

SHRI KRISHNA ACADEMY

NEET, JEE & BOARD EXAM(10th, +1, +2) COACHING CENTRE

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XII - ENGLISH

MATERIAL

2019 – 2020

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Poem - 1

The Castle

GLOSSARY:

turret wall	-	a small tower on top of a castle
mowers	-	people who trim grass and
level		the lawns
provender	-	food
towering battlements	-	tall towers with openings to
shoot		the enemies
tier	-	one above the other
friendly allies	-	helpful or supporting nations
or		armed forces
foothold	-	advantageous position
quick	-	alive
bait	-	something intended to entice
		someone to do something
wicked	-	evil or morally wrong
wicket gate	-	a small gate
wizened warder	-	an aged or old guard
maze	-	a winding, intricate confusing
		path
treacherous	-	disloyal
groan	-	lament, cry
citadel	-	a safe and strong fort
overthrown	-	conquered, defeated
maintain	-	believe

I. Based on your understanding of the poem, answer the following Questions.

1. Who is the narrator in the poem?

Edwin Muir is the narrator in the poem.

2. How long had the soldiers been in the Castle?

The soldiers had been in the Castle throughout the summer season (21st June-23 September)

3. Why were the soldiers in the castle fearless?

Because their gates were strong and the walls were thick/the Soldiers were confident of their castle's physical strength.

4. Where were the enemies?

The enemies were standing half - a- mile away.

5. Why does the narrator say that the enemy was no threat at all?

The narrator says that the enemy was no threat at all as the enemies were half-a-mile away and the soldiers were watching them from the turret wall.

6. Did the soldiers fight with the enemies face to face?

No, the soldiers did not fight with the enemies face to face

7. Who had let the enemies in ?

The wizened warder had let the enemies in.

8. How did the enemies enter the castle?

The enemies offered the wizened warder with gold and entered through a little private gate.

9. Why were the secret galleries were bare?

Because the enemies ransacked after the castle was overthrown.

10. What was the 'shameful act'?

The 'shameful act' was betrayal of the castle by the wizened warder.

11. Why didn't the narrator want to tell the tale to anybody?

The narrator did not want to tell the tale to anybody , because it was a shameful act of betrayal.

12. Why did the narrator feel helpless?

As the gate was opened to the enemies, the soldiers did not have time to stop them. So the narrator felt that they were helpless.

13. Who was the real enemy?

The real enemy was the old guard who betrayed them, by taking gold as bribe.

II. Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow in a line or two.**STANZA -I**

All through the summer at ease we lay,

And daily from the turret wall

We watched the mowers in the hay

And the enemy half a mile away

They seemed no threat to us at all.

i. Who does 'we' refer to?

We refers to the soldiers guarding the castle.

ii. How did the soldiers spend the summer days?

The soldiers spent the summer days stress free and relaxed

iii. What could they watch from the turret wall?

The could watch the movers and enemy was found up to the distance of half-a-mile.

iv. 'at ease' refers to?

Free from worry or awkwardness, relaxed atmosphere.

v. What is turret wall?

A small tower on top of the castle. We watched the movers while on top of the castle.

vi. From were the movers watch?

The movers watched from the turret wall.

vii. Threat refers to?

A person or thing likely to cause damage or danger.

STANZA -II

For what, 'We thought, had we to fear
with our arms and provender load on load

Our towering battlements, tier on tier
And friendly allies drawing near

On every leafy summer road

i What is provender?

Provender means food.

ii What is towering battlements?

A towering battlements is defensive architecture such as the city walls or castles in which gaps indentations, which are often rectangular, occur at intervals to allow for the launch of arrows.

iii Who said these words?

One of the soldiers said these words.

iv Why were they not afraid?

They were not afraid because they had enough arms to fight and food for many days.

v What is the meaning of 'drawing near'?

'coming closer'.

vi What do these lines convey?

These lines convey that the friendly armies are coming to help them.

vii Why were the soldiers confident that they were safe?

The soldiers were confident of the physical strength of the castle. They had plenty of weapons and food in stock.

viii Who are friendly allies?

Friendly allies are helping or supporting nations or armed forces.

ix What does you the poet means by "every leafy summer road"?

The treats are insignificant and the castle is surrounded by pleasantries of spring and nature.

STANZA -III

Our gates were strong, our walls were thick,
 So smooth and high, no man could win.
 A foothold there, no clever trick
 Could take us dead or quick,
 Only a bird could have got in.

i. How safe was the castle?

