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ENGLISH

UNIT – 1 - STUDY MATERIAL (Based on Govt. New Syllabus)

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All the Best.....

Prose – 1
TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

(வெரோனா நகரத்து இரு கணவர்கள்)
A J Cronin

BOOK BACK QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each based on your understanding of the story.

a) Who did the narrator meet at the outskirts of Verona?

The narrator met **two small boys** at the outskirts of Verona.

b) Why did the driver not approve of the narrator buying fruit from the boys?

The driver did not approve of the narrator buying fruit from the boys, **because of the boys' shabby appearance.**

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

The boys did not spend much on clothes and food because they had **saved the money for their sister's treatment.**

d) Were the boys saving money to go the States? How do you know?

No, the boys were not saving money to go the States. They told the narrator that **they had some other plans.**

e) Why did the author avoid going to Lucia's room?

The author **did not want to interfere their happy family party.** So he avoided going to Lucia's room.

f) What was Lucia suffering from?

Lucia was suffering from **tuberculosis of the spine.**

g) What made the boys join the resistance movement against the Germans?

The hate for Germans made the boys join the resistance movement against the Germans.

h) What made the boys work so hard?

The money needed for their sister's treatment made the boys work so hard.

i) Why didn't the boys disclose their problem to the author?

The boys didn't disclose their problem to the narrator, because **they did not want anybody's sympathy or charity. They accepted their responsibilities of life.** They were determined to work hard to earn their living and for her sister's treatment.

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

a) Describe the appearance of Nicola and Jacopo.

Nicola put on a **worn jersey and cut-off khaki pants.** Jacopo wore a **shortened army tunic gathered in loose folds** about his skinny frame. They had **brown skins, tangled hair and dark earnest eyes.**

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

They **shined shoes, sold fruit, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands.** These were the various jobs undertaken by the little boys.

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

The **boys usually make a visit to the country, Poleta, every Sunday**. Jacopo asked the narrator to drop them there in his car. Since the driver had the Sunday off, **the author himself took them in his car**.

d) Who took the author to the cubicle?

A **pleasant-looking woman** dressed in the white uniform with steel-rimmed spectacles took the author to the cubicle. She seemed to be a **trained nurse**.

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

The girl with whom the boys were talking to in the cubicle **was their sister**. She was **about 20 years old**. She was **propped up on pillows, wearing a pretty lace jacket**. Her eyes were **soft and tender**. She **took after her brothers**. And she is **suffering from tuberculosis** of the spine.

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

After the siblings were rendered homeless, they had suffered from **starvation**. They were **exposed to the cold winter**. They had **stayed in a sort of shelter amidst the rubble**. They participated in the war against Germans. **Their sister was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine**. They worked hard for her.

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 boys did **not want to disclose their problem** to the narrator. **He understood** that the boys did **not want anybody's charity**. He did **not want to interfere into their problem**. So he did not utter a word and preferred to keep the secret to himself. It depicted **his generosity**.

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS**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?**

The narrator met two small boys at the outskirts of Verona. They were Nicola and Jacopo. The boys' father, a widower, had been killed in the war. During war, a bomb had destroyed their home. They had suffered from starvation. They were exposed to the cold winter. They had stayed in a sort of shelter amidst the rubble. They joined the resistance movement against the Germans. They participated in the war against Germans. When they returned after the war, they had found their sister Lucia was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. Every week, they had to pay the money for her treatment. It made the boys work so hard. They shined shoes, sold fruit, distributed newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands for money. Thus the war ruined their future and their sister's disease made them do various jobs.

b) How was the family affected by the war?

The narrator met two small boys at the outskirts of Verona. They were Nicola and Jacopo. The boys' father, a widower, had been killed in the war. During war, a bomb had destroyed their home. They had suffered from starvation. They were exposed to the cold winter. They had stayed in a sort of shelter amidst the rubble. They joined the resistance movement against the Germans. They participated in the war against Germans. When they returned after the war, they had found their sister Lucia was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. Every week, they had to pay the money for her treatment. It made the boys work so hard. The war had not broken their spirit. Thus the family of the two boys was ruined by the war.

c) Write a character sketch of Nicola and Jacopo.

The 'Two gentlemen of Verona' were the boys in the story, Nicola and Jacopo. Nicola, aged 13, was the elder brother of Jacopo aged 12. Both the siblings were very sincere and self-sacrificing. They worked hard for their sister Lucia to recover her from tuberculosis. They lived a hard life. They undertook all sorts of odd jobs. They shined shoes, sold fruit, distributed newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands for money. They did not spend much on clothes and food. Because they had saved the money for their sister's treatment. But they still maintained their self-respect. They don't have the intention of talking about their family problem and want to keep it a secret. The boys didn't disclose their problem to the narrator, because they did not want anybody's sympathy or charity. They accepted their responsibilities of life. They were determined to work hard to earn their living and for her sister's treatment. Though they had suffered a lot from the war, it had not broken their spirit. Thus, their selfless action brings a new nobility to human life. It gives promise of a greater hope for human society.

