



# SMART ENGLISH

## 12<sup>th</sup> Std

Based on the New Syllabus and  
New Textbook for the year 2019-20

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Chennai

2019-20 Edition

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**Authors :**

- Mr. A. Sai Ram, M.A., M.Ed. Chennai
- Mr. M. David, M.A., B.Ed. Chennai.
- Mr. K.S. Krishna, M.A., M.Ed. Trichy.

**Edited by :**

Ms. Srivardhini, M.A., M.Phil. Chennai  
Ms. Ananya, M.A., M.Ed., M.Phil. Coimbatore

**Reviewed by :**

Dr. Samuel Sampth Kumar M.A., M.Ed., M.Phil., Ph.D.  
Madurai  
Dr. Rakshan Kumar, M.A., M.Ed., M.Phil., Ph.D.  
Coimbatore

**Head Office:**

1620, 'J' Block, 16<sup>th</sup> Main Road,  
Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.  
Phones: 044-26162173, 26161099.  
Mob : 81242 01000/ 81243 01000  
Fax : (91) 44-26162173  
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**PREFACE**

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep, and  
**miles to go before I sleep**

- Robert Frost

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With due respect to Teachers, I would like to mention that this guide will serve as a teaching companion to qualified teachers. Also, this guide will be an excellent learning companion to students with exhaustive exercises and in-text questions in addition to precise answers for textual questions.

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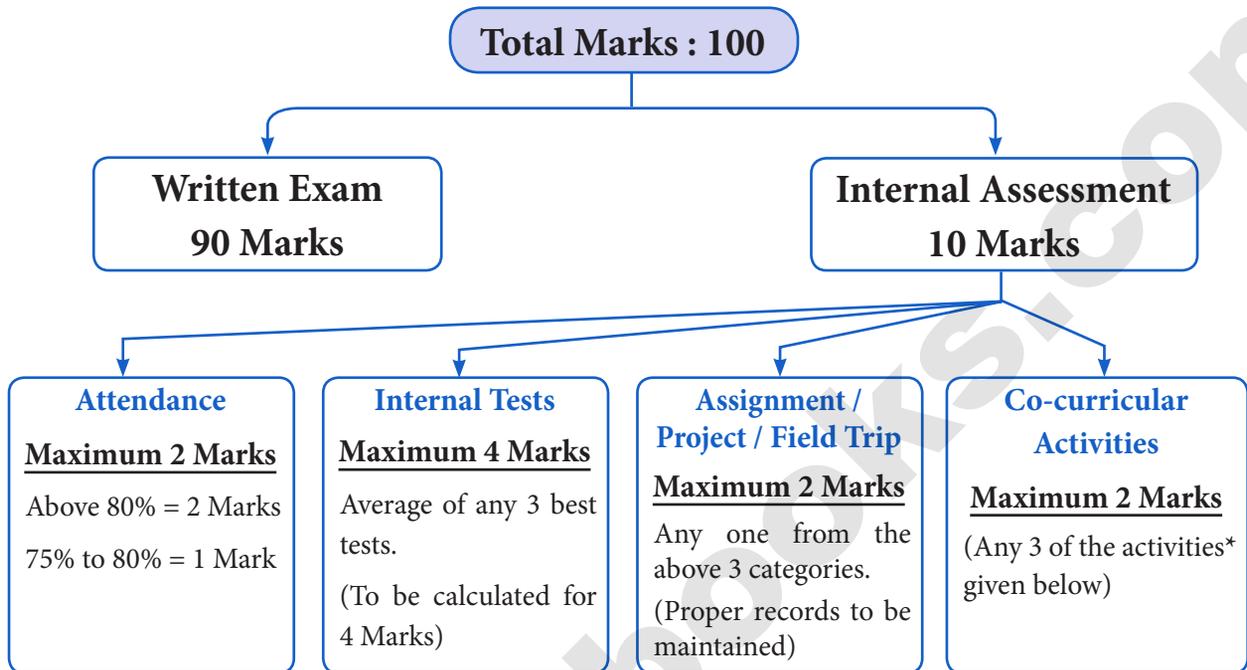
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# 12<sup>TH</sup> STD. - PUBLIC EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT MARKS

(with ref. to GO No. 13 dt. 20.02.2018)



**\* Co-Curricular Activities**

- |   |                              |                                  |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Tree Plantation  | 12. Scout Movement           | 23. Antiquities Security Forum   |
| 2. Literary Forum   | 13. National Welfare Project | 24. Information Technology Forum |
| 3. Mathematical Forum                                     | 14. National Cadet Corps     | 25. Library Forum                |
| 4. Physics Forum  | 15. Youth Red Cross Society  | 26. Journalism Forum             |
| 5. Chemistry Forum  | 16. Ecological Forum         | 27. Music Forum                  |
| 6. Biology Forum  | 17. Decorative Arts Forum    | 28. Fine Arts Forum              |
| 7. Commerce Forum   | 18. First Aid Forum          | 29. Red Spinners Angling Society |
| 8. Economic Forum   | 19. Health and Hygiene Forum | 30. Quiz Forum                   |
| 9. Historic Forum   | 20. Consumer Forum           | 31. Road Safety Corps            |
| 10. Science Forum<br>(Science Exhibition, Seminar, etc.,) | 21. Cultural Forum           | 32. Sports Activities            |
| 11. National Green Corps                                  | 22. Theatre Forum            | 33. Vocational Education Forum   |

### INTERNAL ASSESSMENT MARKS

Attendance	Internal Tests				Assignment / Project / Field Trip (Any 1)	Co-curricular Activities (Any 3)	Total
	Test-1	Test-2	Test-3	Test-4			
.....	Average of any 3 best tests Calculated for 4				.....	.....	.....

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**12<sup>th</sup>**  
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English & Tamil Medium



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PROSE UNIT 1

# TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

- A J Cronin



**A**RCHIBALD JOSEPH CRONIN (1896 - 1981) is a Scottish novelist, dramatist and physician. At first, he was working as a medical practitioner in Wales and London. When he was recovering from an illness, he landed up writing his first novel 'Hatter's Castle'. He instantly became popular with this novel. So, he decided to take up writing as a full-time career. "The Spanish Gardener" is one of his most notable works.

## KEY POINTS

- ✦ The narrator and his companion drive through the foothills of Alps.
- ✦ On the outskirts of Verona, they meet two shabby looking brothers Nicola and Jacopo - aged 13 and 12 respectively.
- ✦ They sell wild strawberries. Narrator and companion buy a big basket of strawberries.
- ✦ The boys are found doing jobs like polishing shoes, guiding visitors, etc
- ✦ As they sell newspapers, the narrator comes to know that they do not spend on clothes and food.
- ✦ Jacopo requests the narrator to drop them at Poleta their village, 30 kms away.
- ✦ The boys are dropped at a villa which is a hospital.
- ✦ Narrator comes to know about Lucia the sister of the boys, who suffered from tuberculosis.
- ✦ The boys' home was destroyed in the war, their father, a widower was also killed.
- ✦ Hating the Germans, the boys became a part of the resistance movement.
- ✦ They work hard to treat their sister at the hospital.
- ✦ Appreciating the love and responsibility of the brothers towards their sister, the narrator remained quiet to impress on them that he doesn't know their secret.
- ✦ Such children are a great hope in the war prone world.

Even if my country remains in war with yours... remember...  
I am not your enemy.

- A.J. Cronin



## SUMMARY

The story begins with the narrator driving through the foothills of the Alps along with his companion. While driving on the outskirts of Verona, two young boys, who sell wild strawberries stop their car. The small boys appear to be quite shabby and the driver is not keen on buying strawberries from them. Then the narrator's companion gets to know that the boys are brothers. The elder one aged 13 is Nicola, and the younger brother, aged 12, is Jacopo. The narrator and his companion buy the biggest basket of strawberries from the boys and go towards the city. The next morning, they again see the same two boys doing the shoe shining job and on being asked, they say that they do many things for a living. They also tell the narrator and his companion that they could work as guides and show the visitors places of interest in the town. So, the narrator asks them to take them to Juliet's tomb. During the time of their stay in the town, the two young boys turn out to be very helpful to the visitors.

Then, the boys are found with a bundle of unsold newspapers and are ready to sell them when the last bus arrived one night. The narrator then talks to them and asks them why they are working so hard. He also told them that they seem to fetch sufficient money, so why they were not spending anything on clothes and food. Nicola tells him that they had something in their minds but he does not elaborate.

Jacopo then requests the narrator to drop them in his car to the village Poleta that is around 30 kilometres away. He requests him and says that it would be a great favour. Although, Nicola does not like the fact that his brother is troubling the narrator. But the narrator gladly agrees to help the boys with reaching that place. So, the next afternoon, he drives along with the two boys to the village. After dropping them, the boys enter a large red-roofed villa, which is actually a hospital.

The narrator hesitates to enter the hospital room. He tries to find out from the nurse about the girl patient in the hospital and the boys. Later, the nurse tells him that Lucia is the sister of these two boys and is suffering from tuberculosis. She also mentions that a bomb had destroyed their home during the war. And even their father, a widower, had got killed during the early part of the war. When he died, his three children were left to starve. She told the narrator that the boys also started hating the Germans who came to rule the city and even became a part of the resistance movement. Once the war was over, Lucia got afflicted with tuberculosis and the boys had to admit her to the hospital. So, they have been trying their best to make payments regularly to the hospital.

The narrator waited outside the room. He was touched by the love and devotion with which the boys worked for their sister. He understood their character very well and knew that they wouldn't like to have sympathised. So he did not say anything to the boys on their way back to give the impression that they did not know about their secret. He felt that such a humble youth gives our society hope for a better tomorrow. In such times of war, weapons and hatred, still there is hope for humanity.



## GLOSSARY

barely	-	almost not (scarcely)
blinked	-	surprised
chatter	-	a series of short, quick high-pitched sounds
cubicle	-	a small space with walls or curtains around it
demeanour	-	appearance and behaviour
disapproval	-	the feeling of having a negative opinion of someone
dwelling	-	places where people live

emigrate	-	take up citizenship of another country
hawk	-	sell things crying out loudly, going from place to place
intrude	-	enter without permission
nobility	-	the quality of being good and honest in character
opera	-	a musical play
outskirts	-	the outer parts of a town
relied upon	-	to put trust on someone or something
<b>rubble</b>	-	<b>debris, broken bricks</b>
scarce	-	very small in amount
<b>shrug</b>	-	<b>raise one's shoulders slightly and momentarily</b>
tangled ( <i>n</i> )	-	twisted, messy
<b>tunic</b>	-	<b>a loose outer garment without sleeves</b>

\* Words given in bold in this Glossary are taken from Textbook Glossary.

Words	Synonyms	Antonyms
artless	innocent, guileless	guileful
beside	alongside	from far away
bought	purchased	sold
brisk	quick, fast	slow
cautious	careful, alert	careless
deserted	uninhabited, unoccupied	crowded
devotion	loyalty	disloyalty
disappeared	vanished	appeared
disapprove	deny, refuse	permit
eager	anxious, enthusiastic	unenthusiastic
engaging	charming, captivating	boring
errands	short work, odd jobs	odd jobs
gazing	looking steadily	abhor
glaring	starting with anger	concealed
hawked	sold	bought
humble	modest, poor, inferior	luxury, superior
imagined	speculated, guessed	unimagined
intrude	enter without permission	leave
nobility	dignity, virtue	dishonour
paused	delayed	continued
persuaded	induced	dissuaded
propped	rested	discourage
provoked	aroused	unprovoked, unexcited
resistance	fighting, struggle	co-operation
rubble	debris, broken bricks	valuable



Words	Synonyms	Antonyms
scarce	insufficient, deficient	adequate
scarcely	hardly	abundantly
selfless	unselfish	selfish
shabby	ill-dressed	royal
slackened	reduced	increased
uncomfortably	uncomfortably	comfortably
vestibule	lobby	outlet
vexation	annoyance	happiness
wild	fruit grown without proper cultivation	-
worn	old and damaged	fresh

### TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

- Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each based on your understanding of the story.
  - Who did the narrator meet at the outskirts of Verona?**  
The narrator met two boys selling wild strawberries at the outskirts of Verona.
  - Why did the driver not approve of the narrator buying fruits from the boys?**  
The two boys had a shabby appearance. They were wearing old and worn out clothes. So, the driver did not approve of the narrator buying fruits from the boys.
  - The boys did not spend much on clothes and food. Why?**  
They had to save money for medical treatment of their sister. So, they did not spend much on clothes and food.
  - Were the boys saving money to go the States? How do you know?**  
No, they were not saving money to go to the states. They told the narrator that they would like to go to the States, but they had other plans.
  - Why did the author avoid going to Lucia's room?**  
The author avoided going to Lucia's room because he did not want to intrude into the privacy of the brothers and sister.
  - What was Lucia suffering from?**  
Lucia was suffering from Tuberculosis.
  - What made the boys join the resistance movement against the Germans?**  
The boys joined the resistance movement against the Germans because they hated the Germans as they destroyed their family.
  - What made the boys work so hard?**  
The boys worked so hard to pay for their sister's medical bills and food.
  - Why didn't the boys disclose their problem to the author?**  
The boys did not disclose their problems to the author, as they didn't like to be sympathised.



VERY SHORT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - ADDITIONAL

1. Does a gentleman have consideration for others and their feelings?

Yes, a gentleman has consideration for others and their feelings. A real gentleman is one who is sensitive and thoughtful towards the people around him.

2. Why was Nicola not pleased when Jacopo asked the narrator to drive them to Poleta?

Nicola was not pleased, as he did not want to ask anyone for favours.

3. Why did the author not speak to the boys on their return journey?

The author did not speak to the boys on their return journey, as he thought the boys would prefer to keep their secret.

4. What are the qualities of a gentleman?

The quality of a gentleman are being respectful, courteous, chivalrous, understanding, considering and wise.

2. Answer the following questions in three or four sentences each.

a. Describe the appearance of Nicola and Jacopo.

One boy was wearing an old damaged Jersey and cut-off Khaki pants. The other boy was slim and was wearing a shortened army tunic gathered in loose folds. Both of them had uncombed hair and brown skin. Nicola, the elder was 13 years old and Jacopo was 12 years old.

b. What were the various jobs undertaken by the little boys?

During the summer days, under the hot sun, they shined shoes, sold fruits, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town and ran errands.

c. How did the narrator help the boys on Sunday?

When the boys requested the narrator to drive them to a village, he readily agreed and drove them to the tiny village 'Poleta' set high upon the hill side. He also waited for the boys to rejoin them and then drove them back to the city.

d. Who took the author to the cubicle?

A pleasant looking woman, with steel-rimmed spectacles, was dressed in the white uniform of a trained nurse. She took the author to the cubicle.

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

Lucia, the boys' sister was a young girl of twenty. She was wearing a pretty lace jacket and was listening to her brothers' chatter. Her eyes were soft and tender. She had a resemblance to her brothers, who took good care of her.

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

After the siblings were rendered homeless, they suffered horribly from near starvation and exposure to the cold winter. For months, they lived in the shelter made of broken building walls and bricks. The boys hated the Germans and stood against them as rebels. After the war, they got back to their sister and found her suffering from tuberculosis of the spine.

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 had understood their character well and he knew they wouldn't like to have sympathised. Therefore he did not confront the boys and kept the secret to himself. Their spirit and selfless action brought a new nobility to human life.