The castle's gates were strong, our walls were thick

ii. What was the firm belief of the soldiers?

The poem was belief of the soldiers no man could win/The soldiers firmly believed that no one could enter into the strong and well produced castle.

iii. What was challenging?

Only a bird was challenging

iv. Which aspect of the castle's strength is conveyed by the above line?

The strength of the gate and the wall aspect is conveyed the above line.

v. What is foothold?

There is a foothold from which an advance Military operation is made. Men who try to enter through this by clever trick could be dead or alive.

vi. "quick" refers to quick refers to alive.**STANZA -IV**

What could they offer us for bait?

Our captain was brave and we were true.....

There was a little private gate,

A little wicked wicket gate.

The wizened warder let them through.

i What could they offer us for bait?

Our captain was brave and we were true.

ii "bait" refers to?

Bait refers to bribe or prey.

iii What could they offer us for the bribe?

No one could be lured to enter. Our captain was brave and we were all true and loyal to our king.

iv Them refers to?

"Them" refers to enemies.

v What is wizened warder?

The wizened means an aged or old aged warder.

vi Who let the enemies through?

The wizened warder let them (enemies) through private gate.

vii What attitude of the soldiers do these lines convey?

These lines convey the confidence of the soldiers.

viii What does the soldier say about the captain and the soldiers?

The captain was very brave and the soldiers were very true to the captain.

ix What do you mean by a 'wicked wicket gate'?

A wicked wicket gate is an evil small door or gate.

STANZA -V

Oh then our maze of tunneled stone

Grew thin and treacherous as air.

The castle was lost without a groan,

The famous citadel overthrown,

i. Bring out the contrast in the first two lines.

The first line the poet says the castle is strong as stone. In the second line the poet says that it has become thin as air.

ii. What happened to the castle?

The castle was over thrown/a winding and an intricate path of the tunneled stone grow thin and disloyal as air, when it grow way to the enemies.

iii. Why the castle grow thin and treacherous as air?

The castle grow thin and treacherous as air because their winding and confusing path grow weak and disloyal as the air and paved the way for the enemies to enter.

iv. What is Citadel?

The Citadel means castle.

v. Is their cause was lost without a lament?

Yes their cause was lost without a lament.

vi. cause refers to?

cause refers to prime aim.

vii. Citadel is over thrown by?

The Citadel was over thrown by the enemies and all its secret galleries became empty.

viii. Is the secret galleries became empty?

Yes , their secret galleries became empty.

STANZA -VI

We could do nothing, being sold

'Our only enemy was gold

And we had no arms to fight it with'.

Our only enemy was gold,

And we had no arms to fight it with.

i. Why couldn't they do anything?

Because they were betrayed by the warder/they could not do anything because won an unspecified battle.

ii. Why did they feel helpless?

They felt helpless because it was a shameful act of the old guard and they could not tell their tale to any one.

iii. Why did the poet say 'our only enemy was gold'?

The enemies captured their castle by bribing their guard. So the poet says their enemy was gold.

iv. What does the word 'it' refer to?

'It' refers to the 'gold'

v. How can this shameful act or tale be told to anyone?

The narrator wanted to hold the tale until his death.

Read the poem and complete the table with suitable rhyming words.

lay	-	hay
trick	-	quick
stone	-	groan
sold	-	gold

Identify the figure of speech used in the following lines.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| a) A little wicked wicket gate. | - Alliteration/Personification |
| b) Oh then our maze of tunneled stone | - Apostrophe |
| c) Grew thin and treacherous as air. | - Simile |
| d) How can this shameful tale be told? | - Rhetorical question |
| e) Our only enemy was gold. | - Personification/metaphor |

Explain the following with reference to the context in about 50-60 words each.

a) They seemed no threat to us at all.

Reference : This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

Context : The narrator talks about the confidence of the soldiers.

Explanation :

The soldiers were watching from the turret wall. They could see the mowers in the hay and the enemies half a mile away. Their castle had strong gates and the walls were thick and tall. So the enemies posed no threat to them.

b) How can this shameful tale be told?

Reference : This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

Context : The narrator reveals the shameful act of the old guard in this context.

Explanation :

The soldiers were very confident that the enemies could not enter their castle because they had very strong gates and thick and tall walls. But all their strength became very weak due to the treacherous act of a wizened warder. He received bribe and opened the gates to the enemies. This tale of shame cannot be told to others.

c) I will maintain until my death.

Reference : This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

Context : The narrator lamented over the disloyalty of the greedy warder. As it was a shameful tale, he decided not to reveal it to anyone until his death.