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

The 'Two gentlemen of Verona' were the boys in the story, Nicola and Jacopo. Nicola, aged 13, was the elder brother of Jacopo aged 12. Both the siblings were very sincere and self-sacrificing. They worked hard for their sister Lucia to recover her from tuberculosis. They lived a hard life. They undertook all sorts of odd jobs. They shined shoes, sold fruit, distributed newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands for money. They did not spend much on clothes and food. Because they had saved the money for their sister's treatment. But they still maintained their self-respect. They don't have the intention of talking about their family problem and want to keep it a secret. The boys didn't disclose their problem to the narrator, because they did not want anybody's sympathy or charity. They accepted their responsibilities of life. They were determined to work hard to earn their living and for her sister's treatment. Though they had suffered a lot from the war, it had not broken their spirit. Thus, their selfless action brings a new nobility to human life. It gives promise of a greater hope for human society. This is the message conveyed through the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'.

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

The 'Two gentlemen of Verona' were the boys in the story, Nicola and Jacopo. Nicola, aged 13, was the elder brother of Jacopo aged 12. Both the siblings were very sincere and self-sacrificing. They worked hard for their sister Lucia to recover her from tuberculosis. They lived a hard life. They undertook all sorts of odd jobs. They shined shoes, sold fruit, distributed newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands for money. They did not spend much on clothes and food. Because they had saved the money for their sister's treatment. But they still maintained their self-respect. They don't have the intention of talking about their family problem and want to keep it a secret. The boys didn't disclose their problem to the narrator, because they did not want anybody's sympathy or charity. They accepted their responsibilities of life. They were determined to work hard to earn their living and for her sister's treatment. Though they had suffered a lot from the war, it had not broken their spirit. Thus, their selfless action brings a new nobility to human life. It gives promise of a greater hope for human society. Really the two boys are fit to be called 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'.

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

The 'Two gentlemen of Verona' were the boys in the story, Nicola and Jacopo. The boys' father, a widower, had been killed in the war. During war, a bomb had destroyed their home. They had suffered from starvation. They were exposed to the cold winter. They had stayed in a sort of shelter amidst the rubble. So they hate the Germans. This adversity of the children made them to join the resistance movement against Germany. This was the only worst choice they made. When they returned after the war, they had found their sister Lucia was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. Every week, they had to pay the money for her treatment. It made the boys work so hard. They shined shoes, sold fruit, distributed newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands for money. Though adversity ruined the two brothers' life, they were very determined. They worked hard for their living and for their sister's treatment. Though they suffered a lot, their selfless action brought a new nobility to human life. It gave promise of a greater hope for human society. Thus the adversity brought these best in them.

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

I like the narrator of this story very much. He is very generous, kind and helpful person. Even after his driver's warning, he wants to buy fruits from the boys to help them. He notices the honesty and sincerity of the shabbily dressed and nearly-starved boys. He also drops the boys to the hospital where their sister is admitted. He does not decide to reveal to the boys that he knows about their family crisis. He knows they will prefer to feel that they have safely kept their secret. But their devotion has touched him deeply. He finds war does not broke their spirit. Their selfless action brings a new nobility to human life, gives promise of a greater hope for human society. The narrator's sympathy, helping tendency are highlighted in the story.

(OR)

I like the two boys, the real heroes of this story very much. They suffer a lot in their life. But they never give up their responsibility and self-respect. The boys' father, a widower, has been killed in the early part of the war. They become homeless. They have suffered from starvation. They join the resistance movement and participate in the war against Germans. War has not broken their spirit. Their sister Lucia is suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. They have to pay the money for her treatment every week. So they shine shoes, sell fruits, distribute newspapers, conduct tourists round the town, and run errands for money. They do not want to disclose their problem to the narrator. They do not want anybody's sympathy or charity. They accept their responsibilities of life. They are determined to work hard. But they still look contented and maintain their self-respect. Their selfless action brings a new nobility to human life and it gives promise of a greater hope for human society.

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.

Word	Synonyms	Antonym
cautious	careful, heedful	careless, reckless
disapprove	decline, refuse, deny	accept, allow
brisk	active, energetic	inactive, inanimate, lethargic
engaging	pleasant, charming	unattractive, repulsive, mean
humble	simple, modest	rich, pretentious
eager	keen, enthusiastic	uneager, apathetic
resistance	refusal, impediment	peace, assistance
persuade	induce, impress	dissuade, repress
scarce	insufficient, deficient	abundant, suffice
nobility	dignity, virtue	dishonour, insignificance