## SHORT QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS - ADDITIONAL

**1. Why was the author surprised to see Nicola and Jacopo working as shoe shine boys?**

The narrator was surprised to see Nicola and Jacopo working as shoe shine boys because he thought they sold fruit only for a living. The day before, the narrator had bought strawberries from them. So, the next day he was in for a surprise to see them shining shoes.

**2. How were the boys useful to the author?**

The boys helped the author in many ways - they fetched American cigarettes for him, bought him seats for the opera and even told him the name of a good restaurant in the town.

**3. Why were the boys in the deserted square at night? What character traits do they exhibit?**

The boys were waiting for the last bus from Padua and so they were in deserted square at midnight. They wanted to sell all their unsold newspapers to the travellers in the bus. The traits exhibited by the boys are that they were hard working and had self-determination.

**4. The narrator asks the boy, "Must you work so hard? You both look rather tired". The boy replies, "We are not complaining, sir". What do you learn about the boy from his reply?**

The boy's reply shows that they are working hard because of their own will. It is not forced upon them. The boys are brave, courageous and have a strong will power to face the challenges. They do not feel sad. They are not dejected. It indicates that they took every challenge in life confidently.

**5. When the narrator asks the boys about their plan, they are evasive. Why didn't they disclose their problems?**

The boys are evasive and do not disclose their problems to the narrator. They don't expect sympathy and help from anyone. The boys are hard working and determined to fight their own battle of life. They do not want to feel weak and so do not disclose their problems to anyone.

**6. Do you think the boys looked after Lucia willingly? Give reasons for your answer.**

Yes, I think the boys looked after Lucia willingly. The amount of hard work they did and the kind of sincerity and determination they had towards their work cannot be forced upon a person. It was their own dedication towards their sister and so they were willing to look after her.

**3. Answer the following in a paragraph of 100-150 words each.****a. What was the driving force that made the boys do various jobs?**

When the boys and their sister were rendered homeless in the war, they suffered horribly from starvation and exposure to cold winter. The boys found that their sister was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. They took her to a hospital and persuaded the staff to take her into the hospital and look after her. In order to pay for her food, medicines and a comfortable life, they had to do various jobs like shine shoes, sell fruits, hawk newspapers, conduct tourists round the town and run errands. Despite facing so many problems in their early life, the boys did not lose hope. The brothers' positive approach and determination to get their sister cured had helped the staff treat her well.

**b. How was the family affected by the war?**

The siblings' mother died early in their life. Their father, who was a well known singer became a victim of the early war. The children became homeless, as their home got destroyed. They had always known a comfortable and cultured life. But after they were rendered homeless, they had suffered a lot from near starvation and exposure to the cold winter. For months, they had barely kept themselves alive in a sort of shelter, they built with their own hands amidst the broken bricks. The boys hated



the Germans, as they were responsible for the ruin of their happy family. They stood against them as rebels. After the war, when they got back to their sister, they found her suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. It was another shock to those poor kids.

- c. Write a character sketch of Nicola and Jacopo.

Character Sketch of Nicola and Jacopo

The 'Two gentlemen' of Verona are the boys in the story, 'Nicolo and Jacopo'. Nicola, aged 13 is the elder brother of Jacopo aged 12. Both the siblings are very sincere and self-sacrificing. They are prepared to do any work for helping their sister Lucia to recover from tuberculosis. They live a hard life and do all sorts of odd jobs. Right from shining shoes, selling fruits, distributing newspapers, to working as tourist guides and running their errands, they still look contented and maintain their self-respect. They don't have the intention of talking about their family problem to anyone and want to keep it a secret. During the war period, they started hating the Germans and also joined the resistance movement for their country's freedom.

- d. What message is conveyed through the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'?

The story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' promises hope for the society. The boys Nicola and Jacopo were devoted and sincere towards the cause of their sister's ailment. They were self-sacrificing, despite the harshness faced by them. This approach of theirs towards life shows positivity and nobility. Despite all the negativity in the world like war, hatred, jealousy, rivalry and selfishness, the boys' attitude indicated that goodness still persisted in some souls. It conveys the message that there is scope for the world, for all of us, to become a better place one day.

- e. Justify the title of the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'.

A.J. Cronin used the title 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' in an ironic manner, as at a very young age, the boys faced the hardships of life - their mother died early in their life, their father became a victim of the early war, their village suffered due to German occupation, their home got destroyed, suffered starvation and cold winter. The family struggled for life. They found their sister suffering from Tuberculosis of spine. It was another shock to those poor kids. Despite facing so many problems in their early, they did not lose hope. Their positive approach and determination managed them to give their sister, the best they could. They did various jobs, but lived a poor life to save money for their sister's treatment and food. They never tried to take anyone's sympathy. Hence these two young boys have every quality of the being called 'The Gentlemen of Verona'.

- f. Adversity brings out the best as well as the worst in people. Elucidate this statement with reference to the story.

'Adversity brings out the best as well as the worst in people' This is displayed in the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'. The bitter and indomitable struggle of Nicola and Jacopo, amidst the ravages of war, takes on epic proportions. The two young boys depict great maturity, wisdom and faith in the power of human spirit. The die-hard nature of the two boys changes the nature of people around them with their vibrant spark of humanity. Their dignity and perseverance show their extreme faith in their own ability to cater to their sister's medical treatment. So the relentless struggle of the two boys offers a wide colourful view of love, tenderness, wisdom and trust which even a catastrophic war failed to crush.

- g. Which character do you like the most in the story and why?

I like the characters of the two boys, 'Nicolo and Jacopo' the most, as they were devoted, sincere and self-sacrificing, despite the harshness faced by them. Although the boys were childish, simple and natural, there was a grave seriousness on their faces. This was indicative of the rude and harsh life, which they had faced at such an early age. As they had lost their parents and home, and their sister



was battling an ailment, the young boys were serious towards life. They had lost their childhood. Despite all the negativity in the world like war, hatred, jealousy, rivalry and selfishness, the boys' attitude indicated that goodness still persisted in some souls. It also conveys us that there is scope for the world to become a better place one day.

### PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - ADDITIONAL

#### 1. Appearances are deceptive. Discuss with reference to the two boys.

"Appearances are deceptive", is appropriate for the boys. On the first glance, they looked childish, natural and simple. They were just like any other young boys, who seemed to be doing petty jobs in order to earn their livelihood. When the narrator interacts with them, he sees seriousness in their eyes. This serious expression is in contrast to their otherwise childish behaviour. No one can make out the true purpose of their sincerity towards their work. It is only when the narrator visits the hospital and meets the nurse that he comes to know the harsh truth of their life. It is then that he discovers their purpose, for earning all the money, by working continuously. The narrator is surprised by their devotion towards their elder sister which is unrealistic for such small children of their age. Thus, the above mentioned words are appropriate for them.

#### 2. How does the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' promise hope for society?

The story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' promises hope for the society. The boys Nicola and Jacopo were devoted and sincere towards the cause of their sister's ailment. They were self sacrificing despite the harshness faced by them. This approach of theirs towards life shows positivity and nobility. Despite all the negativity in the world like war, hatred, jealousy, rivalry and selfishness, the boys' attitude indicates that goodness still persisted in some souls. It indicates that there is scope for the world, for all of us, to become a better place one day.



### VOCABULARY

#### a. Read the following words taken from the story. Give two Synonyms and one Antonym for each of these words. Use a dictionary, if required.

#### Answers

Words	Synonyms	Antonym
cautious	careful, alert	careless
disapprove	deny, refuse	permit
brisk	fast, quick	slow
engaging	charming, captivating	boring
humble	poor, inferior	superior
eager	anxious, enthusiastic	unenthusiastic
resistance	fighting, struggle	co-operation
persuade	prompt, induce	discourage
scarce	insufficient, deficient	adequate
nobility	dignity, virtue	dishonour

b. Homophones and Confusables.

(i) Given below is a list of common confusables. Distinguish the meaning of each pair of words by framing your own sentences.

- (a) 1. They decided to **emigrate** to the U.S. to live in New York.  
 2. My uncle **immigrated** to Australia in 1985.
- (b) 1. The park is **beside** the lake.  
 2. **Besides** being a doctor, he is an orator.
- (c) 1. A **judicial** matter may take months for the courts to decide on.  
 2. Through **judicious** use of persuasion, I convinced my family to move to New Delhi.
- (d) 1. All electors are **eligible** to the assembly.  
 2. This writing is **illegible**.
- (e) 1. The boy's **conscience** made him to admit the truth.  
 2. When the ambulance arrived, the patient was still **conscious**.
- (f) 1. Kolkata is an **industrial** city.  
 2. Are you an **industrious** student?
- (g) 1. **Eminent** personalities attended the party hosted by the Minister.  
 2. Our victory was **imminent** in the final match.
- (h) 1. Ravi's uncle was involved in **illicit** activities.  
 2. The comedian hoped his jokes would **elicit** a great deal of laughter from the audience.
- (i) 1. The doctor **prescribed** three months of physical therapy for my leg injury.  
 2. Strikes remain **proscribed** in the armed forces.
- (j) 1. The bad weather will **affect** the crops.  
 2. You'll feel the **effect** of the medication in the next twenty minutes.
- (h) 1. My friend has an **aural** impairment and so she uses a hearing aid.  
 2. An **oral** agreement is legal in some places.
- (i) 1. The child was **born** at dawn.  
 2. His story is not **borne** out by any true incidences.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with suitable Homophones or Confusables.

Answers

(a) wallet	valet
(b) fairy	faery
(c) medal	meddle
(d) wait	weight
(e) yoke	yolk
(f) grown	groan
(g) earn	yearn

(h) hoard	horde
(i) desert	dessert
(j) night	knight
(k) sweet	suite
(l) plain	plane
(m) might	mite
(n) quite	quiet

 **Sura's** **XII Std** **Smart English - Prose**

**PROSE**

**Unit 1** Two Gentlemen of Verona

c. Give the meanings of the following Phrasal Verbs and frame sentences using them.

**Answers**

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Sentence
cut-off	to remove	The telephone wire is <b>cut-off</b> in this house.
come upon	to meet unexpectedly	I <b>came upon</b> an old friend in the street today.
put out	stop or extinguish	It took three hours to <b>put out</b> the fire.
draw up	to arrange in order	Together, they began to <b>draw up</b> plans for their first home.
pass out	to distribute	We'll <b>pass out</b> copies of the agenda.
take off	depart from the ground	The plane will <b>take off</b> in a minute.
turn away	reject	Hard times are forcing community colleges to <b>turn away</b> students.
stand by	to support an idea or person	I'll <b>stand by</b> you whatever happens.
bank on	to depend on	You can <b>bank on</b> him to get the job done quickly.

d. Read the list of words formed by adding suffixes.

frequently    satisfaction    willingness    comfortable    resemblance    nobility

Form two derivatives from each of the following words by adding Prefixes and Suffixes.

**Answers**

Word	Prefix	Suffix
patient	impatient	patiently
honour	dishonour	honourable
respect	disrespect	respectable
manage	mismanage	management
fertile	infertile	fertility
different	indifferent	difference
friend	befriend	friendship
obey	disobey	obedience



## LISTENING

Complete the following sentences.

- a) The announcement was made by the Department of \_\_\_\_\_. **Ans: Disaster Management**
- b) Widespread heavy rains are expected from the early hours of \_\_\_\_\_. **Ans: Sunday**
- c) The public is asked to find out the locations of \_\_\_\_\_. **Ans: the closest flood shelters**
- d) An emergency kit should contain water bottles, biscuit packets and a \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Ans: torch light, medical supplies, and a whistle for help**
- e) A list of \_\_\_\_\_ should be displayed on the wall. **Ans: emergency telephone numbers**
- f) Important documents can be secured by keeping them in a \_\_\_\_\_ case. **Ans: waterproof case**
- g) Damage to refrigerators can be avoided by \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Ans: emptying them and leaving their doors open**
- h) Mobile phones should be charged to enable the marooned to contact their friends, relatives and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Ans: emergency services**
- i) \_\_\_\_\_ should be placed in the toilet bowls to prevent sewage inflow. **Ans: sand bags**
- j) Listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ and follow the instructions implicitly. **Ans: periodic news updates**



## SPEAKING

**Task 1 :** On the occasion of World Environment Day, you have been asked to deliver a speech during morning assembly on the importance of tree planting. Write the speech in about 100 – 150 words.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF TREE PLANTING

Good Morning, Dear friends! I, S. Neha of XII 'B' would like to deliver a short speech on the topic 'The importance of Tree planting'. Trees are an important part of every community. Our streets, parks, playgrounds and backyards are lined with trees that create a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment. Trees increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban settings. Many neighbourhoods are also the home of very old trees that serve as historic landmarks and a great source of town pride. Like wise, Trees contribute to their environment by providing, oxygen, improving air quality conserving water, preserving soil and supporting wildlife. Therefore, without trees, we, humans would not be able to exist on this beautiful planet. Thus, it is very important that we should make it a practice to plant a number of trees in our school premises and in our surroundings. Finally, I would like to say that it is best to join a nearby NGO working for this cause to work efficiently in this direction.



**Task 2 :** Prepare a speech on “The importance of reading” in about 100–150 words using the hints given below together with your own ideas.

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Suggested value points : Knowledge enrichment – Skill development – Meaningful usage of time – Overall development
- ❖ Conclusion

### THE IMPORTANCE OF READING HABIT

Good Morning friends! I, Vishal of Class XII ‘A’ would like to deliver a short speech on ‘The importance of Reading habit’. Reading is one of the most fundamental skills, every one of us need to learn to succeed in life. Developing good reading habits is vital to our future, not just academically, but in everyday life as well.

Reading develops vocabulary. The more we read, the more new words will find their way into our vocabulary. Reading not only increases our attention span, but also leads us to a lifelong love of books. As a result, this habit will serve us well throughout our education and beyond it. Reading also encourages a thirst for knowledge. Children with good reading habits learn more about the world around them and develop an interest in other cultures. I would like to conclude my speech by saying ‘Develop good reading habits from your early childhood, as this habit makes us worldly wise and enhances our intellect. It also provides us an edge over the others. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to speak on this wonderful topic.



## READING

a. Read the passage given below and make notes.