Explanation :

The soldiers were very confident that the enemies could not enter their castle because they had very strong gates and thick and tall walls. But all their strength became very weak due to the treacherous act of a wizened warder. He received bribe and opened the gates to the enemies. This tale of shame cannot be told to others. He has decided not to reveal this to anyone till his death.

d) Our only enemy was gold

Reference : This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

Context : The narrator insists that his only enemy was gold.

Explanation :

The soldiers were very confident that the enemies could not enter their castle because they had very strong gates and thick and tall walls. Moreover they had enough quantity of stock and more amenities and provisions for the soldiers. They thought that the enemies could never win over them. But a wizened warder after receiving gold from the enemies opened the gate to the enemies so the castle fell to the hands of the enemies. Their enemy was not human but gold. So they could not fight.

THE CASTLE

- EDWIN MUIR

EDWIN MUIR lived from 15th May 1887 to 3rd January 1959. He was a novelist and translator as well as one of Scotland's most important poets of 1900s. "The Castle" by Edwin Muir details a post event of castle's over taking through account of a soldier, who witnessed the castle's fall first hand. It tells the story of an unspecified battle. The soldiers of the Castle were totally stress free and related. They were confident of their castle's physical strength. Through the turrets, They were able to watch mowers and no enemy was found up to the distance of half-a-mile and so it seemed no threat to the castle. Secondly the fear of enemies diminished that is they had plenty of weapons to protect and a large Quantity of ration in stock to take care of the well-being of the soldiers, who were inside the castle. There was a foothold, from which an advance military operation is made. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was brave and soldiers were loyal. Even by a trick no one could enter into the castle. Only a bird could fly over the wall and reach the castle. No soldiers would be attracted with a bribe for the entry inside the castle. But there was evil old guard, who was fascinated by the bribery of the enemies and let them in through a little private gate. He became a victim of bribery given by the enemies. Hence the enemies conquered the castle. The citadel was known for it's secret galleries and intrincating path. The strong castle became grew and thin because of the greedy disloyal warder. The narrator lamented over the disloyalty of the guard and he was feeling ashamed to tell anyone about this shameful act of the guard. The citadel was captured by the enemies for gold. He regretted for not finding any weapon to fight with enemy called gold. Thus "Human greedy led to the mighty fall of the citadel".

"Betrayal is secret and subtle and that an army is only strong, if its men can't be bribed"

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

Glossary:

Word	MEANING	Antonyms
shrug	raise one's shoulders slightly and momentarily	Release/let go
tunic	a loose outer garment without sleeves	---
slackened	reduced	raised/alert/tight/smart
demeanour	appearance and behavior	---
artless	innocent, guileless	artful/complicated
hawk	sell things crying out loudly, going from place to place	---
deserted	uninhabited, unoccupied	inhabited, occupied
emigrate	take up citizenship of another country	stay/remain
vexation	annoyance	delight/pleasure
vestibule	lobby	---
chatter	a series of short, quick high-pitched sounds	---
intrude	enter without permission	withdraw/leave
rubble	debris, broken bricks	---

Additional:

Word	Synonyms	Antonyms
Foothills	a low hill at the base of a mountain or mountain range.	---
Alps	a high mountain	---
Outskirts	The outer parts of a town or city/a remote part	Center/interior/down town
Cautions	careful	careless certain foolish/thoughtless/in cautions
Shabby	ill-dressed, dressed in old/worn clothes poor and dirty	clean/fresh/good
skinny	lean and thin	fat
Gazing	look steadily/intently admired surprised	despise/dislike/look a way disbelieve/over
barely	hardly/scarcely	frequently/sufficiently /adequately
tangled	confused/mixed together	clear/obvious/ordered/ untangled
Public square	open public space/community gathering
provoked	kindled/stimulate	dissuade/discourage/halt unprovoked turn off/dull/put out
errands	charged assignment/duty/manage/job
Tiny	small	large
destination	end/aim/ambition/target	start/beginning
Cubicle	compartment/booth/cell/room
resemblance	similarity	difference/unlikeness/dissimilarity
persuaded	continued	dissuade/fail
scarce	lack	adequate/sufficient/ample
spirit	enthusiasm/courage/vigor vitality	apathy/cowardice fear/indifference

I. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES EACH BASED ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE STORY.

- a. Who did the narrator meet at the outskirts of Verona?

The narrator met **Jacopo and Nicola** at the outskirts of Verona.