B) HOMOPHONES & CONFUSABLE WORDS

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

a)	emigrate – to move out of (தாய்நாட்டை விட்டு வெளிநாட்டில் சென்று குடியேறு)	immigrate – to move into (பிரிதொரு நாட்டில் குடியேறு, குடி வரவு)
	Sentence: My Grandfather <u>emigrated</u> from India to <u>immigrate</u> to USA.	
b)	beside – அருகில், பக்கத்தில்	besides - மேலும்
	Sentence: <u>Besides</u> watching the folk dance, he was standing <u>beside</u> his car.	
c)	judicial – நீதித்துறை (N) – நீதிமன்றம் சார்ந்த (Adj)	judicious - சிறப்பான
	Sentence: One should be <u>judicious</u> in <u>judicial</u> matters.	
d)	eligible – தகுதியுடைய	illegible - தெளிவற்ற
	Sentence: The <u>eligible</u> condidates are not selected for their <u>illegible</u> handwriting.	
e)	conscience – மனசாட்சி	conscious - உணர்வுள்ள
	Sentence: The people who have <u>conscience</u> are <u>conscious</u> of many ideas.	
f)	industrial – தொழிற்சாலை	industrious - கடினமாக வேலை செய்கிற
	Sentence: An <u>industrial</u> area has <u>industrious</u> people.	
g)	eminent – சிறந்த, மேம்பட்ட	imminent - உடனடியாக, அண்மையில் நிகழப்போகிற
	Sentence: The most <u>eminent</u> scientist in the world has been warning about the <u>imminent</u> danger of nuclear war.	
h)	illicit – தடுக்கப்பட்ட	elicit - வெளிக்கொண்டு வா, பெறு
	Sentence: The police tried to <u>elicit</u> information from the bootlegger who sold <u>illicit</u> liquor.	
i)	prescribed - கட்டளையிடு, குறித்துகொடு	proscribed - தேசத்தினின்று துரத்து
	Sentence: The book which has been <u>prescribed</u> for the B.A class has been <u>proscribed</u> for containing some remarks against a particular religion.	
j)	affect – பாதிப்பு உண்டாக்கு	effect - விளைவு
	Sentence: The <u>effects</u> of new pension scheme will <u>affect</u> the future of the employees.	

k)	aural – கவனித்தல் Sentence: The teacher gave an <u>aural</u> test by <u>oral</u> in the class yesterday.	oral - வாய்வழி
l)	born – பிறப்பு Sentence: Many diseases are <u>born</u> by flies which can easily <u>borne</u> .	borne - எடுத்துச் செல்லக்கூடிய, பரவும்

(ii) Fill in the blanks with suitable homophones or confusables.

wallet (பணப்பை)	violet (ஊதாநிறம்)	hoard (குவியல்)	horde (நாடோடிக்கூட்டம்)
fairy (விந்தையான)	faerie, faery (மாயஉலகு)	desert (பாலைவனம்)	dessert (இனிப்பு)
medal (பதக்கம்)	meddle (தலையிடுவதில்லை)	night (இரவு)	knight (படைவீரன்)
wait (காத்திரு)	weight (எடை)	sweet (இனிப்பு)	suite (அடுக்கு அறைகள்)
yoke (நுகத்தடி)	yolk (மஞ்சள்கரு)	plain (நிலப்பகுதி)	plane (வானூர்தி)
grown (வளர்ந்த)	groan (புலம்பு)	might (வல்லமை)	mitt (அடிக்கை உறை)
earn (சம்பாதி)	urn (தாழி)	quite (முழுவதும்)	quiet (அமைதியான)
			quit (விலகு)

Homo-Same Phone-Sound	} Same Sound

c) Give the meanings of the following phrasal verbs and frame sentences using them.

cut off	– remove (நீக்கு)
Sentence: The government <u>cut off</u> the old pension scheme.	
come upon	– to meet some one (or) to find something by chance. (தற்செயலாக சந்தித்தல்)
Sentence: We turned a corner and we <u>came upon</u> an old man.	
put out	– extinguish (or) to stop fire (அணை)
Sentence: Mahesh <u>put</u> the light <u>out</u> and went to sleep.	
draw up	– come to a halt (or) stop (நிறுத்து)
Sentence: A car <u>drew up</u> beside us.	
pass out	– faint (மயக்கமுறு)
Sentence: Due to low pressure, he <u>passed out</u> on the way.	
take off	– start (புறப்படு)
Sentence: The helicopter <u>takes off</u> at 10 AM.	
turn away	– oppose (or) resist (எதிரி, மறு)
Sentence: The people <u>turned away</u> the Hydro Carbon project.	
stand by	– support (ஆதரி)
Sentence: Don't worry, I will <u>stand by</u> you.	
bank on	– rely (or) confidently (சார்ந்திரு, நம்பு)
Sentence: The Prime Minister cannot <u>bank on</u> the opposite party's support.	

d) Form two derivatives from each of the following words by adding prefixes and suffixes.

Word	Prefix	Suffix
patient	<i>impatient</i>	<i>patiently</i>
honour	dishonour	honourable
respect	disrespect	respectable
manage	mismanage	management
fertile	infertile	fertility
different	indifferent	differently
friend	befriend	friendly
obey	disobey	obeying

GRAMMAR

TENSES

Task 1

Tick the correct options and complete the dialogue.