### Smart cities

1. Initiated by the Govt. of India.
  - (a) drive economic growth
  - (b) improve the quality of life of people
2. Agenda
  - (a) resolve urban sustainability problems
3. The contribution of urban forestry
  - (a) physiological, sociological and economical
  - (b) Mangroves, lakes and forests
    - (i) act as sponges
    - (ii) present as cultural and recreational hotspots
  - (c) presence has shown to increase the economic value of the place
  - (d) reduce the cost of buildings
4. Plants
  - (a) provide shade
  - (b) regulate micro-climate
  - (c) regulate energy budgets
  - (d) improve air quality
  - (e) curtail noise pollution
  - (f) arrest sedimentation
    - (i) lakes and rivers get a chance to recover
    - (ii) improve an aquatic eco system

5. Biodiversity gets boosted
- (a) high areas help to build resilient ecosystems
  - (b) opportunity for children to connect to environment
  - (c) learn about native species

 **GRAMMAR**

**TENSES**

**Task 1 : Tick the correct option and complete the dialogue.**

- A : Hello. What do you watch / are you watching? **Ans: are you**
- B : A programme about the Jallian Wala Bagh massacre, which I recorded last night. I study / I'm studying about it this term. **Ans: I'm studying**
- A : All that I know / I've known about it is that hundreds of people died / had died in it. **Ans: I know; died**
- B : Yes, it was much, much worse than anyone has expected / had expected. It went on / has gone on for hours. Do you want / Have you wanted to watch the programme with me? **Ans: had expected; went on; Do you want**
- A : No, thanks. I've got to do some veena practice. I've just remembered / I just remembered that we've got a concert tomorrow, and I don't have / haven't had time to practise my new piece this week. **Ans: I just remembered; haven't had**
- B : OK. I've already done / I already did my practice, so I've got time to watch TV. See you later. **Ans: I've already done**

**Task 2 : Complete the sentences with the correct tense form of the verbs in brackets.**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me exactly what \_\_\_\_\_ (happen) last night! **Ans: Tell; happened**
- b. Mrs. Mageswari is my Maths teacher. She \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) me for four years. **Ans: has been teaching**
- c. I \_\_\_\_\_ (never / think) of a career in medicine before I spoke to my Biology teacher but now I \_\_\_\_\_ (seriously/ consider) it. **Ans: never thought; am seriously considering**
- d. Oh no! I \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) to bring my assignment! What am I going to do? This is the second time I \_\_\_\_\_ (do) this! **Ans: forgot; have done**
- e. I can't remember what my teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (say) yesterday about our homework. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not listen) properly because Hussain \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to me at the same time. **Ans: said; did not listen; was talking**
- f. Last year we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on a school trip to Kanyakumari. We \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a very interesting time. **Ans: went; had**
- g. At the moment I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) about what course to pursue next year but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not make) a final decision yet. **Ans: am thinking; have not made**
- h. I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) up at 7 every morning but this morning I \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) for a long time and I \_\_\_\_\_ (not get) up until 8. **Ans: get; was sleeping; did not get**

**Task 3 : Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets.**

- a) Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ when the earthquake hit the small town. (sleep) **Ans: was sleeping**
- b) Evangeline \_\_\_\_\_ her job a couple of years ago. (quit) **Ans: had quit**
- c) Where \_\_\_\_\_ your last holidays? (you spend) **Ans: did you spend**
- d) I think Suresh \_\_\_\_\_ for Tiruvallur next morning. (leave) **Ans: will be leaving**
- e) I was angry that I \_\_\_\_\_ such a mistake (make). **Ans: had made**
- f) My mother was tired yesterday because she \_\_\_\_\_ well the night before (not sleep). **Ans: did not sleep**
- g) Her parents \_\_\_\_\_ in Coimbatore for two weeks from today (be). **Ans: will be**
- h) Nothing much \_\_\_\_\_ when I got to the meeting (happen). **Ans: had happened**
- i) Scientists predict that by 2050, man \_\_\_\_\_ on Mars. (land) **Ans: will have landed**
- j) Sh! Someone \_\_\_\_\_ to our conversation! (listen) **Ans: is listening**
- k) The plane \_\_\_\_\_ off in a few minutes. (take) **Ans: will be taking**
- l) They \_\_\_\_\_ about me when I interrupted their conversation. (talk) **Ans: were talking**
- m) Justin and his parents \_\_\_\_\_ in an apartment right now because they can't find a cheap house. (live) **Ans: are living**
- n) Rajini Prem's family \_\_\_\_\_ in Chengalpet now. (be). **Ans: are**
- o) Yusuf \_\_\_\_\_ to the movies once in a while (go) **Ans: will go**
- p) This \_\_\_\_\_ an easy quiz so far (be). **Ans: has been**
- q) Our team \_\_\_\_\_ any games last year. (not win) **Ans: did not win**
- r) We \_\_\_\_\_ a wonderful film in the cinema last night. (see) **Ans: saw**
- s) Hurry up! The movie \_\_\_\_\_ (already, begin) **Ans: has already begun**

**MODAL AUXILIARIES****Task 1 : Fill in the blanks with modal auxiliaries.**

- a) The candidates \_\_\_\_\_ answer five out of ten questions. **Ans: must**
- b) How \_\_\_\_\_ you open my bag? **Ans: dare**
- c) Tajudeen \_\_\_\_\_ finish this work by Monday. **Ans: should / will**
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ I go to school today? **Ans: can / May**
- e) I wish you \_\_\_\_\_ tell me the truth. **Ans: would**
- f) Poonam \_\_\_\_\_ not catch the bus yesterday. **Ans: could**
- g) People who live in glass houses \_\_\_\_\_ not throw stones. **Ans: should**
- h) You \_\_\_\_\_ not go to the market as I have brought vegetables. **Ans: need**
- i) \_\_\_\_\_ you have taken all this trouble? **Ans: would**
- j) You \_\_\_\_\_ be joking. **Ans: must**
- k) I tried to climb up the tree, but \_\_\_\_\_ not. **Ans: could**



- l) Hima Das ran so fast that she \_\_\_\_\_ win the medal.  
m) You \_\_\_\_\_ lead a horse to water, but you \_\_\_\_\_ make it drink.  
n) I \_\_\_\_\_ like to have a cup of coffee.  
o) My grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ visit this temple when he was young.

Ans: could

Ans: can; can't

Ans: would

Ans: used to

**Task 2 : Complete the following sentences with modals using the clues given:**

- a) You \_\_\_\_\_ help the needy. (moral obligation)  
b) If I were you, I \_\_\_\_\_ not behave like that. (conditional sentence)  
c) I \_\_\_\_\_ never tell a lie. (determination)  
d) My uncle \_\_\_\_\_ have reached by now. (possibility)  
e) The patient is critical. He \_\_\_\_\_ be taken to the hospital.(compulsion)  
f) I \_\_\_\_\_ to play hockey when I was a student. (past habit)  
g) You \_\_\_\_\_ not attend my class. (order)  
h) He \_\_\_\_\_ come today. (remote possibility)  
i) You \_\_\_\_\_ follow the traffic rules. (regulation)  
j) He \_\_\_\_\_ play the match. (willingness)  
k) You \_\_\_\_\_ not waste time on it. (necessity)  
l) Had the doctor come in time, he \_\_\_\_\_ have saved the patient.(probability)

Ans: ought to

Ans: would

Ans: shall

Ans: might

Ans: must

Ans: used to

Ans: must

Ans: might

Ans: must

Ans: will

Ans: need

Ans: would

**REPORTED SPEECH**

**Task 1 : Read what these people say and rewrite as sentences.**

1. **Raja said that he was very busy.**
2. Satya said that she had completed her work.
3. Johnson said that he didn't like to go out.
4. Akshita said that she had just come from Chennai.
5. Jayan said that he was learning English.
6. Madhu said that she had bought a pen the day before.
7. Joseph and Mary said that they would be going for shopping the next day.
8. Afsar and Ayesha said that they could not attend the party.
9. Satish asked him how he was.
10. Victor said that he was fine and thanked him.

**Task 2 : Read the following dialogue and complete the report in the space provided.**

- a) Priya : Where are you going?  
Vijay : I am going to the railway station.  
Priya : Why are you going there?  
Vijay : I want to receive my uncle who is coming from Bangalore.



Priya asked Vijay (a) where he was going.

Vijay replied (b) that he was going to the railway station.

Priya further inquired (c) why he was going there.

Vijay stated that (d) he wanted to receive his uncle, who was coming from Bangalore.

b) Teacher: Why are you late?

Divya : I missed the bus.

Teacher: You should have reached the bus stop on time.

Divya : My grandmother is ill. So, I had to take her to the doctor.

Teacher: I am sorry. What ails her?

Divya : She has high fever.

The teacher asked Divya why she was late. Divya replied that (a) she had missed the bus. The teacher told her that (b) she should have reached the bus stop on time. Divya said that her grandmother was ill so she had to take her to the doctor. The teacher felt sorry and further asked her (c) what ailed her. Divya explained that she (d) had high fever.

### Task 3 : Rewrite the following passage in indirect speech.

Pradeep got out of bed with much excitement. He remarked to his sister Varshini that it was going to be a lovely sunny day. Varshini begged Pradeep to let her sleep a bit longer and suggested him to go and help mother in cooking since he was feeling so enthusiastic. Pradeep said that he would surely help and asked his mother whether he could help her. His mother agreed to his request and asked him to have his breakfast and added that there were idlis and vadas on the dining table. Pradeep thanked his mother and said that he would surely help her by eating them.



## LETTER WRITING

a) Read the following letter carefully, discuss with your partner and answer the questions:

### Questions:

a. Who is the sender of the letter?

**Ans:** Srivatsav is the sender of the letter.

b. Who is the receiver?

**Ans:** The editor of a newspaper is the receiver.

c. What is the issue?

**Ans:** Reckless riders who violate the traffic rules should be punished.

d. What is the request of the sender?

**Ans:** The sender requests the concerned authorities to take appropriate measures to put an end to the menace.

e. Who will take steps after reading it?

**Ans:** The law and the police will take steps after reading it.



- b) You have chosen Computer science in the Higher Secondary Course. Write a letter to your friend giving reasons for your choice. Read the clues given in brackets to complete the letter.

No. 4, Gandhi Street,  
K. K. Nagar, Chennai - 78.

7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

Dear Rahul,

Hope you are fine. I would like to inform you that I have chosen Computer Science in my higher secondary course. I took this group, because it has a very good scope for my future. I wish to become a Computer Engineer in a software company and go abroad for my future prospects in my career. Recently we have heard a lot of unhealthy happenings in Social Media and the society. All these have made me to take up this profession to cleanse the unhealthy situations. I have plans to pursue my higher studies in this field.

All the best for your CA preparation. Convey my regards to your mother, father and brother.

Yours lovingly,

K. Ramesh.

### TASK

- (a) You had been to your grandma's house during the summer holidays. You enjoyed your stay in her company. Write a letter to your grandma stating how much you miss her after returning to your home.

30, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street,  
Shanthi Nagar,  
Chennai - 80.

25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Dear Grandma,

I am fine here. How is your health? Are you taking your medicines daily? During the summer holidays, I was with you in Salem. I cannot forget those happy days. I miss you a lot Grandma. After returning to Chennai, a day never goes without remembering you. How you had cared for me

during my stay with you! How much I enjoyed in our beautiful garden, listening to your wonderful stories! I can never forget these pleasant days. I am longing to see you again. Convey my love to grandpa, aunt and uncle.

Yours lovingly,

R. Nisha.

- (b) You are the head of the English Department in a renowned institution. You are invited to preside over the inauguration of English Literary Club in your alma mater. Respond to the letter you have received either accepting the invitation or expressing your inability to attend the function.

5<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

From

C. Nagaraj

Professor of English, Head of the Department,  
ABC Arts College, 'K' City

Pin : YYYYYY

To

The Principal

XYZ Higher Secondary School,

'B' City,

Pin : XXXXXX

Dear Sir,

**Sub :** Accepting your invitation.

This is to inform you with pleasure that I shall preside over the inauguration of your English Literary Club on 15<sup>th</sup> of June. I will be there in your school before 3.30 p.m. for the programme. I have made some changes in my schedule to attend this programme, as this is the school, where I had studied from 1978 to 1985. I feel honoured to preside over this event.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

C. Nagaraj

(Head of English department)



- (c) Write a letter to the Headmaster of a school requesting him to help you obtain a duplicate mark sheet of class XII, which you lost while travelling.

3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2019

From

S. Madan,  
12, Gandhi Street,  
Poonamallee,  
Chennai.

To

The Principal,  
RMM Hr. Sec. School,  
Poonamallee,  
Chennai.

Dear Sir,

**Sub :** Requisition - Duplicate mark sheet regarding.

I wish to bring to your kind notice that I lost my mark sheet while travelling to Trichy. Last month, I visited my aunt's place at Trichy to do my higher studies in the college over there. But unfortunately, I lost my mark sheets while I was travelling. So I request you to kindly issue my duplicate mark sheet as I need to do my higher studies.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

S. Madan

- (d) Write a letter to AZ Company requesting them to replace the defective juicer that you bought recently. Include the following details: the problem, date of purchase, receipt number, model and warranty.

2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019

From

S. Rajesh  
52, Oliver Road,  
Jaya Nagar, Bengaluru.

To

The Manager  
AZ Company,  
Jaya Nagar, Bengaluru.

Sir,

**Sub :** Replacement of the defective juicer - Reg.

Two days back, I bought a juicer from your company. It was a blue colour Preethi Juicer. It cost ₹ 2,000/-. Yesterday it was delivered to me. After I started using it, I discovered that it was defective. You have given me two years warranty for that juicer. So kindly replace the defective product with another one. It was bought on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and I have enclosed the bill along with this letter.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

S. Rajesh.

- (e) You wish to become a pilot. Write a letter to the college enquiring details of the pilot training course offered by the college. Include the following details in your enquiry: duration of the course, fee structure, scholarships, hostel facilities and placement details.

21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019

From

Suresh. K  
26, Sardar Patel Road,  
St. Thomas Mount,  
Chennai - 600 016.

To

The Principal  
MNN College of Aeronautical Engineering,  
St. Thomas Mount,  
Chennai - 600 016.

Dear Sir,

**Sub :** Pilot training course - Reg.

I wish to join the Pilot Training Course, which is to be conducted in your college from this year. Kindly give me the details of the duration of the course and fee structure. I would like to know if I can avail any scholarships for this training. Further, kindly let me know about the hostel facilities and the placement details after the completion of this training.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,

K. Suresh



- (f) Write a letter to the manager of Waves Furniture Company ordering furniture for a coaching centre. Include the following details: description of the furniture, number of pieces, mode of payment, time and delivery options.

24<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

From

K. Namitha,  
No. 10, Raman Street,  
Thirupathi Nagar,  
Kolattur, Chennai - 600 099.

To

The Manager,  
Waves Furniture Company,  
Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099.

Sir,

We are starting a coaching centre for the students of X, XI and XII standards. So we need to order some furniture for this. Kindly send us the following furniture to the above address.

1. Writing tables - 10 Nos.
2. Chairs - 30 Nos.
3. Stools (small) - 10 Nos.

We need these furniture on or before 1<sup>st</sup> March before 12 noon. I am sending a cheque of ₹ 5,000/- as an advance for this furniture. The balance would be paid on delivery of the items.

Than you,  
Yours sincerely,  
K. Namitha.

- (g) Write an application for the post of Personal Secretary to the Managing Director of a company. Include the following details: Educational qualification, experience, various other qualifications required for the post.

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019

From

S. Vasanth Kumar,  
62, Ayappa Nagar,  
III Street, Agaram,  
Chennai - 82.

To

The Recruitment Manager,  
Vivid Colours Pvt. Ltd.,  
T. Nagar, Chennai - 17.

Respected Sir,

**Sub :** Application for the Post of Personal Secretary to the Managing Director - Reg.

This is with reference to your advertisement published in 'The Hindu', dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019 for the post of Personal Secretary to the Managing Director. I wish to apply for the said post. If given a chance, I shall discharge my duties sincerely to the utmost satisfaction of all my superiors. I am enclosing my resume for your perusal.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,

S. Vasanth Kumar

**Encl :** Curriculum Vitae

#### CURRICULUM VITAE

Name : S. Vasanth Kumar  
 Father's Name : H. Sampath  
 Date of Birth : 10<sup>th</sup> December 1988.  
 Marital Status : Single  
 Educational Qualification : 1. B.A. (Hons) - 65%  
 2. M.B.A. (HR) - 60%  
 Work Experience : Presently working in National Computers Pvt. (Ltd.) Since July 2012 as Personal Executive.  
 Languages known : English, Tamil and Hindi  
 References : 1. Dr.S.Roy, HOD Business Administration Department, Madras University.  
 2. Dr. R.M. Rohit, Director National Computers Pvt. Ltd, Chennai.

