartedness, discipline, patience, companionship, gaining wisdom beyond one's age, time management, etc. to the younger generation. In these ways the elders have positive influence on younger generation. In this story, though the grandmother had no proper schooling and no formal education, she lived a life of dedication and integrity (honesty). She never compromised with her principles and was a determined woman.

**“Animals are capable of empathy”**

She had shown her love for animals and birds in feeding the street dogs and sparrows. These qualities certainly influenced by the author.

**“Grandmother's always have time to talk and make you feel special”.**

**ONCE UPON A TIME****-GABRIEL OKARA****“Face is the index of the mind”**

Gabriel Okara (born 1921) is a Nigerian poet and novelist. He is a legend in the field of English literature. In his poem “Once upon a time” he speaks about Africa’s cultural changes with the coming of western culture. It is a monologue from a father to a son that father laments to his son about the negative changes that creep into the attitude and behaviour of humans, when they grow into adult and has a desire to go back to the innocence of childhood. The father addresses his son telling how he remembers that once people used to be open and expressive with their emotions with laughter in which the honesty would be reflected in their eyes, but in the present , people greet each other with only artificial and a fake laugh without any emotions or good feelings . He says that there was a time when relationship were based on mutual respect and cordiality (kindness) with genuine feeling. All right intensions vanish. Everyone has become so selfish that they are concerned only about their own personal benefits.

**“I have learned to wear many faces like dress”**

Everybody is trying to use each other. People utter words of ‘welcome and exchange pleasantries’, but those words come only from the tip of their tongues and not from the depth of their heart. He says that he has been stripped off (to remove) all genuine happiness and he feels depressed and frustrated. He has learnt to say ‘goodbye’ wherein he acutely has to say ‘good riddance’. He confesses that the society has pressed him into a negative way. He has learnt to keep his real character a secret and shows the world a fake character. When he laughs before the mirror, it shows only his teeth are like a snake’s poisonous teeth. So, he asks his son to show him how to laugh. He wants to be as his son, to be genuine and true (which had not yet been beaten by the society). He says that he wants to be as he used to be. The poet expresses his regret, sympathy and hospitality (kindness) of the society. The poet warns the society that the legacy bequeathed (leave, give) to us should be nurtured (encourage) and inculcated (teach) with the truthfulness and hospitality.

**“Never change your originality for the sake of others”**

**AFTER TWENTY YEARS****-O. HENRY****“Familiarity breeds contempt”**

William Sydney Porter whose pen name is O. Henry is known as “the master of the American short story” “After Twenty years” tells us the story of two old friends who has made an appointment twenty years ago to see each other again in New York City. It is nearly 10 O’clock and all’s quiet as the policeman walks his beat, checking locks for safety. At the doorway of a hardware store which was dark, stood a man, with an unlit cigar. As the policeman walked up to him, the man spoke quickly. Without knowing that he was his friend, Bob explained about the story of his friend Jimmy, who was always the truest chap in the world and they were raised in New York just like two brothers. Jimmy Wells refused to go out of New York to make his fortune. Even it takes the west to put a razor-edge on him. But Bob was entirely different from Jimmy. He was ambitious by nature and he went to the west to make his fortune, he was well dressed. He looked respectable with his diamond scarf pin and an expensive watch (diamond encrusted watch). But When Bob struck a match light cigar, he recognized Bob’s face as the one wanted in Chicago. Twenty minutes later, a tall man arrived in plain cloth, whom Bob believes to be his friend.

**“Twenty years is a long time, but not long enough to change  
a man’s nose from a Roman to a Pug”.**

Later, Bob realizes that the man in front of him doesn’t have the same nose as Jimmy. Jimmy had a straight nose which was different from the tall man’s. It is far too late for him to escape from the plainclothes man posing as Jimmy. He arrested Bob as he was criminal. Before taking him into custody, however the officer handed a note to Bob which was from Patrolman Wells whom he’d accidentally met earlier. He learnt from the letter that patrol officer whom he met earlier was his friend Jimmy Wells. Jimmy didn’t have the heart to bring him in himself to arrest his old friend. So, he sent another person to arrest him. Thus, Jimmy Wells proved to be a perfect gentleman by acting as a true friend as well as sincere police officer.

**“Duty is more important than friendship”**