- A:** Hello. What *do you watch* / **are you watching?**
- B:** A programme about the Jallian Wala Bagh massacre, which I recorded last night. **I study** / *I'm studying* about it this term.
- A:** All that **I know** / *I've known* about it is that hundreds of people **died** / *had died* in it.
- 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?
- 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.
- B:** OK. **I've already done** / *I already did* my practice, so I've got time to watch TV. See you later.

Task 2

Complete the sentences with the correct tense form of the verbs in brackets.

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

Task 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets.

- a) Everyone **was sleeping** when the earthquake hit the small town. (*sleep*)
- b) Evangelene **quit / quitted** her job a couple of years ago. (*quit*)
- c) Where **did you spend** your last holidays? (*you spend*)
- d) I think Suresh **will leave** for Tiruvallur next morning. (*leave*)
- e) I was angry that I **made** such a mistake (*make*)
- f) My mother was tired yesterday because she **did not sleep** well the night before (*not sleep*)
- g) Her parents **will be** in Coimbatore for two weeks from today (*be*)
- h) Nothing much **happened** when I got to the meeting (*happen*).
- i) Scientists predict that by 2050, man **will land** on Mars. (*land*)
- j) Sh! Someone **listens** to our conversation! (*listen*)

- k) The plane **will take off** in a few minutes. (*take*)
 l) They **were talking** about me when I interrupted their conversation. (*talk*)
 m) Justin and his parents **are living** in an apartment right now because they can't find a cheap house. (*live*)
 n) Rajini Prem's family **is** in Chengalpeta now. (*be*).
 o) Yusuf **goes** to the movies once in a while (*go*)
 p) This **is** an easy quiz so far (*be*).
 q) Our team **did not win** any games last year. (*not win*)
 r) We **saw** a wonderful film at the cinema (theatre) last night. (*see*)
 s) Hurry up! The movie **had already begun** (*already begin*)

MODAL AUXILIARIES

Task 1

Fill in the blanks with modal auxiliaries.

- a) The candidates **must / should** answer five out of ten questions.
 b) How **dare** you open my bag?
 c) Tajudeen **will** finish this work by Monday.
 d) **Shall** I go to school today?
 e) I wish you **will** tell me the truth
 f) Poonam **could** not catch the bus yesterday.
 g) People who live in glass houses **should** not throw stones.
 h) You **need** not go to the market as I have brought vegetables.
 i) **Can** you have taken all this trouble?
 j) You **will** be joking.
 k) I tried to climb up the tree, but **can** not.
 l) Hima Das ran so fast that she **could** win the medal.
 m) You **can** lead a horse to water, but you **cannot** make it drink.
 n) I **would** like to have a cup of coffee.
 o) My grandfather **used to** visit this temple when he was young.

Task 2

Complete the following sentences with modals using the clues given.

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

REPORTED SPEECH**Task 1**

Read what these people say and rewrite as sentences.

1. I am very busy. **Raja** said that he was very busy.
2. I have completed my work. **Satya** said that she had completed her work.
3. I don't like to go out. **Johnson** said that he did not like to go out.
4. I have just come back from Chennai. **Akshita** said that she had just come back from Chennai.
5. I am learning English. **Jayan** said that he was learning English.
6. I bought a pen yesterday. **Madhu** said that he had bought a pen the previous day / the day before.
7. We will go shopping tomorrow. **Joseph and Mary** said that they would go for shopping the next day. / the day after.
8. We can't attend the party. **Afsar and Ayesha** said that they could not attend the party.
9. How are you? **Satish** asked how I was.
10. I am fine. Thank you. **Victor** said that he was fine and thanked me.

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.

Reporting dialogue:

Priya asked Vijay

a) where he was going?

Vijay replied

b) that he was going to the railway station.

Priya further inquired

c) Vijay 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.

Reporting dialogue:

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.

Direct Speech (Question)	Indirect speech (Answer)
Pradeep got out of bed with much excitement. "It is going to be a lovely sunny day," he remarked to his sister Varshini.	<i>Pradeep told his sister Varshini that it was going to be a lovely sunny day.</i>
"Just let me sleep a bit longer, Pradeep," Varshini begged, "and since you are feeling so enthusiastic,	<i>Varshini begged Pradeep to let her sleep a bit longer and added that since he was feeling so enthusiastic.</i>
She suggested, "Why don't you go and help mother in cooking?"	<i>Varshini suggested Pradeep why he didn't go and help mother in cooking.</i>
"Sure, I will", said Pradeep. "Can I help you, mum?", he said to his mother.	<i>Pradeep replied Varshini that surely, he would. Pradeep asked his mother if / whether he could help her.</i>
"Yes, of course. There are idlis and vadas on the dining table. Have your breakfast."	<i>Mother agreed and told that there were idlis and vadas on the dining table and mother told her son to have his breakfast.</i>
"Thank you, mum; I'll surely help you by eating them."	<i>Pradeep thanked her and added that he would surely help her by eating them.</i>

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LISTENING

Now, you are going to listen to the cautionary instructions that are given to the general public living in flood-prone areas. Listen carefully and complete the following sentences.