Declaration

I hereby declare that the above particulars are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date : 23.02.2019

S. Varanath Kumar

Place : Chennai - 82

Signature

Address on the envelope :

To

The Recruitment Manager,  
Vivid Colours Pvt. Ltd.,  
T. Nagar,  
Chennai - 17.

- (h) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper about the nuisance created by the roadside vendors blocking the pavements and occupying the parking zone.

25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

From

M. Randeer,  
No. 15, Jawahar Street,  
Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099.

To

The Editor,  
The Hindu,  
859, Anna Salai,  
Chennai - 600 002.

Sir,

**Sub :** Nuisance created by the roadside vendors - Reg.

We, the residents of Kolathur in Patel Nagar are facing nuisance created by the roadside vendors. They block the pavements and occupy the parking zones. Kindly publish about this in your newspaper, for further action against it.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

M. Randeer.

Address on the envelope :

To

The Editor,  
The Hindu,  
859, Anna Salai,  
Chennai - 600 002

- (i) Write a letter to your relative or friend who is admitted in hospital for treatment of jaundice. Advise him/her not to worry about the illness and be positive. Assure him/her of your psychological and financial help during the crisis.

Chennai - 600 017

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019

My dear Ravi,

I am sorry to hear that you are admitted in the hospital for the treatment of jaundice. You will soon get well and come out of the hospital happily and in good health. Be positive always. Don't have negative thoughts about the illness. If you need any financial help, I am there to help you. Kindly don't hesitate to ask. I pray that you should get well as soon as possible.

Wishing a quick recovery.

Yours lovingly,

Address on the envelope :

To

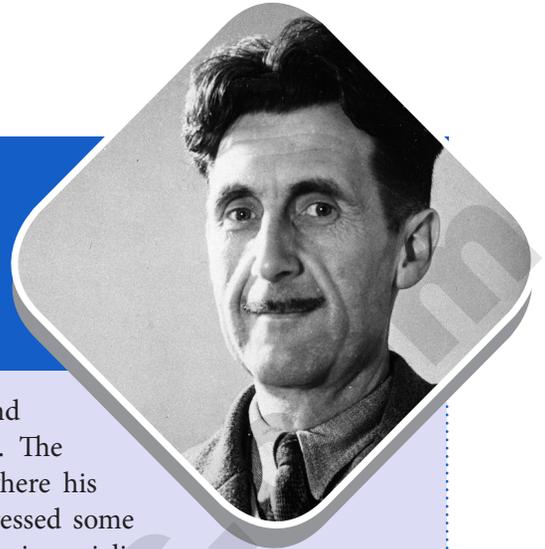
Mr. Ravi  
3, K. K. Street,  
St. Thomas Mount  
Chennai - 600 016



## PROSE UNIT 2

## A NICE CUP OF TEA

- George Orwell



**G**EORGE ORWELL was an English novelist, essayist and critic. He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1903 in Motihari, India. The son of a British civil servant, he spent his first days in India, where his father was stationed. He was a man of strong opinions who addressed some of the major political movements of his times, including imperialism, fascism and communism.

Orwell wrote literary criticism, poetry, fiction and polemical journalism. He is best known for the allegorical novella *'Animal Farm'* (1945) and the dystopian novel *'Nineteen Eighty four'* (1949). *'The Times'* ranked him second on a list of 'The 50 greatest British writers since 1945.

## KEY POINTS

- ✦ Tea is one of the mainstays of civilization.
- ✦ Best way of making it is the subject of violent disputes.
- ✦ There are eleven outstanding points in making tea.
- ✦ 4 are acutely controversial.
- ✦ Firstly, use Indian or Ceylonese tea.
- ✦ Secondly, Tea is to be made in small quantities in a teapot, made of China or earthen ware.
- ✦ Thirdly, pot is to be warmed before - hand by placing it on the hob.
- ✦ Fourthly, tea to be strong - for a pot of quart six heaped teaspoons. One strong cup is better than 20 weak cups of tea, a day. Tea lovers like it stronger as they age.
- ✦ Fifthly, tea is to be put straight into pot - No strainers or muslin to imprison tea.
- ✦ Sixthly, take the teapot instead of kettle. Water should be boiling at the moment of impact.
- ✦ Seventhly, stir it after making tea or give the pot a good shake - allow the leaves to settle.
- ✦ Eighthly, drink out of a cylindrical breakfast cup which holds more and keeps it hot.
- ✦ Ninthly, pour cream off the milk before using it for tea.
- ✦ Tenthly, pour tea into the cup first to exactly regulate the amount of milk.
- ✦ Lastly, tea should be drunk without sugar to get the exact flavour of tea.
- ✦ Controversies exist but the whole business of making and drinking tea is subtilized.
- ✦ Mysterious social etiquette around tea pots - subsidiary uses of tea leaves - telling fortunes - predicting arrival of visitors - feeding rabbits - healing burns - sweeping the carpet.

The best books— are those that tell you  
what you know already.

- George Orwell



## Sura's ► XII Std ► Smart English - Grammar

6. If i remember right i was studying in tagore middle school at that time one day my english teacher looked at me and said name two pronouns i said who me  
**Ans:** If I remember right, I was studying in Tagore Middle School at that time. One day my English teacher looked at me and said, "Name two pronouns," I said, "Who, me?"
7. What is punctuation To quote lynne truss punctuation marks are the traffic signals of a language they tell us to slow down notice this take a detour and stop  
**Ans:** What is Punctuation? To quote Lynne Truss, "Punctuation marks are the traffic signals of a language. They tell us to slow down. Notice this. "Take a detour and stop."
8. Behold how beautiful these flowers are they dont blossom for their own sake rather they take pride in spreading fragrance around and making people happy  
**Ans:** Behold how beautiful these flowers are! They don't blossom for their own sake; rather they take pride in spreading fragrance around and making people happy.
9. Edison built a huge plant at ogdensburg new jersey to process iron ore this venture was one of edisons few failures however Tom shrugged off the losses incurred well its gone he said of the money but we had a good time spending it  
**Ans:** Edison built a huge plant at Ogdensburg, New Jersey, to process iron ore. This venture was one of Edison's few failures. However Tom shrugged off the losses incurred. "Well it's gone", he said, "of the money, but we had a good time spending it."
10. Alexander the great was eagerly awaiting the arrival of his mother while he was on his deathbed fearing that he may not live to see her he said take my entire kingdom oh god i wish i knew beforehand that my entire strength of men and material cant be exchanged for a single breath of life for then i wouldnt have wasted my life in amassing this empire  
**Ans:** Alexander the Great was eagerly awaiting the arrival of his mother while he was on his deathbed. Fearing that he may not live to see her, he said, "Take my entire kingdom, Oh! God, I wish I knew beforehand that my entire strength of men and material can't be exchanged for a single breath of life. For then, I wouldn't have wasted my life in amassing this empire."



## POEM

### FIGURES OF SPEECH - A GLANCE

1. The Castle	2. Our Casuarina Tree
3. All the World's a Stage	4. Ulysses
5. A Father to his Son	6. Incident of the French Camp

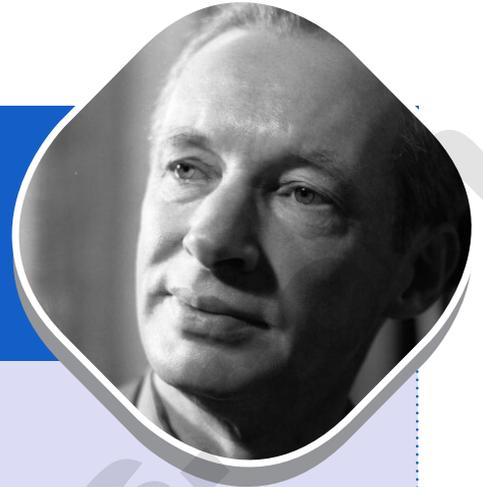
- 1. Simile** : It is a comparison made between two objects of different kinds which have some resemblance / similarities. It is introduced by a word of comparison, such as, 'like, so, as, as ... so'.  
(e.g.) "Grew thin and treacherous as air" (Poem 1)  
The path grew weak and disloyal as air.  
"And shining morning face, creeping like snail" (Poem 3)  
The schoolboy's movement is compared to snail's movement. **Direct** comparison, using the word, 'like'.  
"To follow knowledge like a sinking star". (Poem 4)  
The pursuit of knowledge is **directly** compared to a sinking star using the word, 'like'.
- 2. Metaphor** : It is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics.  
(e.g.) "Oh then our maze of tunneled stone". (Poem 1)  
The tunneled stone is compared to maze. It is an **implied** comparison, without using the words "like" or "as", or "so".  
"For always roaming with a hungry heart" (Poem 4)  
Ulysses compares himself to a predatory animal. It is an **implied** comparison, without using the words "like" or "as", or "so".
- 3. Alliteration** : It is the repetition of the same **consonant** sound in successive or nearby words. Note that in alliteration the sound and sense go together.  
(e.g.) "There lies the port the vessel puffs her sail" (Poem 4)  
In this line, "p" is repeated ("port, puffs" are alliterated words.).  
"Let once my army- leader Lannes" (Poem 6)  
In this line, "l" is repeated (Let- Leaders- Lannes).  
"Waver at yonder wall" (Poem 6)  
In this line, "w" is repeated (waver- wall).
- 4. Repetition** : It is a literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer and more memorable.  
(e.g.) "Tell him to be alone often and get at himself  
and above all tell himself no lies about himself" (Poem 5)
- 5. Anaphora** : Repetition of a certain word or phrase at the beginning of successive lines, or repetition of a **word** or a **phrase** at the **beginning** of a sequence of sentences, paragraphs.  
(e.g.) "Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.  
Tell him to be a fool every so often" (Poem 5)  
'Tell him' is the Anaphora used here, as it is the repetition of words at the beginning of successive lines to create a sonic effect.

6. **Personification** : An inanimate object or abstraction is given human qualities or abilities. (i.e.) Giving human qualities to non-living things.  
(e.g.) *“There was a little private gate  
A little wicked wicket gate”* (Poem 1)  
The small door or gate is personified as an evil one.
7. **Antithesis** : It is a literary device that emphasises the idea of contrast.  
(e.g.) *“The growth of a frail flower in a path up  
has sometimes shattered and split a rock”* (Poem 5)  
*“Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed”* (Poem 5)
8. **Transferred Epithet** : It is a figure of speech in which an epithet grammatically qualifies a noun other than the person or a thing, it is actually meant to describe.  
(e.g.) *“and left them dead years before burial:”* (Poem 5)  
*“Let him have lazy days seeking his deeper motives”* (Poem 5)  
Days are not lazy, but his son should be lazy enough to seek his in born abilities.  
*“Bringing changes into a world resenting change”* (Poem 5)  
The people in the world are referred here to dislike the change.
9. **Allegory** : An allegory is a complete narrative that involves characters and events that stand for an abstract idea or event. In other words, a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.  
(e.g.) ‘The Castle’ an allegorical poem.
10. **Zoomorphism** : It is the shaping of something in animal form or terms. This is used to illustrate movement, making the tree seem more actively alive and also implying movement. This is a subtle indication of the process of life.  
(e.g.) *“LIKE a huge Python, winding round and round  
The rugged trunk, indented deep with scars”,* (Poem-2)  
The vine is described in animal terms (as a python).  
(Since the vine is compared with a python, using the word “like”, we can tell the figure of speech applied in the first line as **Simile** also.)
11. **Rhyming** : It is making the last words in the lines produce the same sound.  
*All through that 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.*  
The rhyming words are lay - hay - away and wall - all. (Poem 1)
12. **Rhyme scheme** : Arranging the poetic lines in some order.  
Look at the four lines  
*Unknown, yet well-known to the eye of faith!*  
*Ah, I have heard that wail far, far away*  
*In distant lands, by many a sheltered bay,*  
*When slumbered in his cave the water-wraith*  
Rhyme scheme of the given stanza is - **a b b a**. (Poem-2)

## POEM UNIT 1

## THE CASTLE

- Edwin Muir



**EDWIN MUIR** lived from 15<sup>th</sup> May 1887 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1959.

He was a novelist and translator as well as one of Scotland's most important poets of 1900s. He is remembered for his vivid poetry.

He began writing poetry at a relatively old age and over the course of several years worked out an individual, philosophical style for which he gained recognition later in his life.

*First Poems* and *Chorus of the Newly Dead* contain Muir's initial attempts. His later collections include *Variations on a Time Theme*, *The Narrow Place*, *The Voyage and other Poems*, *The Labyrinth* and *One Foot in Eden*.

## KEY POINTS

- ✦ This poem details a past event where a soldier narrates a castle being overtaken.
- ✦ It is an unspecified battle.
- ✦ The speaker lives in the castle where none could enter.
- ✦ Though the army is strong, there is plenty of food and, the castle is well guarded, the men are defeated.
- ✦ The enemy bribes the warder.
- ✦ He lets them in through a little gate.
- ✦ The poem states that the army that can't be bribed is the strongest.

Sometimes we think of the nations lying asleep, curled blindly in impenetrable sorrow, And then the thought confounds us with its strangeness.

- Edwin Muir



## SUMMARY

'The Castle' by Edwin Muir details a post event of a castle's overtaking through the account of a soldier, who witnessed the castle's fall first hand. It tells the story of an unspecified battle. The speaker is one of several men lodged in a seemingly impenetrable castle. They have plenty of arms and food; their allies are nearby; the castle's gates are strong, and the walls are high, thick and smooth. Yet these men are defeated, when the enemy bribes one of their own, the warder, who lets the enemy soldiers through a little gate.

The point that "Betrayal is secret and subtle and that an army is only strong, if its men can't be bribed" is clearly specified here in this poem.

## EXPLANATION OF POETIC LINES

Line No.	Poem Line	Explanation
1- 3	<i>All through that summer at ease we lay, And daily from the turret wall We watched the mowers in the hay</i>	Throughout the summer, the guards were stress free. They had no fear of any threats from the enemies. They watched the people trimming grass and levelling the lawns in the hay.
4 - 5	<i>And the enemy half a mile away They seemed no threat to us at all.</i>	The enemies were half-a mile away and they seemed not a threat at all to anyone in the castle.
6 - 8	<i>For what, we thought, had we to fear With our arms and provender, load on load, Our towering battlements, tier on tier,</i>	'Why should we fear', thought one of the men lodged in the castle, as they had weapons and food in plenty. They have plenty of tall towers with opening to shoot the enemies.
9 - 10	<i>And friendly allies drawing near On every leafy summer road.</i>	Their friendly allies are drawing near on every leafy summer road.
11 - 12	<i>Our gates were strong, our walls were thick, So smooth and high, no man could win</i>	The castle gates were strong. The walls were thick, high and smooth. No man could enter the castle with this strong fortification.
13 - 15	<i>A foothold there, no clever trick Could take us dead or quick, Only a bird could have got in.</i>	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. Only a bird could have got in.
16 - 17	<i>What could they offer us for bait? Our captain was brave and we were true...</i>	No one could be lured to enter. What could they offer us for the bribe? Our captain was brave and we were all true and loyal to our king.
18 - 20	<i>There was a little private gate, A little wicked wicket gate. The wizened warder let them through.</i>	There was a little private gate - a little evil gate through which the enemy was let in by an old guard.