- b. Why did the driver not approve of the narrator buying fruits from the boys?

Luigi, the cautious driver did not approve of the two boys because of their **untidy and ragged appearance**. Moreover, he felt that better quality of strawberry would be found at Verona.

- c. The boys did not spend much on clothes and food. Why?

The boys did not wish to spend any money on themselves. They just ate the minimum required for survival. **Lucia's treatment was expensive so they willingly gave away all the money they earned for her recuperation (recover)**. Their own misery or poverty did not mean anything to the boys.

- d. Why did the author avoid going to Lucia's room?

The nurse asked the author if he would not like to go inside to meet Lucia as it would make her happy. He shook his head and turned away as **he could not bear to intrude upon that happy family union**.

- e. What was Lucia suffering from?

Lucia was the twenty years old sister of Nicola and Jacopo. **She was suffering from spinal tuberculosis and was being treated at a hospital**.

- f. What made the boys join the resistance movement against the Germans?

The boys showed resistance towards the Germans because **their house had been bombed by the Germans their parents had been killed in the war**. They had not only been orphaned but their sister had also taken ill, because of the starvation and extreme situations during the War.

- g. What made the boys work so hard?

The boys were working hard to provide all possible help, to their sister, Lucia, who was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. The two boys worked day in and day out, took every possible job, starved themselves to provide for their sister's treatment

- h. Why didn't the boys disclose their problem to the author?

Despite leading a destitute (poor) life, the boys didn't disclose their problems to the author because **they did not want their private suffering be made public**. They would like to live with self-respect and had strong will power to accept responsibility for their own lives.

II. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN THREE OR FOUR SENTENCES EACH.

- a) Describe the appearance of Nicola and Jacopo.

The two boys were dressed in rags and shabby appearance. Nicola had on a worn jersey and cut-off khaki pants, the other (Jacopo) a shortened army tunic gathered in loose folds about his skinny frame with tangled hair, dark earnest eyes, and brown skin. They appeared to be pathetic.

- b) What were the various jobs undertaken by the little boys?

They did different things like **selling newspapers, fruits, polishing shoes, delivering messages, showing the tourists around the city, etc.**, they worked very hard to pay the bills of the hospital so that their sister could lead a normal life again.

- c) How did the narrator help the boys on Sunday?

The narrator is very impressed by the hard work and zest exhibited by the two brothers. His visit was coming to an end, so the narrator offered help **as the last sign of goodwill. Jacopo requested the narrator to take them to Poleta, which was 30 km away.** Since the narrator had already given the day off to his driver, he volunteered to drive the boys, himself.

- d) Who took the author to the cubicle?

The nurse led the author through a cool, tiled hall into the villa which was more of a hospital. At the door of a little cubicle the nurse paused, put her finger to her lips, and with a smile gestured him to look through the glass partition.

- e) Describe the girl with whom the boys were talking to in the cubicle.

The girl with whom the boys were talking to in the cubicle was Lucia, the twenty years old sister of Nicola and Jacopo. Who was suffering from spinal tuberculosis and was being treated at a hospital. The boys used to do odd jobs to earn enough money to pay for the hospital expenses.

- f) Recount the untold sufferings undergone by the siblings after they were rendered homeless.

Nicola and Jacopo faced a lot of hardships at a very young age. Their childhood was marred by war, poverty, disease and ill fortune. Yet they toiled and suffered to work too a better future their home was bombed out in the war and they also lost their father early on in the war. The odds were against them but they did not given up. They were exposed to harsh weather and starvation. They had always known a comfortable and cultured life and now they were out on the streets. They built a shelter from amidst the rubble and managed to survive. After the war was over, they discovered that their sister Lucia was suffering from tuberculosis of spine. They took their sister to the hospital and persuaded them to take her in. They worked hard to ensure that they made the fee payment every week. They did odd jobs to earn money. They sold fruits, shined shoes, hawked newspapers, and conducted tourists around the town. They did not complain or cry. War did not break their spirit. Their only endeavor was to see their sister get well and they worked hard to ensure that she got proper medical care. They proved, without a doubt, that where there is a will, there is a way.

- g) The narrator did not utter a word and preferred to keep the secret to himself. Why? Substantiate the statement with reference to the story.