- The announcement was made by the Department of disaster management.
- Widespread heavy rains are expected from the early hours of Sunday.
- The public is asked to find out the locations of certain precautionary measures.
- An emergency kit should contain water bottles, biscuit packets and a medical supplies (or) torch light
- A list of telephone numbers should be displayed on the wall.
- Important documents can be secured by keeping them in a water proof case.
- Damage to refrigerators can be avoided by empty refrigerators
- Mobile phones should be charged to enable the marooned to contact their friends, relatives and emergency services
- Sandbags should be placed in the toilet bowls to prevent sewage inflow.
- Listen to the periodic news updates through your portable communication devices and follow the instructions implicitly.

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 to one and all. I, Suresh of class XI would like to deliver a short speech on *the importance of tree planting*.

Trees contribute our environment by providing Oxygen, improving air quality, changing climate, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon-di-oxide and produce the oxygen that we breath. Therefore trees are vital. It also stabilizes the soil, and give life to the world's wildlife. They also provide us with the materials for tools and shelter. Trees also help to save water and prevent water pollution. Trees can become a great renewable source of energy and an excellent eco-friendly fuel. They reduce soil erosion, increase fertility and help soil to obtain moisture. Trees provide shadow to houses and streets. Plantation of trees is important as they improve the life and fulfil essential needs of mankind. Trees provide food for birds and wildlife. Trees also help to prevent flooding. Leaves of some trees are used as medicines.

If we plant more trees, we can get more rainfall. So we have to plant trees and protect them for the future. Trees are like the lungs of the planet. Trees also help to maintain ozone level in urban area. Planting trees can also help cool your home in the summer. As a result we as humans can play an active role in planting trees to help offset deforestation and urbanization. I thank you for giving an opportunity to speak in front of you.

Task 2

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF A READING HABIT

Good evening to all. Now I am going to speak about *the importance of a reading habit*. Reading is one of the most fundamental skills. A child needs to learn to succeed in life.

Good reading habit is a boon for a person. Good reading habit makes us wise and enhance our intellect. Those who have a habit of reading do not ever feel lonely. In addition to, reading books also help in enhancing the knowledge and helps boost their confidence. Reading helps in developing a person’s imagination and creative power. It also enhances the power of concentration. It certainly enhances the knowledge. Reading is indeed one of the best ways to enrich our vocabulary. Students who read newspaper, magazines, stories, novels, and fictions help in gaining more knowledge. Thus good reading habit helps in the all round development of the students. It helps in diverting the mind towards positivity. Overall development means personality development. Reading not only helps in enhancing knowledge, and vocabulary but also builds the imagination and improve the listening writing skills, and memorizing skills. So it helps us to utilize the time in a proper way.

It provides stronger analytical thinking skills. So we can visit our local library where have books on every subject. Reading a good book is the perfect way to reduce stress, and have a quiet, peaceful time. Last but not least, having a reading habit is much better than having other random habits. As Francis Bacon says “Reading maketh a complete man”, everyone should be a complete man. Thank you!

READING

Read the passage given below and make notes.

To match the best cities across the world, the Government of India initiated ‘smart cities’ to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people. The agenda under smart city promises to resolve urban sustainability problems. Urban forests provide a range of important ecosystem services that are critical for the sustainability of cities. Urban forestry, which is defined more as ‘Management of Trees’ contributes to the physiological, sociological and economic well-being of the society. Mangroves, lakes, grasslands, and forests in and around our cities, act as sponges that absorb the air and noise pollution and they present themselves as our cultural and recreational hotspots. However, these spots are rapidly being reclaimed and replaced in the name of development. Presence of urban green has shown to increase the economic value of the place.

Urban forests contribute to reduce the cost of building, storm water drain systems for municipalities and neutralizing urban heat island effect. Plants not only provide shade but also help in regulating the micro-climate. They help to regulate energy budgets, improve air quality, and curtail noise pollution. Trees, herbs, shrubs and grasses arrest sedimentation and prevent other pollutants from entering our water systems. This will give a chance for our urban lakes and rivers to recover and help

improve aquatic ecosystems. Biodiversity also gets a boost through the urban forests and helps to create corridors connecting the forest areas. High biodiversity areas can also help to build resilient ecosystems. Availability of forests within our urban areas gives an opportunity for children to connect to the natural environment and learn about native species.

Notes:**TITLE: URBAN FORESTS*** **Smart Cities:**

- i) do drive economic growth
- ii) improve the quality of life.
- iii) resolve urban sustainability problems.

* **Urban forests:**

- i) provide ecosystem services as known as management of trees.
- ii) contribute well-being of physiological, sociological and economical.
- iii) Mangroves, lakes, grass lands, and forests in and around cities.
- iv) increase the economical value.