Line No.	Poem Line	Explanation
21 - 22	<i>Oh then our maze of tunneled stone Grew thin and treacherous as air.</i>	Oh, our winding and confusing path grew weak and disloyal as the air and paved the way for the enemies to enter.
23 - 25	<i>The cause was lost without a groan, The famous citadel overthrown, And all its secret galleries bare.</i>	Our cause was lost without a lament. The famous place of safety - the citadel was overthrown by the enemies and all its secret galleries became empty.
26 - 27	<i>How can this shameful tale be told? I will maintain until my death</i>	How can this shameful act or tale be told to anyone? The narrator wanted to hold the tale until his death.
28 - 30	<i>We could do nothing, being sold: Our only enemy was gold, And we had no arms to fight it with.</i>	The guards could do nothing but being sold. Their enemy was money and gold and they had no weapons to fight it with.



## GLOSSARY

Line No.	Word / Phrase	Meaning
2	<b>turret wall</b>	defensive wall with a small tower at the corners and sides of a castle
3	<b>mowers</b>	people who trim grass and level the lawns
7	<b>provender</b>	food
8	towering battlements	tall towers with openings to shoot the enemies
8	<b>tier</b>	one above the other
9	<b>friendly allies</b>	helpful or supporting nations or armed forces
13	<b>foothold</b>	a place from which an advance military operation is made
14	<b>quick</b>	alive
16	<b>bait</b>	something intended to entice someone to do something
19	wicked	evil or morally wrong
19	wicket gate	a small door or gate
20	wizened warder	an aged or old guard
21	maze	a winding, intricate confusing path
22	treacherous	disloyal
23	groan	lament, cry
24	citadel	place of safety (a safe and strong fort)
24	overthrown	conquered, defeated
27	maintain	believe



## TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. Based on your understanding of the poem answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.

a. **Who is the narrator in the poem?**

The narrator is one of the several men who had been lodged in a seemingly impenetrable castle.

b. **How long had the soldiers been in the castle?**

The soldiers had been in the castle all throughout the summer.

c. **Why were the soldiers in the castle fearless?**

The soldiers were confident of their castle's physical strength.

d. **Where were the enemies?**

The enemies were beyond the distance of half-a mile.

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

The soldiers were able to watch only the mowers and no enemy was found up to the distance of half-a mile. So the narrator said that the enemy was no threat at all.

f. **Did the soldiers fight with the enemies face to face?**

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

g. **Who had let the enemies in?**

An old guard had let the enemies in.

h. **How did the enemies enter the castle?**

The enemies entered the castle through a little private gate.

i. **Why were the secret galleries bare?**

The secret galleries were bare because the enemies had taken all the gold from there.

j. **What was the 'shameful act'?**

The shameful act was the act of betrayal by one of the old guards and giving way to the enemies to enter into the castle.

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

The narrator didn't want to tell the tale to anyone because it was a shameful act of betrayal.

l. **Why did the narrator feel helpless?**

The narrator felt helpless to keep the truth to himself.

m. **Who was the real enemy?**

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

## SHORT QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS - ADDITIONAL

1. **What is the poem about?**

The poem is about the capture of the well-guarded castle.

2. **What do you mean by the word 'provender'?**

'Provender' means 'food'.

3. **What was in stock in the castle?**

A large quantity of food was in stock in the castle.

4. **How did the soldiers stand on the towering castle?**  
The soldiers stood one above the other on the towering castle.
5. **What did the soldiers believe?**  
The soldiers believed that the castle was absolutely safe.
6. **Was their captain brave and loyal?**  
Yes, their captain was brave and loyal.
7. **What was the citadel known for?**  
The citadel had been known for its secret gallery and intricate path.
8. **Why did the strong castle become weak and thin?**  
The strong castle became weak and thin because of the greedy disloyal warder.
9. **Why did the narrator regret?**  
The narrator regretted not finding any weapon to fight with the enemy called 'gold'.
10. **What is a turret wall?**  
A turret wall is a defensive wall with a small tower at the corners and sides of a castle.

**2. Read the poem again and complete the summary using the words given in box.**

Stanza 1-3

'The Castle' by Edwin Muir is a moving poem on the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of a well-guarded (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The soldiers of the castle were totally stress-free and relaxed. They were (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of their castle's physical strength. Through the turrets they were able to watch the mowers and no enemy was found up to the distance of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and so it seemed no threat to the castle. They had (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of weapons to protect, a large quantity of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in stock to take care of the well-being of the soldiers inside the castle. The soldiers stood one above the other on the towering (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to shoot enemies at sight. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and the soldiers were loyal.

half-a -kilometre	watching	castle	brave
ration	capture	plenty	confident

- Ans :**      (1) **capture**      (2) **castle**      (3) **confident**      (4) **half-a kilometre**  
                  (5) **plenty**      (6) **ration**      (7) **watching**      (8) **brave**

Stanza 4-6

Even by a trick no one but the birds could enter. The enemy could not use a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for their entry inside the castle. But there was a wicket gate guarded by a (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in the enemies inside the famous citadel that had been known for its secret gallery and intricate path. The strong castle became (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and thin because of the greedy disloyal warder. The (13) \_\_\_\_\_ was captured by the enemies for (14) \_\_\_\_\_. The narrator (15) \_\_\_\_\_ over the (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of the useless warder and also decided not to disclose this (17) \_\_\_\_\_ story to anyone. He was (18) \_\_\_\_\_ and wondered how he would keep this truth to himself. He regretted not finding any (19) \_\_\_\_\_ to fight with the (20) \_\_\_\_\_ called 'gold'.

lamented	shameful	wicked guard	bait
let	gold	weapon	citadel
weak	disloyalty	helpless	enemy



- Ans : (9) bait (10) wicked guard (11) let (12) weak  
 (13) citadel (14) gold (15) lamented (16) disloyalty  
 (17) shameful (18) helpless (19) weapon (20) enemy

### 3. Read the poem and answer the following in a short paragraph of 8-10 sentences each.

#### a. How safe was the castle? How was it conquered?

The castle was safe with strong gates, thick walls which were high and smooth. The soldiers of the castle were totally stress-free and relaxed. They were confident of their castle's physical strength. Through the turrets, they were able to watch the mowers and no enemy was found up to the distance of half - a mile and so it seemed no threat to the castle. 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. The soldiers were loyal and their captain was brave. But there was a wicket little gate guarded by a wicked guard. He let the enemies into the castle by betraying the soldiers. He became a victim of bribery given by the enemies. Hence the enemies conquered the castle.

#### b. Bring out the contrasting picture of the castle as depicted in stanzas 3 and 5.

The castle had gates, which were strong and the walls were thick, high and smooth. There was a foothold, from which an advance military operation is made. The soldiers stood one above the other on the tower, watching to shoot the enemies at sight. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was brave and the soldiers were loyal. Even by a trick no one could enter the castle. No soldiers would be attracted with a bribe for the entry inside the castle. But there was an evil old guard, who was fascinated by the bribery of the enemies and let them in through a little private gate. The citadel was known for its secret galleries and intricated path. This strong castle became weak and thin because of the greedy disloyal warder. The citadel was captured by the enemies for gold. The narrator lamented over the betrayal of the old warder. He also decided not to tell anyone about this shameful act of the guard.

#### c. Human greed led to the mighty fall of the citadel. Explain.

The poem 'The Castle' by Edwin Muir tells the story of an unspecified battle. Though the castle had strong towers, high and thick walls, it was captured by the enemies by the greediness of an old guard of the castle. He gets bribed by the enemies and let them in through a little private gate, where no one could enter by any wicked tricks. They entered the castle through the intricated path of the castle and captured the citadel for gold. The narrator lamented over the disloyalty of the guard and he was feeling ashamed to tell anyone about this shameful act of the guard. He regretted for not finding any weapon to fight with the enemy called gold. Thus 'Human greed led to the mighty fall of the citadel'.

### 4. Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow in a line or two.

- a. *All through the summer at ease we lay  
 And daily from the turret wall  
 We watched the mowers in the hay*

#### (i) Who does 'we' refer to?

The word 'We' refers to the soldiers.

#### (ii) How did the soldiers spend the summer days?

The soldiers spent the summer days totally stress-free and relaxed.

#### (iii) What could they watch from the turret wall?

They could watch the mowers trimming the grass and levelling the lawns.



b. *Our gates were strong, our walls were thick  
So smooth and high, no man could win.*

(i) **How safe was the castle?**

The castle's gates were strong and the walls were thick.

(ii) **What was the firm belief of the soldiers?**

The soldiers firmly believed that no one could enter into the strong and well protected castle.

c. *A foothold there, no clever trick  
Could take us dead or quick  
Only a bird could have got in.*

(i) **What was challenging?**

No one could enter the castle except a bird. This was challenging in the castle.

(ii) **Which aspect of the castle's strength is conveyed by the above line?**

The castle had a strong foothold and no clever tricks could take anyone in dead or alive.

d. *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.**

A winding and an intricate path of the tunneled stone grew thin and disloyal as air, when it gave way to the enemies.

(ii) **What happened to the castle?**

The castle was captured and overthrown by the enemies.

e. *We could do nothing, being sold.*

(i) **Why couldn't they do anything?**

They couldn't do anything because it was 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 this tale to anyone.

### POEM COMPREHENSION AND POETIC DEVICES - ADDITIONAL

1. *For what, we thought, had we to fear  
With our arms and provender, load on load,*

i) **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.

ii) **Pick out the alliterated words.**

The alliterated words are what - we; load - load.



2. *And friendly allies drawing near  
on every leafy summer road.*

i) **Who are friendly allies?**

Friendly allies are helping or supporting nations or armed forces.

ii) **What does you the poet mean by "every leafy summer road"?**

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

3. *'There was a little private gate  
A little wicked wicket gate  
The wizened warder let them through'.*

i) **What do you mean by a 'wicked wicket gate'?**

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

ii) **What is the figure of speech used in the second line?**

There are two figure of speeches used here.

(i) Personification : The small door or gate is personified as an evil one.

(ii) Alliteration : wicket - wicked

4. *'Our only enemy was gold  
And we had no arms to fight it with'.*

i) **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.

ii) **What does the word 'it' refer to?**

'It' refers to the 'gold'.

5. 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 poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

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

**Explanation** : As the castle was strong and there was no trace of the enemies found at a distance of half - a mile. So it seemed that there was no threat at all.

b. *How can this shameful act be told.*

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

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

**Explanation** : The narrator lamented about the disloyalty of the old guard and decided to hold the shameful tale by not telling to anyone until his death. This reveals his sorrow and helplessness to fight with the enemy called 'gold'.

c. *I will maintain until my death.*

**Reference** : This line is taken from the poem '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 wicked old guard of the castle got gold as bribe and allowed the enemies into the castle through a little wicked wicket gate. As it was a shameful act, the narrator decided not to tell this story to anyone until his death.

d. Our only enemy was gold

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

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

**Explanation** : The narrator regrets for not finding any weapon to fight with the enemy called 'gold'. He feels helpless and sad about the shameful act of one of his guards.

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

e.g. lay	hay
1. wall	all
2. fear	near
3. load	road
4. thick	trick
5. win	in

6. bait	gate
7. true	through
8. stone	groan
9. air	bare
10. told	sold
11. death	breadth

7. Underline the alliterated words in the following lines:

a. With our arms and provender load on load

load - load

b. A little wicked wicket gate

wicked - wicket

c. The wizened warder let them through

wizened - warder; them - through

8. Identify the figure of speech used in the following lines:

a. A little wicked wicket gate

Alliteration - wicked - wicket

b. Oh then our maze of tunneled stone

Metaphor - The tunneled stone is compared to maze.

c. Grew thin and treacherous as air.

Simile - The path grew weak and disloyal as air.

d. How can this shameful tale be told?

Alliteration - tale - told

e. Our only enemy was gold

Metaphor - The gold or the bribe is compared to an enemy.

9. Can you call 'The Castle' an allegorical poem? Discuss.

An allegory is a figurative mode of representation conveying a meaning other than the literal. The poem "The Castle" can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.

"The Castle" tells the story of an unspecified battle. The narrator is one of several men lodged in a seemingly impenetrable castle. They have plenty of arms and food; their allies are nearby; the castle gates are strong; and the walls are high, thick, and smooth. Even then, these men are defeated when the enemy bribes one of their own, the warder, who lets the enemy soldiers through a little gate.



The allegorical meaning of the poem is that it is very difficult to protect oneself against greed, particularly the love of money, instilled in someone's psyche. That in war there are no rules; everyone can cheat to win, and betrayals may be commonplace. Here, the poet points out that "betrayal is secret and subtle and that an army is only strong, if its men can't be bribed".



## LISTENING

Some phrases have been left out in the poem below. Fill in the missing phrases on listening to the reading or the audio played by the teacher. You may listen again, if required.

THE SOLDIER

If I should die, think only this of me  
 That there's some corner of a foreign field  
 That is forever England. There shall be  
 In that rich earth a richer dust concealed.  
 A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
 Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;  
 A body of England's breathing English air,  
 Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.  
 And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
 A pulse in the eternal mind no less  
 Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;  
 Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
 And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
 In hearts at peace under an English heaven.

- RUPERT BROOKE

## WARM UP

- What thoughts come to your mind when you think about a castle? Add your ideas to the list.  
moat, huge buildings, soldiers, weapons fort, canal, trench, cannon.
- Have you ever visited a fort or a castle?  
Yes.
- Fill in the following empty boxes.

Name	Location
Fort St. George	Chennai
Gingee Fort	Senji, Villupuram Dist
Golconda Fort	Hyderabad
Red Fort	Delhi



## POEM UNIT 2

## OUR CASUARINA TREE

- Toru Dutt



**TORU DUTT** (1856 - 1877) was a Bengali poetess. She loved the land of her birth and remained thoroughly Indian in her consciousness and sensibility. She wrote poems and literary works in English and French. Her family was a family of distinguished intellectuals and poets. Toru Dutt had the privilege of being taught by excellent tutors at home and later on of the long stay in Europe and England. A well-known collection of poems with the little 'Ancient Ballads' and 'Legends of Hindustan' and a volume of poems in French entitled 'Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields' are the added credit to her. The most well-known poem of Toru Dutt is 'Our Casuarina Tree'.

## KEY POINTS

- ✦ A Crooked and scarred trunk winds like a python upto the stars.
- ✦ It is a huge creeper and its flowers are crimson clusters.
- ✦ Bees and birds come to it.
- ✦ When people sleep, a song with no end overflows the garden.
- ✦ The Poet watches the beautiful tree at dawn.
- ✦ A monkey sits like a statue on it and its young ones play in the lower branches.
- ✦ The sleepy cows graze the green field.
- ✦ In the shadow of the hoar tree water, lilies come out like a mass of snow.
- ✦ It is not by size that Casuarina attracts the poet's soul.
- ✦ She has played beneath as a child with her mates and it shall be in her memory forever.
- ✦ It sadly seems to murmur like the breaking seas. It may reach the other lands.
- ✦ The well known eye of faith and cry far away, the sound waves.
- ✦ The world at night, the music and the inner sight of the bright moon, the tree is seen to be the most loved at the prime of the poet's life.
- ✦ The poet loves and honours the tree - the best place to rest.
- ✦ The trees must be death-less moving through hope and fear.
- ✦ She expects love to protect the tree forever.