The narrator observed, that the boys preferred to keep their sister's illness and their family's misfortune secret, **he simply didn't want to interrupt the earnestness displayed by the two boys and hurt their pride by intruding upon their privacy.**

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

A.J.Cronin

Archibald Joseph Cronin (1896-1981) was a Scottish novelist, dramatist and physician. A doctor by training, Cronin was one of the most renowned storytellers of the twentieth century. Cronin has very well carved the idea of 'selfless help' and explained the importance of dedication towards relationships in the story Two Gentlemen of Verona. The story revolves around the two boys named Nicola and Jacopo who do numerous things to earn money only to pay for their sister's treatment who suffers from tuberculosis of the spine. The story begins with the narrator driving down the foothills of the Alps. Here is when he first encounters the two brothers selling wild strawberries. The two boys had dressed in rags and shabby appearance with tangled hair, dark earnest eyes, and brown skin even after the driver forbade the narrator to buy the wild fruits, he bought the biggest basket and drove towards the town. This scene emphasizes on the first step of growing intimacy between the narrator and the two boys. Next day, the boys were found shining shoes in the public square. This amazed the narrator. Here is when they revealed the fact that they did numerous kinds of things to earn money. Here, the narrator is shown to develop a soft corner for them in his heart. He finds them to be innocent, serious, pleasant and earnest.

“Their love and emotional strength is exemplary but most exemplary is their maturity and sense of responsibility”.

The boys are very useful for the narrator. They are very willing to satisfy all that the narrator required. They were also found selling newspapers by the narrator one stormy night. One day, when the narrator asked if he could help them in any way they said they would be very grateful if they got a lift to the nearby village Poleta. Although it didn't come in the narrator's way he took them there. The boys got down in a building and asked the author to wait in a nearby café while they would be back within an hour. Eagerness led the narrator to follow the boys up to a place which was actually a hospital. On peeping through a room led by a nurse, he realized that the boys were talking to a girl who resembled them. He did not feel like intruding and thus asked the nurse the details about the boys. This is when the nurse told him their heart rendering story about their father being killed in a war and home being destroyed in a war and their sister suffering from tuberculosis. The brothers lived in a shelter and literally starved only so that they could pay for their sister's treatment. Them keeping a secret and helping their sister showed that war had not shaken their spirit. They were noble and gentle and great and great human beings in their own special yet subtle way. This story distinctly talks about how true the amplification says. “All that glitters is not gold”. In turn explaining the fact that appearances are deceptive.

God Sees the Truth, But Waits

- Leo Tolstoy (1828 - 1910)

Leo Tolstoy was a Russian writer who is regarded as one of the greatest author's of all time. In "God sees the truth, But waits" the author's deep seated faith in God and moral values is expressed. We have the theme of guilt, forgiveness, faith, conflict, freedom and acceptance. Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov is a merchant living in Vladimir, town in Russia. Aksionov was a businessman. He was respected by all the inmates due to his gentle behavior. He lived with his wife and children. He was full of life. He sang and played the guitar occasionally drank too. Once he got ready to go to the fair. His wife try to stop him saying that she had a bad dream.

**"I dreamt you returned from the town,
and when you took off your cap I saw that your hair was quite grey"**

But Ivan ignored his wife warning and went to the fair. As he liked cool weather, he left the inn early. He was intercepted by the police who searched his belongings. Finding a blood stained knife in his bag, he was arrested on charges of murder. His wife's petition for clemency (mercy) to the Tsar was turned down. His wife's unwillingness to trust him was more devastating than Tsar's rejection of mercy petition. He was flogged. After the wounds healed he was sent to work in the mines of Siberia. Staying 26 years in Siberia he grew a long beard. He became grandfather to the prisoners. He read "The lives of saints" and was found praying and singing in the choir. He was respected both by the fellow prisoners and the jail authorities for his gentle behavior. They called him grandfather and 'The Saint'. Everyone in the jail believed in his innocence and unjust condemnation. One day a new convict namely Makar Semeyonich came there. When Makar blurted out how the knife went to his bag kept under his head, Ivan recognized Makar as the real murderer of the merchant. Ivan had a chance to expose Makar to the jail authorities. But he kept quiet. Makar became remorsefully (regretful) and asked Ivan's forgiveness. He forgave him. Makar confessed to the authorities. The order of pardon came but then Ivan Was dead. It is very easy to take revenge, but it is very difficult to forgive others. In this story, though Makar had murdered a merchant and he was the cause for the twenty six years imprisonment of Aksionov yet he was forgiven by Aksionov. This act of Aksionov made Makar to suffer humiliation and he admitted his fault to the authorities. He wept bitterly and beat his head on the floor. Thus Aksionov's forgiveness is the best form of revenge on Makar.

Moral :

"Forgiveness is the sweetest form of revenge"