* **Plants:**

- i) provide shade and regulating the micro-climate.
- ii) improve air quality and curtail noise pollution.
- iii) prevent other pollutants.

* **Biodiversity:**

- i) create corridors connecting the forest area.
- ii) build resilient ecosystems.
- iii) children connect the natural environment.
- iv) learn about native species.

Moral: Urban forest make smart cities.

WRITING

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

Sir,

I request you to publish the following letter in your daily to address an important issue which needs immediate redressal.

During weekends, motorcyclists are seen racing on the East Coast road and the Old Mahabalipuram road of Chennai. The amateur racers are risking their own lives and of the public as well. They are fearless and irresponsible, not knowing the price of human lives. Risking others and their lives for their pleasure is highly condemnable.

Even school students indulge in such activities and cause fatal accidents. The racers have started occupying the lanes and streets of busy localities. As such, the violation of traffic rules often results in loss of young lives. Such reckless riders who violate traffic rules should be punished severely.

As a responsible citizen of the society, I request the authorities concerned to take appropriate measures to put an end to this menace.

Yours truly,
Srivatsav

Questions and Answer:

- a) Who is the sender of the letter?
Srivatsav is the sender of the letter.
- b) Who is the receiver?
The Editor of the newspaper is the receiver.
- c) What is the issue?
Racing on the East coast road in Chennai is the issue.
- d) What is the request of the sender?
The sender's request is to put an end to racing in roads.
- e) Who will take steps after reading it?
The department of traffic 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.

Dear Ganesh, (*Greeting*),

Hope **you are well.** (*enquire about his well being*). I would like to **select Computer Science group** Firstly **the computer has become part of our life. We come across computers in every walk of our life.** (*reason for your choice of group*). I wish **to work in Cyber crime.** (*state your ambition*). We come to hear **that the younger generation suffer a lot of the misleads by social media like time killing Whatsapp and Facebook, Blue whale, Tik tok, etc.,** (*discuss recent unhealthy happenings in social media and the society*). These have made me **to choose my career in Information Technology as a Cyber crime officer.** (*demand or need of this profession*). I have plans to pursue **MS in Information Technology** (*higher studies or specialization*).

All the best for your CA preparation. Convey my **regards to all our friends.**

Yours lovingly,
(your name)

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.

Dear Grandma,

I am fine. Take care of your health. I am happy you are free from blood pressure or any sugar problem. I pray to god you live up to 100 years. I never forget those ten days, I spent with you in your house. I can't forget our uncle and his family especially Aruna and Ramana. I had a lot of fun there. I have enjoyed playing hide-and-seek, piggy back, jumping across squares, running race, throw ball with my cousins. You also gave us quick mental sums, told us interesting stories and asked us tricky questions. How happy those days are! I miss you a lot grandma. I am eagerly waiting for my next vacation to visit you. Convey my wishes to all.

Yours lovingly,
XXX.

Address on the envelope
To

Mrs.S. Rani,
14, Valaja street,
Trichy - 15

- b) You are the head of the English department in a renowned institution. You are invited to preside over the inauguration of the 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.

<p>From XXX, YYY.</p> <p>To The Head of the Department, (English) Government Arts College, Madurai – 25.</p> <p>Respected sir, I am extremely happy to be invited by you to address the English Literary Club. I was a student of your college from June 1985 to March 1990 during my BA & MA courses. During those years, all the lecturers teaching classes lively and interestingly. They inspired the students very much and they were the role-model for all students. They encouraged every student to speak in English. I am very proud of being an old student of college. It is a rare opportunity to address the English Literary Club of our college. As a sign of gratitude to my alma mater, I consent to address your students on 8th September.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Thanking you,</p> <p>Address on the envelope To The Head of the Department, (English) Government Arts College, Madurai – 25.</p>	<p>YYY, 30-08-2019.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, XXX.</p>
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- c) Write a letter to the Headmaster of your school requesting him to help you obtain a duplicate mark sheet of class XII, which you lost while travelling.

<p>From XXX, YYY.</p> <p>To The Head Master, Government Hr. Sec.School, Tanjore – 27.</p> <p>Respected sir, I am Gopalan, a student of HSC, 2015-17. I am sorry that I have lost my mark sheet while travelling to Coimbatore. I request you to issue me a duplicate mark sheet of my std XII. I shall visit the school in a day or two and pay the required fee for the certificate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Thanking you,</p> <p>Address on the envelope To The Head Master, Government Hr. Sec.School, Tanjore – 27.</p>	<p>YYY, 05-01-2019.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, XXX.</p>
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- 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.