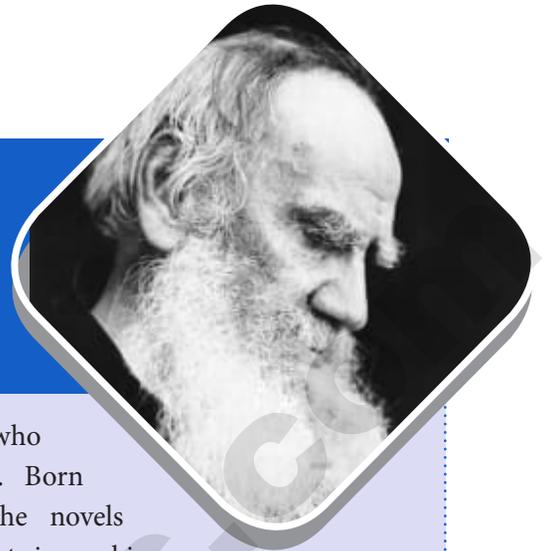
A waif on this earth, sick, ugly and small, Condemned from my birth and rejected by all, from my lips broke Where - oh where shall I fly?

- Toru Dutt

## SUPPLEMENTARY UNIT 1

GOD SEES THE TRUTH,  
BUT WAITS

- Leo Tolstoy



**LEO TOLSTOY** (1828 - 1910) was a Russian writer who is regarded as one of the greatest authors of all time. Born to an aristocratic Russian family, he is best known for the novels 'War and Peace' and 'Anna Karenina'. He had a deep interest in seeking a greater understanding and justification of life. He travelled widely through Europe. After writing 'War and Peace' and 'Anna Karenina', he underwent a change of religious and philosophical attitude. His philosophy began to attract disciples. He also developed a close relationship with Mahatma Gandhi, who was very impressed with Tolstoy's belief in non-violent resistance and vegetarianism.

## KEY POINTS

- ✦ Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov lives in Vladimir in Russia.
- ✦ He gives up drinking after marriage and he is responsible and liked by all people.
- ✦ One day, Aksionov disregards wife's dream and goes to a fair on business.
- ✦ The police stop him as another merchant was murdered. They find a bloodstained knife in his bag.
- ✦ Despite Aksionov's claims, he is sentenced and sent to Siberia.
- ✦ He spends 26 years in Siberia.
- ✦ He dedicates his life to God.
- ✦ Other prisoners respect him.
- ✦ One of the new prisoners was Makar Semyonich.
- ✦ Overhearing conversations, Aksionov is convinced Makar Semyonich is the actual murderer for which he was blamed.
- ✦ A tunnel is dug by an unknown person.
- ✦ Aksionov knew Makar dug it but does not tell it.
- ✦ Finding the attitude of Aksionov, Makar confesses his guilt of murdering the merchant and that he placed the blood-stained knife in Aksionov's bag.
- ✦ Makar informs and confesses to authorities.
- ✦ The procedure to release Aksionov begins, but he dies before he receives the order.

THE MAIN CHARACTERS ARE :

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov, his wife, Makar Semyonich

Art is not a handicraft, it is the transmission of feeling the artist has experienced.

- Leo Tolstoy



## SUMMARY

This is a story about a man, sent to prison for a murder, not committed by him. It takes the form of a parable of forgiveness.

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov is a merchant living in Vladimir, a town in Russia. Although Aksionov was prone to drinking in his youthful days, he gave up after his marriage. He is always responsible and liked well by the people who knew him. One day, he decides to go to a fair as a business venture, but his wife pleads to him not to go, as she had a bad dream, the previous night. Aksionov disregards his wife's dream and leaves for the fair.

Aksionov meets another merchant on his way and the two decide to travel together. They check into an inn and have some tea together. Then they retire separately. Aksionov wakes up early to get to the fair and leaves without the other merchant. Within a few minutes, he is stopped by the police. They explain to him that a merchant was murdered and robbed. They search Aksionov's bag and find a bloody knife. Despite Aksionov's claims that he is not the murderer, he is sentenced and sent to Siberia.

Aksionov spends 26 years in Siberia. Resigned to his plight, he dedicates his life to God. He becomes a mediator of sorts in the prison and he is well respected by the other prisoners as well as the guards. One day, some new prisoners came to his prison. One of them was Makar Semyonich. After overhearing several conversations, Aksionov is convinced that Makar Semyonich is the man who committed the murder for which he was blamed.

One day, the guards notice a tunnel, and question Aksionov to tell them who has dug a tunnel. He never discloses the fact that Makar has done that. Seeing this attitude of Aksionov, Makar admits to Aksionov that it was he who killed the merchant. He also confesses to the authorities about this. The process to release Aksionov begins. But unfortunately, Aksionov dies when the order for his release came.

## TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions in a sentence or two each, based on your understanding of the story.

a. Why did Aksionov's wife stop him from going to the fair?

Aksionov's wife stopped him from going to the fair because she had a bad dream, the previous night.

b. What is the importance of Aksionov's wife's dream?

Aksionov's wife dreamt that when her husband returned from the town, he had grey hair, which stated clearly that he would return home only after a long period of time.

c. What made Aksionov leave the inn before dawn?

Aksionov left the inn before dawn to travel to the fair, while it was still cool.

d. What were the circumstances that led to Aksionov's imprisonment?

Aksionov was accused of a murder, which he did not commit. He pleaded innocence. But the police searched his luggage and found a blood-stained knife. So he was imprisoned.



e. **Why did Aksionov give up sending petitions?**

Aksionov's wife had sent a petition to the Czar, but it had not been accepted. He was dejected that his wife, too, suspected him. He felt that only God could show mercy. So he gave up sending petitions.

f. **Why didn't Makar disclose that he had killed the merchant?**

Makar didn't disclose that he had killed the merchant as he feared of being sentenced in the prison for a longer period.

g. **Did Makar feel guilty when he heard Aksionov's story?**

No, Makar did not feel guilty, when he heard Aksionov's story.

h. **What made Aksionov think that Makar was the real murderer?**

After overhearing several conversations, Aksionov was convinced that Makar was the real murderer.

i. **What was Aksionov's realization by the end of the story?**

Aksionov no longer had any desire to leave the prison, but only hoped for his last hour to come.

j. **Why did Aksionov's wife suspect him of involvement in the murder?**

Aksionov's wife did not know what to believe. So she suspected her husband's involvement in the murder.

2. **Answer the following questions in three or four sentences each.**

a. **Did the police officer have sufficient evidence to convict Aksionov?**

Yes, the police officer had sufficient evidence to convict Aksionov. He found a blood-stained knife in Aksionov's bag. Aksionov had stayed with the merchant, the previous night.

b. **What impact did the book "The Lives of saints" have on Aksionov?**

The book, "The Lives of the Saints" changed Aksionov's life. The prison authorities liked Aksionov for his gentleness and his fellow prisoners respect him. They called him Grandfather and 'The Saint'. When there were quarrels, they came to him to put things right and to judge the matter.

c. **Pick out the clues that convey that Makar Semyonich recognized Aksionov.**

Aksionov's companions in the prison told Makar that Akshionov came to Siberia because he had been accused of a murder, committed by someone and that person had put a blood-stained knife in his bag. Hearing this, Makar recognized Aksionov.

3. **Answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 150 words each.**

a. **Compare and contrast the main characters, Aksionov and Makar Semyonich, in the story.**

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov was a handsome, fair-haired curly headed fellow. He was always enthusiastic. He was very fond of singing. When he was young, he used to drink, but after marriage, he gave it up. When he was imprisoned for a murder, he did not commit, he lost all his hopes of getting released. So he only prayed to God to show mercy on him. In prison he learnt to make boots and earned a little money and bought a book, 'The Lives of the Saints'. This book changed



his life. He was gentle to everyone. He was respected by prison authorities and his fellow prisoners. Makar Semyonich was a new convict to the prison. He came to know about Aksionov but did not reveal to him that he was the culprit, who killed the merchant and escaped. He did not even repent that he had made a faithful merchant to suffer twenty six years in prison for the crime he had committed. But finally, after being moved by Aksionov's activity towards him, he changed his attitude and admitted his fault to the authorities.

**b. How did Aksionov react when his wife suspected him?**

When Aksionov's wife suspected him, he was very much dejected. He was sad that his wife too suspected him. Hiding his face in his hands, he began to weep. Then a soldier came to say that the wife and children must go away. Aksionov bade them good bye for the last time. When they were gone, he recalled what had been said and when he remembered that his wife also had suspected him, he said to himself, "It seems that only God can know the truth, it is to Him alone, we must appeal and from him alone expect mercy". From then on, he wrote no more petitions, gave up all hope and only prayed to God.

**c. Describe the life of Aksionov in prison.**

**Life of Aksionov in Prison**

Aksionov was driven to Siberia with other convicts. He lived there as a convict for twenty six years. His hair turned white as snow and his beard grew long, thin and grey. All his cheerfulness stopped. He stooped and walked slowly, spoke little and never laughed. But he often prayed. In prison, he learnt to make boots and earned a little money, with which he bought 'the Lives of the Saints'. He read this book, when there was light enough in the prison. On Sundays in the prison-church, he sang songs in the choir and read the lessons from this book. The prison authorities liked him for his gentleness and respected him. When there were quarrels, they came to him to set things right and to judge the matter. His fellow-prisoners called him "Grandfather" and "The Saint".

**d. Why did Aksionov decide not to reveal the truth about Makar Semyonich?**

Aksionov decided not to reveal the truth about Makar Semyonich because he felt that the authorities will flog the life out of him. He also felt that he would suspected him wrongly. At first, when the Governor of the prison asked him who dug the hole, Aksionov's lips and hands trembled and for a long time, he could not utter a word. He thought why should he screen him who had ruined his life. Let him pay for what he had suffered. But then he had a second thought that if he tell them about Makar, they will probably flog the life out of him and may be he suspected him wrongly. That won't be any good to him. So he decided not to reveal the truth about Makar Semyonich.

**e. Discuss the meaning and importance of the saying "God Sees the Truth But Waits".**

An important element of the story is that the truth comes out, but only after waiting a long time. The reader knows from the beginning that Aksionov is innocent. A clever reader also figures out fairly early that Makar Semyonich must be the real villain. Justice, however is not arrived at, until the very end of the story, when years later after the crime. Makar confesses and Aksionov dies as a contented man. The author is cynically pointing out that justice sometimes arrives too late. But we must have faith that God will eventually bring justice to every situation.

f. **Forgiveness is the best form of revenge. Substantiate the statement with reference to the story.**

It is very easy to take revenge, but it is very difficult to forgive others. It needs a broad and great heart. It is common for a person to make a mistake but forgiveness is an attribute of God. Forgiveness is the best form of taking revenge, as it makes the opponent to suffer from a sort of humiliation.

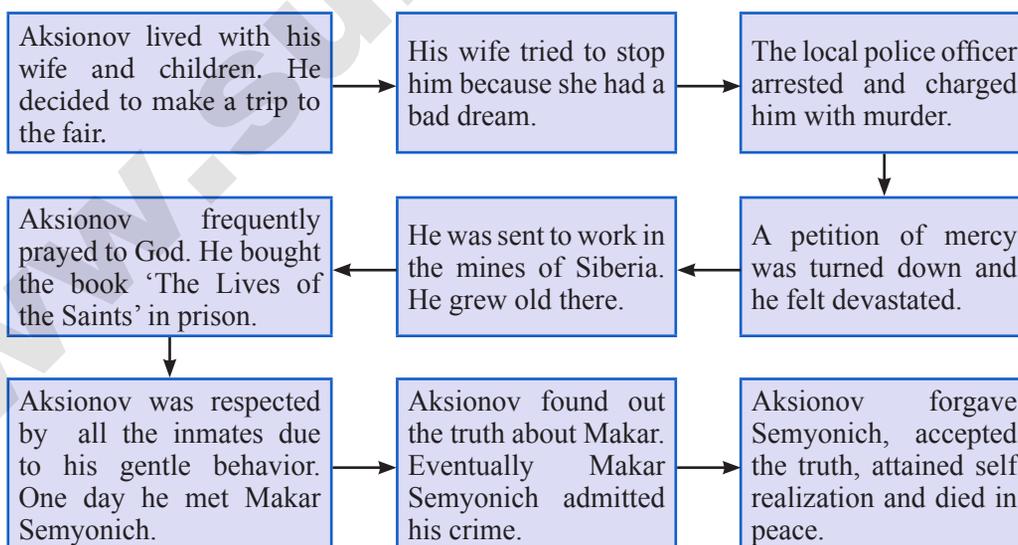
In this story, though Makar had murdered a merchant and he was the cause for the twenty six years imprisonment of Aksionov he was forgiven by Aksionov. This act of Aksionov made Makar to suffer humiliation and he admitted his fault to the authorities. He wept bitterly and beat his head on the floor. Thus Aksionov's forgiveness is the best form of revenge on Makar.

PARAGRAPH QUESTION & ANSWER - ADDITIONAL

1. **What does Aksionov realize by the end of the story?**

Aksionov realizes that forgiveness is the path to peace. In this story Aksionov suffers in prison for twenty six years. Coincidentally, the man who is responsible for Aksionov's unenviable situation ends up in the same prison. In the end, Makar confesses that he was the one who killed the merchant and planted the murder weapon in Aksionov's luggage. When Aksionov reminisces about everything he has lost, his anger rises against Makar. He has little peace, despite his prayers to God. At last, an opportunity arises for Aksionov to betray Makar and cause his enemy to suffer. But later, he feels that making Makar to suffer will not do him good. It will not restore his past life to him. So he decides to stay silent, when he was questioned by the Governor. Later in the night, Makar Semyonich approaches Aksionov and asks for his forgiveness. But Aksionov tells him that God will forgive him. He finally realizes that forbearance and forgiveness are the only paths to peace.

4. **Using the mind map given below, write a brief summary of the story in your own words.**



Summary using the Mind map

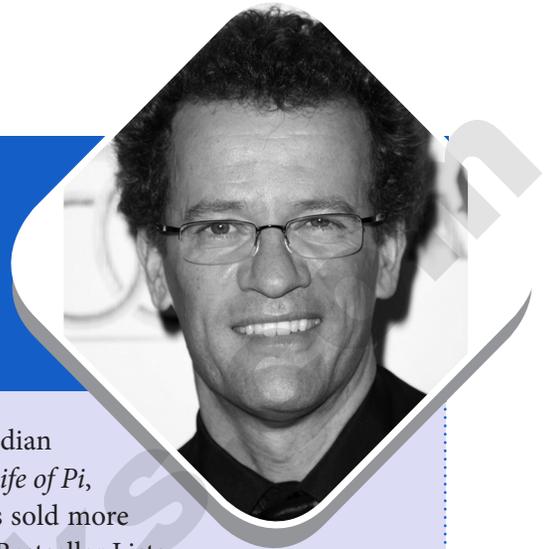
Aksionov lived with his wife and children in the town of Vladimir. One day, he decided to make a trip to the fair. His wife tried to stop him because she had a bad dream. Aksionov disregards his wife's dream and leaves for the fair. He meets another merchant and stays with him in an inn. Next day, at dawn he leaves the inn to go to the fair. But the local police officer arrested and charged him with a murder of the merchant. A petition of mercy was turned down and he felt devastated. He was sent to work in the mines of Siberia. He grew old there. Aksionov frequently prayed to God. He bought the book 'The Lives of the Saints' in prison. He was respected by all the inmates due to his gentle behaviour. One day, he met Makar Semyonich and found out the truth about him. Eventually, Makar Semyonich admitted his crime. Aksionov forgave him, accepted the truth, attained self-realization and died in peace.