<p>From XXX, YYY.</p> <p>To AZ Company, 15, North Street, Cuddalore – 20.</p> <p>Respected sir, I am sorry to inform you that the juicer I bought just two days before has stopped working. The motor worked for 40 seconds and stopped suddenly. I shall bring it to your shop in a day or two and please supply a new juicer.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;"> <p>Receipt No. – BF 289, Date 25, March 2019. Model – Premier Super Fast Warranty card No. – AME - ps 6285.</p> <p>Thanking you,</p> </div> <p>Address on the envelope To AZ Company, 15, North Street, Cuddalore – 20.</p>	<p>YYY, 22-03-2019.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, XXX.</p>
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- e) You wish to become a pilot. Write a letter to a college enquiring about the 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.

<p>From XXX, YYY.</p> <p>To Madras Flying Club, Meenambakkam, Chennai – 27.</p> <p>Respected sir, I am 18 years old and I have completed my HSC. My ambition is to become a pilot. I want to join your training course. Please send me your brochure so that I can learn about the eligibility, duration of the course, fee structure, scholarships, hostel facilities and future placement opportunities. I enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;">Thanking you,</p> <p>Address on the envelope To Madras Flying Club, Meenambakkam, Chennai – 27.</p>	<p>YYY, 10-01-2019.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, XXX.</p>
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- 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.

<p>From XXX, YYY.</p> <p>To The Manager, Waves Furniture Company, Trichy – 2.</p> <p>Respected sir, I am planning to open a coaching centre for students in the above address. I may take in about 20-25 students in a batch. I require 8 tables, 24 chairs, 2 benches, a blackboard with stand, 2 stools. Let me know the cost of all the above. I shall pay you by cheque. Please contact me over 98765 43210.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Thanking you,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours sincerely, XXX.</p> <p>Address on the envelope To The Manager, Waves Furniture Company, Trichy - 2</p>	<p>YYY, 05-02-2019.</p>
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- 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.

<p>From XXX, YYY.</p> <p>To The Managing Director, ABC Company, Chennai - 5</p> <p>Respected sir, Sub: Application for the post of Personal Secretary to the Managing Director – Reg Ref: Your ad in the Hindu, dated on 20-02-2019</p> <p>I apply for the post of Personal Secretary to the Managing Director of your esteemed company. I am 28 years old. I have P.G (English) degree and I am proficient in speaking and writing English. I have already worked as a clerical assistant in a company for 3 years. I am a computer-literate. In addition, I have a thorough knowledge of the current political, social, economic and industrial developments. I hope my knowledge will help your company.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Thanking you,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours sincerely, XXX.</p> <p>Address on the envelope To The Managing Director, ABC Company, Chennai – 5.</p>	<p>YYY, 23-02-2019.</p>
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h) Write a letter the Editor of a newspaper about the nuisance created by the roadside vendors blocking the pavements and occupying the parking zone.

<p>From XXX, YYY.</p> <p>To The Editor, The Daily Thanthi, Trichy – 10.</p> <p>Respected sir,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sub: Complaining about the nuisance of roadside vendors – Reg.</p> <p>I am a resident of Trichy. Trichy is a beautiful city with the river Cauvery, the Rockfort and Teppakulam. But what about its Bazaar and shopping by customers? Along the main Bazaar, N.S.B. Road and Nandhi kovil street on the eastern bank of Teppakulam, numerous vendors occupy a lot of space. Vehicle drivers find it difficult to pass through the streets. Even pedestrians find it a problem. I request the concerned authorities to take steps to solve the problem.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Thanking you,</p> <p>Address on the envelope To The Editor, The Daily Thanthi, Trichy – 10.</p>	<p>YYY, 20-01-2019.</p> <p>Yours truly, XXX.</p>
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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.

<p>Dear uncle,</p> <p>I am sorry to know that, you are suffering from jaundice. But nothing to worry, you have been admitted in one of the best hospitals with experienced, senior doctors. Moreover, you have always be careful about your health. Please don't smoke or drink. You don't even take cool drinks often. If you need money for your treatment, don't hesitate to ask me. I am ready to help what you need from me. It is my duty. I am sure you will get all right very soon. Be hopeful.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Convey my regards to all,</p> <p>Address on the envelope To Mr. M. Raja, 1/20, South Street, Theni-14</p>	<p>YYY, 15-04-2019.</p> <p>Yours lovingly, XXX.</p>
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Poem – 1
THE CASTLE (அரண்மனை)
 Edwin muir

BOOK BACK 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?

One of the soldiers lodged in the castle is the narrator in the poem.

b) How long had the soldiers been in the castle?

All through the summer, the soldiers had been in the castle.

c) Why were the soldiers in the castle fearless?

The soldiers have plenty of arms and food. So they were fearless in the castle.

d) Where were the enemies?

The enemies were half a mile away from the castle.

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

The narrator says that the enemy was no threat at all because their captain was brave and the soldiers were loyal.

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?

The warder, who guards the wicket gate, let the enemies inside the famous citadel.

h) How did the enemies enter the castle?

The strong castle became weak and thin because of the greedy, disloyal and corrupt warder. The citadel was captured by the enemies for gold.

i) Why were the secret galleries bare?