## SUPPLEMENTARY UNIT 2

## LIFE OF PI

- Yann Martel



**YANN MARTEL** (born 25 June 1963) is a Spanish born Canadian author best known for the Man Booker Prize-winning novel *Life of Pi*, international bestseller published in more than 50 territories. It has sold more than 1.2 crore copies worldwide and spent more than a year on the Bestseller Lists of the *New York Times* and *The Globe and Mail*, among many other best-selling lists.

It was adapted to the screen and directed by Ang Lee, garnering four Oscars (the most for the event) including Best Director and won the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score.

Martel is also the author of the novels *The High Mountains of Portugal*, *Beatrice* and *Virgil and Self*, the collection of stories *The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccamatios*, and a collection of letters to the prime minister of Canada, *101 Letters to a Prime Minister*. He has won many literary prizes, including the 2001 Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and the 2002 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature.

## KEY POINTS

- ✦ A trek or adventure requires grit.
- ✦ Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, is an Indian boy from Pondicherry.
- ✦ He survives 227 days after a shipwreck.
- ✦ He is stuck on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal Tiger named Richard Parker.
- ✦ The thirst pushed him to search for water in the lifeboat.
- ✦ He does not fear the hyena and the greater predator the tiger.
- ✦ The distraction from the animals helped him to satisfy his thirst.
- ✦ Then, he finds water and manages to drink it to quench his thirst.
- ✦ The presence of the tiger both a sign of fear and protection.
- ✦ How he leaves the tiger finally in the forest when a ship comes to pick him up shows the closeness of the tiger and Pi.

**THE MAIN CHARACTERS ARE :** Pi' Patel (the narrator), A Bengal Tiger named Richard Parker.

It is true that those we meet can change us, sometimes so profoundly that we are not the same afterwards, even unto our names."

- Yann Martel



## SUMMARY

Piscine Molitor 'Pi' Patel, an Indian boy was from Pondicherry. He was the son of a zookeeper. His family embarks across the Pacific Ocean on the Japanese Cargo ship Tsimtsum with a menagerie of zoo animals to be sold to North American Zoos. Unfortunately, the ship sinks, taking Pi's family along with it. Pi survived in a lifeboat, with a zebra, an orangutan, a hyena and a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. The hyena killed and ate the zebra and the orangutan. The tiger then killed the hyena and saved Pi, from becoming the hyena's next victim. Pi was orphaned without food and water for three days. His search for water took him dangerously close to the tiger. His thirst overpowered his fear of the tiger and he went exploring for fresh water. He succeeded in his search and found stacks of cans of drinking water. Pi came back to life and senses after drinking the elixir of life. The tiger who scared him in the beginning brought him peace, purpose and wholeness to his life. Pi understood that it was the tiger who helped him survive for 227 days. Finally Pi left the tiger in the jungle and reunited with his family.

## TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions in a sentence or two each, based on your understanding of the story.
  - a. Describe the pathetic condition of Pi in the middle of the ocean.
 

Pi was alone and orphaned, in the middle of the Pacific, hanging on to an oar, an adult tiger in front of him, sharks beneath him, and a storm raging about him.
  - b. Who was Richard Parker?
 

Richard Parker was an adult Bengal tiger.
  - c. Richard Parker's survival seemed incredible to Pi. Why?
 

Looking at the danger, he is surrounded with, Pi thought that his survival was incredible.
  - d. Why was the great beast not behaving naturally?
 

The great beast was not behaving naturally due to sedation and seasickness.
  - e. Why was Pi not afraid of the hyena?
 

Pi was not afraid of the hyena because he felt that coping with a hyena seemed remotely possible than the great beast Richard tiger.
  - f. Describe Pi's struggle to find drinking water.
 

Pi explores the lifeboat looking for water. He discovers a locker containing emergency supplies under the end of the lifeboat under the tarpaulin, where Richard Parker has his den. Carefully he opens the locker and assesses the contents, greedily drinking some canned water.
  - g. What was Pi's reaction when he discovered drinking water?
 

When Pi discovered drinking water, his pulse raced at the thought of quenching his thirst. He felt that he was about to be delivered from his hellish thirst. Aching expectation had run its fruitful course. He had to drink or he would die.



**h. Why did Pi want to tame Parker?**

Pi wanted to tame Parker because he realized that it was a necessity at the moment. They were in the same boat. They would live or die together. Only if he tamed the tiger, he could possibly trick it into dying first.

**i. What saved Pi's life?**

Pi says that it was because of Richard Parker who kept him from thinking too much about his family and his tragic circumstances, he had been saved.

**j. How did Pi reunite with this family?**

Pi left Richard Parker in a jungle and waited for a ship which reunited him with his family.

**2. Answer the following questions in about 50 words.**

**a. How did the presence of Richard Parker help Pi?**

The presence of Richard Parker made him to survive in the great ocean. Richard made him to keep on thinking too much about his family and his tragic circumstances. He pushed him to go on living. Without Richard Parker, he wouldn't be alive.

**b. Describe the lifeboat.**

The lifeboat was three and a half feet deep, eight feet wide and twenty-six feet long. The lifeboat was designed to accommodate a maximum of thirty-two people. Pi took stock of the lifeboat. The size of the lifeboat was printed on one of the benches in black letters.

**c. How did Pi feel after drinking water?**

After drinking water, a sense of well-being quickly overcame Pi. His mouth became moist and soft. His skin relaxed and his joints moved with greater ease. His heart began to beat like a merry drum and blood started flowing through his veins. Strength and suppleness came back to his muscles. He felt that he was coming back to life from the dead.

**d. Did Pi want Richard Parker to die? Answer giving reasons.**

No, Richard did not want Richard Parker to die because if the tiger died, he would be left alone with despair, which Pi considered to be an enemy more stronger than a tiger.

**3. Answer in a paragraph.**

**a. How did the presence of Richard Parker influence the attitude of Pi?**

In the beginning, Pi was scared of the presence of Richard Parker. He did not notice for two and a half days, 450 pound Bengal tiger in a lifeboat. From the tip of the nose to its tip of the tail, the tiger took up over a third of the length of the ship. Seeing this, Pi lost all hope of surviving. But the great beast was not behaving like a great beast to such an extent that the hyena had taken liberties. Richard Parker's passivity for three long days was not natural. It may be due to sedation and seasickness. Pi's father used to sedate a number of the animals to lessen their stress. He had also sedated Richard Parker shortly before the ship sank. Pi's thirst for water overpowered his fear of Richard Parker and he went about exploring for fresh water. His search for water took him dangerously close to Richard Parker, but nothing could stop him-neither Richard nor the hyena. He succeeded in his search. Pi came back to life. Later, he understood that it was Richard Parker who helped him survive for 227 days. He realized that Parker who scared him earlier brought him peace, purpose and wholeness.



- b. **Water is the Elixir of Life. Substantiate the statement with reference to the story of 'Life Of Pi'.**

The elixir of life is also known as the elixir of immortality. Water is a potion that grants the drinker eternal life. It is said to cure all diseases. Our health is truly dependent on the quantity and quality of water we drink. When Pi was dying of thirst, he forgot his fear of Richard Parker. His thirst overpowered his fear of Richard Parker and he went about exploring for fresh water. A little later, he succeeded in his search and came back to life and senses, after drinking the elixir of life. His mouth became moist and soft. His joints moved with great ease. Blood started flowing through his veins and his heart began to beat like a merry drum. He was coming back to life from the dead. Thus we have to recognize the amazing gifts of water to us, not just take it for granted because water is the elixir of life.

- c. **If you were lost at sea for as long as Pi was, what is the one item you would want with you? Write a diary entry in which you identify the item and explain why it is the one thing you would want with you.**

20<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Saturday 10 p.m.

Dear Diary,

Last month, I sailed to Mauritius with my friends. The ship was quite spacious and had all the facilities. After six hours of travel, we experienced a shipwreck. We were stranded in the middle of the ocean. Our ship was sinking slowly. So we jumped into the sea to save our lives. We had one item which was very much needed at that hour. It was our lifeboat. We got into our lifeboat with some water bottles. We were stranded there for 20 hours without any help from anyone. At last, we were able to go to a nearby island in our lifeboat. From there, we contacted our higher officials who came to save our lives and took us to our destination. Therefore, we should be thankful to the captain of the ship who arranged the lifeboat and guided us to go ashore with the help of it. It was an unforgettable bad experience in our life.

### PARAGRAPH QUESTION & ANSWER - ADDITIONAL

1. **In Life of Pi, what powerful forces or obstacles does Pi struggle against?**

Pi narrates both his early life and his ordeal on the lifeboat. As a sensitive boy, he seems at the mercy of all forces. His full name, Piscine, is a terrible burden (because it sounds like "pissing"). So other boys tease him. The impact of the global political economy on India precipitates his family's move to Canada, which ends up losing Pi's family. Adrift in the lifeboat, Pi's greatest opponent is nature. He and the animals do not know what the sea and weather will do or whether they will be rescued. As hunger, dehydration, and the elements take their toll, blindness and the threat of mental break down loom large. In Pi's view, the most powerful forces he faces, day in and day out, are Richard Parker and the hyena. After the hyena's death, Pi gradually works to establish dominance over Richard Parker. After Pi is rescued, during his recovery, he changes his views on many aspects of those forces and obstacles.



4. Sequence the following incidents logically to write the summary of the story 'Life of Pi'.

1. As he looked around, he was shocked to find Richard Parker on board.
2. His search for water took him dangerously close to Richard Parker but nothing could stop him- neither Richard Parker nor the hyena.
3. Pi left Richard Parker in a jungle and reunited with his family.
4. Pi came back to life and his senses after drinking the elixir of life.
5. He understood that it was Richard Parker who helped him survive for 227 days.
6. He was pinned by weakness having had no food, water or even sleep for nearly three days.
7. Strangely his thirst overpowered his fear of Richard Parker and he went about exploring for fresh water.
8. A little later, he succeeded in his search, when he found stacks of cans of drinking water.
9. Pi was stranded in the Pacific on a lifeboat.
10. Then, he realized that Parker who scared him earlier brought him peace, purpose and wholeness.

Ans : 9, 1, 6, 2, 7, 8, 4, 10, 5, 3

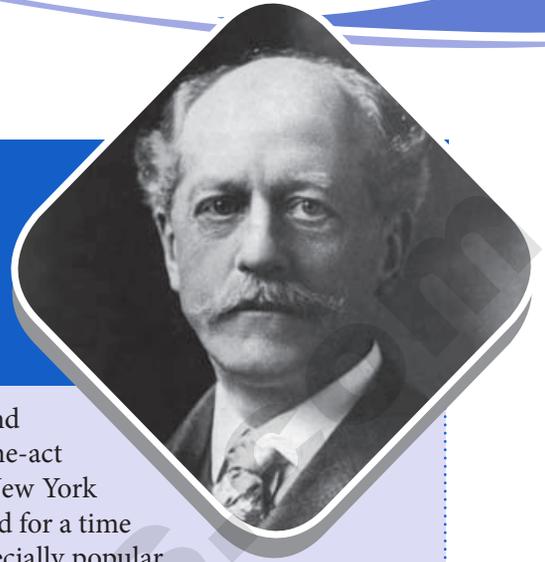
Pi was stranded in the Pacific on a lifeboat. As he looked around, he was shocked to find Richard Parker on board. He was pinned by weakness having had no food, water or even sleep for nearly three days. His search for water took him dangerously close to Richard Parker but nothing could stop him- neither Richard Parker nor the hyena. Strangely his thirst overpowered his fear of Richard Parker and he went about exploring for fresh water. A little later, he succeeded in his search, when he found stacks of cans of drinking water. Pi came back to life and senses after drinking the elixir of life. Then, he realized that Parker who scared him earlier brought him peace, purpose and wholeness. He understood that it was Richard Parker who helped him survive for 227 days. Pi left Richard Parker in a jungle and reunited with his family.



## SUPPLEMENTARY UNIT 3

## THE HOUR OF TRUTH

- Percival Wilde



**P**ERCIVAL WILDE (1887 - 1953) was an American author and playwright. He wrote novels, numerous short stories and one-act plays. He also authored a text book on the theatre arts. Native to New York City, Wilde graduated from Columbia University in 1906 and worked for a time as a banker. He began writing plays in 1912. Wilde's plays were especially popular in the Little Theatre Movement. He also wrote book reviews for New York Times and New York Post while he was a banker. He was on the advisory board of the Mystery Writers of America.

## KEY POINTS

- ✦ The play discusses the honesty and uprightness of the protagonist that is put to test by his family members.
- ✦ It is a hot and sultry Sunday afternoon.
- ✦ At the parlour window of a little cottage, the Baldwin family is anxiously waiting for the head of the family.
- ✦ All the family members are tensed.
- ✦ Martha and Evie hear that Gresham is arrested on suspicion of fraudulent deed in his bank.
- ✦ Then Evie and Martha hear that Donovan another employee of the bank, has also lost his job.
- ✦ Baldwin who is a senior member of the bank is believed to be honest.
- ✦ Baldwin is pressurized by Gresham to falsely declare that he does not remember the facts, but Baldwin refuses to do so.
- ✦ In order to tempt Baldwin, Gresham offers him a huge bribe of hundred thousand dollars, but Baldwin doesn't accept it.
- ✦ Then Gresham understands that it is impossible to force Baldwin to accept the bribe.
- ✦ John and Evie are tempted by the huge amount of money offered by Gresham. They try to justify Gresham's act of offering Baldwin a bribe.
- ✦ John says he is named after Baldwin's friend Gresham, he will be put to shame for bearing the name of a criminal.
- ✦ Baldwin's wife, feels that Baldwin is betraying his dear friend Gresham and thereby causing embarrassment to John.
- ✦ Martha justifies Gresham's act of offering bribe as it is a compensation for his low salary. She starts forcing Baldwin to accept the bribe.
- ✦ John accuses Baldwin of betraying his friend Gresham. He says Baldwin may not get a job anywhere as he will be considered a traitor.
- ✦ Baldwin feels ashamed of himself too. Mr. Marshall, the President of the Third National Bank, comes to convey a news.
- ✦ He informs Baldwin that Gresham had admitted his guilt as he knew that Baldwin was an honest man he would never give false evidence.
- ✦ Mr. Marshall offers Baldwin a job in his bank - The Third International, thus rewarding him for his uprightness.

"TRUTH ALWAYS TRIUMPHS"

My father used to say, "Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument."

- Percival Wilde

5. An old woman is begging on the road - she looks poor - Sanjay a little boy feels for her - he wants to help her - she quickly holds him - puts him in huge sack - kidnaps him - a man chases her - saves Sanjay - hands over the lady to police Sanjay learns a lesson.

Ans. :

**The beggar woman**

An old woman was begging on the road. She looked very poor and sad. She was asking every passer-by to give some money but nobody paid heed to her cries.

A little boy, Sanjay saw the old woman. He felt sorry for her. So, he went near the woman and asked her if she needed some kind of help. Sanjay was a very innocent boy and he held the old woman's hand and said that he would provide every possible help to her. The woman grabbed Sanjay and tightly held him to muffle his screams.

She put him in a huge sack and started to sneak away from that place. A man who had been seeing her started to chase her. He caught up with the woman and easily tackled her. He freed Sanjay from the sack who was shivering from head to toe.

The man informed the police who immediately came to the place. He handed the lady to the police. The police contacted Sanjay's parents and escorted him to his house.

Sanjay learnt a lesson that day.

**Moral :** Appearance can be deceptive.

6. An old lady becomes blind - calls - a doctor agrees - to pay large fees if cured - doctor comes daily - Starts stealing one piece of furniture daily - delays the cure - at last cures her demands his fees - lady refuses to pay, saying cure is not complete - doctor objects lady says sight not restored - as she cannot see all her furniture - moral.

Ans. :

**The Missing Furniture**

There is an old lady. She meets with an accident and loses her eyesight. She becomes very upset and calls in the most qualified surgeon in town to treat her. She promises to pay a large amount of fees to the surgeon if he is able to restore her eyesight. The surgeon visits the old lady every day and gives her some medicines. He takes advantage of the fact that she is blind and can't see anything. He starts stealing pieces of expensive furniture from the house. He takes away one piece every day. For this purpose he delays the cure. When he takes away all the furniture from the house he restores the eyesight of the lady. When he asks for the fees, the old lady refuses to pay him. She says that her eyesight is not yet fully restored. The surgeon disagrees. The lady plainly replies that she is not able to see the furniture in the house, which means that her eyesight has not been restored. The doctor feels ashamed and quietly leaves the house.

**Moral :** Even Great Homer nods

7. God's promise to a disciple to visit her - disciple cleans her house and waits for God - poor old lady knocks her door - disciple doesn't help her - tells her not to waste her time - next, beggar comes at her door step she doesn't entertain him either - Finally a child knocks her door - she sends him away too - dreams of God that night - God tells him that he had come thrice at her door step, but she didn't bother - lady disappointed- moral.

Ans. :

**The Missing Furniture**

God promised a devoted disciple that he would visit her that day. She felt very happy. She started cleaning her house. She mopped, cleaned; polished and scrubbed every nook and corner of the house. Then she sat and waited for God desperately. Suddenly there was a knock at the door. She was very excited to see God standing at her doorstep. When she opened the door, she found a poor hungry old lady asking for alms. She point blank refused to talk to her saying, "Go away,



don't waste my time. I am waiting for someone special. I am waiting for God." The old, helpless lady left, disappointed. After some time there was another knock at the door. She opened the door thinking that this time it has got to be God at her door step. To her utter dismay, when she opened the door she saw a beggar standing there. He was looking tired, helpless and hungry. He asked for something to eat. "Don't waste my time, you old beggar. The woman replied." "Can't you see I am expecting to see God any moment now. Go away and come back another day." She slammed the door at his face. The beggar turned back with tears in his eyes. Then a child came to her home and the lady chased him away too.

That night God came in her dreams and told that he came to her home thrice that day. The lady realised her mistake.

**Moral :** God is everywhere.



## 10. Expansion of Proverb

(Text Book Page No. : 119)

Narration is a recital of events, especially in chronological order, as the story narrated in a poem or the exposition in a drama. The narrative form is the most common mode of writing. Even news is narrated as a story. This makes reading both exciting and interesting.

### Expansion of Proverbs :

Expansion of an idea or expansion of a proverb is simple and straightforward. It involves 5 easy steps. They are:

Step 1 : Understand the symbol of the words in the proverb: Most proverbs or ideas are symbolic. The name of place or animal or thing or person stands as a symbol of some quality. We have to try to understand that in the context of the proverb.

For example take the proverb, 'Rome was not built in a day'. Here the noun 'Rome' is the name of a place. We also (should) know that Rome was a great city. So what does Rome stand for? It stands for Greatness or success. (Remember it was a great city).

Or take the example of 'All that glitters is not gold'. Here we have the noun 'gold'. It is the name of a thing. We know that gold is a precious metal. So what does gold stand for? It stands for preciousness.

Step 2 : Substitute the meaning in the idea or the proverb: Take the two previous examples.

'Rome was not built in a day' and 'All that glitters is not gold'. Now substitute the symbols we found out earlier in the sentences. What do we have?

1. 'Greatness or success was not built in a day'
2. 'All that glitters is not precious'

The proverb is now decoded and ready for understanding.

Step 3 : Look for a story or anecdote or example or illustration: Now that you have understood what the proverb stands for or what the proverb means, we should look for a suitable example to illustrate it.

Where do we get these stories? There are plenty of them. Aesop's fables are ideal, so are the tales of India, the Panchatantra.

We can also look for example from today's world. We could, for example, for the proverb 'Rome was not built in a day', talk about the effort put in by Mahatma Gandhi to achieve greatness, and that it took many years to build it, that it did not happen overnight.

Step 4 : Look for similar proverbs or ideas: "Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success" by Napoleon Hill is similar to 'Rome was not built in a day'; so is the proverb 'Do not judge the book by its cover' similar to 'All that glitters is not precious'.

Step 5 : Sum up the paragraph: Use summing up words or phrases to indicate that you have finished the expansion and intend to sum it up. You could use 'Thus' or 'In fine' or 'So' or 'The proverb advises that'. Let the reader know that you are signing off.

So we have 5 Steps on 'How to do expansion of an idea or expansion of a proverb':

Step 1 : Understand the symbol of the words in the proverb.

Step 2 : Substitute the meaning in the idea or the proverb.

Step 3 : Look for a story or anecdote or example or illustration.

Step 4 : Look for similar proverbs or ideas

Step 5 : Sum up the paragraph.

### Exercises

#### 1. Explain the meaning of the proverb : Unity is Strength

Ans :

#### UNITY IS STRENGTH

'Unity is strength' is a very profound proverb. This proverb means that 'sticking together is a source of strength'.

It might be used to refer to families, marriages, countries, communities, and even classrooms at school or university. This proverb suggests, moreover, that we are stronger together than we are alone. At first, a man making his own family, lives separately. The peace and happiness of a family would depend on the unity among the members of the family. Observance of the principle of "Unity is Strength" is required every member to stand by the other in time of real need. This would require some sacrifice which would affect their personal interest and this loss of interest resulted in constant clash and quarrel among themselves. So a number of families in small groups were formed to avoid such unpleasant situation. There were also clash and fights among themselves and the small groups failed to protect themselves against more powerful groups. So they united themselves and a nation was built for greater security. This is the history of the formation of a nation. But a weak nation began to be tortured by the stronger one. So nations began to unite themselves for their safety and security.



2. Explain the meaning of the proverb : 'Blood is Thicker than Water'.

Ans :

**'BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER'**

This proverb is usually taken to mean that 'family relationships are stronger, more important or more binding than other relationships'. 'Blood is thicker than water' indicates that 'blood ties between families are particularly strong – like thick blood.' 'Thicker' here is used in the sense of meaning 'more powerful' or 'stronger' or 'more solid'. In particular, this proverb is often used to contrast family relationships with friendships. Friendships are said to be like weak 'water' compared to the strength of family relationships. There is yet another interpretation of this proverb that says 'the relationship among the soldiers is stronger than family relationships.' In this case, blood refers to the 'soldiers' that fight and shed blood together for their homeland.

3. Explain the meaning of the proverb : 'A rolling stone gathers no moss'

Ans :

**'A ROLLING STONE GATHERS NO MOSS'**

It is said to mean that 'a person who moves around a lot is free from responsibility'. Just as a stone that rolls quickly through the grass does not allow moss to grow on it, someone who is always moving from place to place never accumulates responsibilities. A rolling stone is someone who changes their ideas, life style, friendship group or location very often. 'A rolling stone gathers no moss' is a multivalent and rich proverb. It is often a very accurate reflection of life and relationships. And, remembering the proverb can help us to act in the best way possible with respect to other people, and also with respect to the various duties and responsibilities that we have. This versatile proverb can express both the joys of roaming free and the joys of settling down and meeting our responsibilities!

4. Explain the meaning of the proverb : 'God Helps Those Who Help Themselves' (or) Self Help is the Best Help

Ans :

**'GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES' (OR) SELF HELP IS THE BEST HELP**

The proverb "God helps those who help themselves", means that "people who work hard and take responsibility for their lives will receive additional help from God in the form of good luck or opportunity." The proverb inspires us to be accountable and responsible for the results of our actions. It motivates us stay active and keep working towards our goals in life. Many people prefer to stay lazy and keep postponing things. They do nothing and simply blame luck for their failures. They think that some divine power will solve all of their problems automatically. However, this proverb emphasizes the importance of taking proper actions in-order to achieve the desired result. A student's prayer for good result will be fruitful only when he prepares himself well for the examination. Similarly, an athlete's prayer for medals can be manifested, if he puts in immense effort during the practice sessions. God will give us immense opportunities. If we are not preparing ourselves well, we may not be able to fully utilize the opportunity.

5. Explain the meaning of the proverb : An Idle Brain is the Devil's Workshop.

**Ans :** AN IDLE BRAIN IS THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP

An Idle Brain is the Devil's Workshop. Evil thoughts enter our brain easily when we remain idle. When a man has nothing to do all sorts of evil ideas come to his mind. This will turn the man into a Devil. The mind of a man cannot remain vacant for a long time unless it is occupied with fruitful ideas, it will turn to bad thoughts.

So we should never keep our brain idle. It should always be occupied with serious thoughts. This is clear if we analyze the lives of the unemployed and the students of our society. Unemployment is a great evil. The mind of an unemployed person is always occupied with evil thoughts and desires. That is why every state should consider removing unemployment as early as possible.

6. Explain the meaning of the proverb : 'Laughter is the best medicine'.

**Ans :** LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

The proverb, 'laughter is the best medicine', means that 'laughter is the best way to recover'. The implication of this proverb is that 'laughter is better at curing us than other things (like pills)'.

Medicine here means more generally a cure, or something that makes us feel better. That could mean a cure to a physical ailment. Or, it could mean a cure to a psychological ailment.

Of course, it would be dangerous not to take the prescriptions given to us by doctors. However, scientific studies have borne out this proverb. They have shown that positive thinking, smiling and laughing can help to speed up our recoveries. And, even if you just have a cold, managing to laugh at something makes you feel better. Though, nothing can cure us except a smile.



## 11. Biographical Sketch

Biographical sketch means an account of the life and activities of an individual or family. It would include information about the person's name, place of residence, education, occupation, life and activities and other important details. A biographical sketch is always written by someone else except the person on whom it is written. It provides the pen picture of that person. A bio-sketch presents the facts about the person's life including what the person did and how he/she influenced the world. It should describe the person's personality and provide an explanation for why he or she acted in certain ways. Most bio-sketches not only present the facts but also tell what those facts mean.

### General Hints :

- ◆ Written in third person
- ◆ Significant, essential and impressive points are included
- ◆ Special awards or recognitions be mentioned
- ◆ descriptive

**Exercises**

1. With the help of the given clues, write a bio-sketch of Subhash Chandra Bose, about 80-100 words.

**Subash Chandra Bose; Netaji- immense, Freedom Fighter- born- January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Orissa- Career: Civil Services -Achievements: Joined struggle; established Indian National Army- Motto Give me blood and I will give you the freedom- Setback: Retreat after the defeat of Japan and Germany -Death Air crash over Taipei, Taiwan (Formosa) on August 18, 1945.**

**Ans :** **SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE**

Subhash Chandra Bose, affectionately called Netaji, was born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Orissa. He was one of the most prominent leaders of Indian freedom struggle. Deeply moved by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, he gave up a promising career in the Civil Service to join the Freedom Movement. He founded the Indian National Army to overthrow British Empire from India. His famous motto was "Give me blood and I will give you freedom". However, the defeat of Japan and Germany in the Second World War forced INA to retreat and it could not achieve its objective. Subhash Chandra Bose was reportedly killed in an air crash over Taipei, Taiwan (Formosa) on August 18, 1945.

2. Given below are some notes on Anne Frank. Use them to write a short bio-sketch of her, about 100 words.

**Name: Anne Frank - Birth: June 12. 1929 in Frankfurt. Germany - Profession : Writer - Parents : Otto Frank (Father), Edith Frank (Mother). Margot (Elder sister) - Belongs to: Jewish Family - Best Known for : Writing a diary while hiding from the Nazis during World War II - Died : March 1945 at the age of 15 in the Bergen-Belson concentration camp - Achievements: Her famous work "The Diary of a Young Girl"- Anne's diary was published in user sixty-five different languages. - One of Anne's hobbies was to collect photos and postcards of movie stars.**

**Ans :** **ANNE FRANK**

Anne Frank was born on June 12, 1928 in Germany, Frankfurt. She was a writer. Her parents were Otto Frank (Father) and Edith Frank (Mother) . She had an elder sister named Margot. She belonged to the Jewish family. She wrote her famous work "The Diary of a Young Girl" while she was hiding from the Nazis during World War 11. Her work got published in sixty five different languages. Her favourite hobbies were collecting photographs and postcards of movie stars. She died in 1945 in the Bergen-Belson concentration camp.

3. Use the following information and write a short bio-sketch of Mother Teresa.

<b>Birth</b>	- 27 August 1910 of Albanian parents in Skopje
<b>Real Name</b>	- Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu
<b>1928</b>	- Joined convent in Ireland; 18 years old
<b>1929</b>	- Sent to Darjeeling, India
<b>1931</b>	- Began teaching at Kolkata Girls' School
<b>1948</b>	- Left teaching to work among the poor in slums of Kolkata
<b>1950-1996</b>	- Worked for the downtrodden and sick destitute
<b>1979</b>	- Awarded Nobel Peace Prize
<b>Death</b>	- 5 September 1997

Ans :

### MOTHER TERESA

Mother Teresa was born on 27 August 1910 of Albanian parents in Skopje. Her real name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. She joined a convent in Ireland in 1928. When she was only 18 years old she was sent to Darjeeling. Here she began teaching in Kolkata Girls' School. Later she left teaching to work among the poor in slums. From 1948 she started working for the downtrodden and sick destitute. She worked selflessly for them. For her sincere, dedicated and selfless work, she was awarded Nobel Prize for peace in 1979. She left for her heavenly abode on 5 September 1997.

4. Use the notes given below to write a short bio-sketch of Vishwanathan Anand.

**Born on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1969 Nickname: Popularly Known as "Vishy"**

**First title : The youngest National, Champion at the age of 16**

**Education : Holds a degree in commerce**

**Hobbies : reading, swimming, listening to music**

**Character : A man of discipline, self-centered, clear reasoning and immediate insight.**

**Awards and Honours : An Indian chess Grandmaster; former World Chess Champion.; won the World Chess Championship five times, was the undisputed World Champion from 2007 to 2013.**

Ans :

### THE INDIAN GRANDMASTER

Vishwanathan Anand who is popularly known as "Vishy" was born on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1969. He was declared as the youngest National Champion at the age of 16. Besides being a graduate in commerce, he is fond of reading, swimming and listening to music. He is a man of discipline and self-esteem. He is known as the Indian Chess Grandmaster.



NOTES

GRAMMAR

Part 4 Five Mark Questions

Part 4

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