The secret galleries were captured by the enemies.

j) What was the 'shameful act'?

The castle was captured by the enemies because of the greedy, disloyal and corrupt warder. This was the shameful act.

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

Since the defeat of the castle was treacherous but not by face to face war, the narrator didn't want to tell the tale to anybody.

l) Why did the narrator feel helpless?

The narrator's troop and castle were defeated by the enemies. He could not accept this treacherous defeat. So he felt helpless.

m) Who was the real enemy?

The gold which was received as bribe by the warder, was the real enemy.

2. Read the poem again and complete the summary using the words given in box.**Stanzas 1–3**

‘The Castle’ by Edwin Muir is a moving poem on the (1) **capture** of a well-guarded (2) **castle**. The soldiers of the castle were totally stress-free and relaxed. They were (3) **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 (4) **half-a-kilometre** and so they seemed no threat to the castle. They had (5) **plenty** of weapons to protect them and a large quantity of (6) **ration** 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) **watching** to shoot the enemy at sight. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was (8) **brave** and the soldiers were loyal.

<i>Half-a-kilometre</i>	<i>watching</i>	<i>Castle</i>	<i>brave</i>	<i>Ration</i>	<i>capture</i>	<i>Plenty</i>	<i>confident</i>
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[Note: In the poem half-a-mile is given. But here it is given as half-a-kilometre (½ mile = 0.8 km)]

Stanzas 4–6

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

<i>lamented</i>	<i>shameful</i>	<i>wicked guard</i>	<i>bait</i>	<i>let</i>	<i>gold</i>
<i>weapon</i>	<i>citadel</i>	<i>weak</i>	<i>disloyalty</i>	<i>helpless</i>	<i>enemy</i>

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 soldiers of the castle 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. They had plenty of weapons to protect them and a large quantity of ration in stock. The soldiers stood one above the other. They were watching the tower to shoot the enemy at sight. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was brave and the soldiers were loyal. But there was a wicket gate guarded by a wicked guard. He let in the enemies inside the famous citadel through the secret gallery and intricate path. The strong castle became weak and thin because of the greedy disloyal warder. The citadel was captured by the enemies for gold. Thus the castle was conquered.

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

Stanza 3 depicted that the castle was very strong. Through the turrets, the soldiers could watch up to the distance of half-a-mile. They had plenty of weapons and a large quantity of food in stock. The soldiers stood one above the other. They were watching the tower to shoot the enemy at sight. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was brave and the soldiers were loyal.

Stanza 5 depicted that the strong castle’s maze of tunneled stone became weak and thin. It was lost without any fight. The citadel was captured by the enemies for gold. The secret galleries were bare. Thus the castle was conquered.

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

The soldiers of the castle 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. They had plenty of weapons to protect them and a large quantity of ration in stock. The soldiers stood one above the other. They were watching the tower to shoot the enemy at sight. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was brave and the soldiers were loyal. But there was a wicket gate guarded by a wicked guard. He let in the enemies inside the famous citadel through the secret gallery and intricate path. The strong castle became weak and thin because of the greedy disloyal warder. The citadel was captured by the enemies for gold. Thus the warder's 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?**

'We' refers to **the soldiers** lodged in the castle.

ii) How did the soldiers spend the summer days?

The soldiers spent the summer days **by laying and taking rest.**

iii) What could they watch from the turret wall?

Through the turrets they were able to watch the mowers and **no enemy was found up to the distance of half-a-mile.**

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 gate was **very strong** and the walls were **very thick.**

ii) What was the firm belief of the soldiers?

As the **gate was strong, and wall was thick, no one can enter** the castle. This was the firm belief of the soldiers.

c) *A foothold there, no clever trick****Could take us dead or quick,******Only a bird could have got in.*****i) What was challenging?**

The castle's **strong gates, thick walls, their vigilance and security** were challenging.

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

No one could enter the gate but **only a bird could have got in.** This aspect of the castle's strength is conveyed by the above line.

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.**

'**Maze of tunneled stone**' means **very strong** in the first line. But '**grew thin**' means **very weak** in the second line. This was the contrast.

ii) What happened to the castle?

The castle was **captured by the enemies.**

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

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

As the warder was **disloyal**, the castle was **captured and all were arrested**. So they couldn't do anything.

ii) **Why did they feel helpless?**

The castle was **defeated by the enemies** in the crook way. The soldiers could not accept this treacherous defeat. So they felt helpless.

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

a) *They seemed no threat to us at all.*

Context : The above line is taken from the poem "**The castle**" written by **Edwin Muir**.

Explanation : Here the narrator assures that no one could capture their castle, since it was very strong. Through the turrets they were able to watch the movers and no enemy was found up to the distance of half-a-mile. He tells that his enemies were not a threat to his army.

Comment : The narrator expresses his confident about their castle's strength.

b) *How can this shameful tale be told?*

Context : The above line is taken from the poem "**The castle**" written by **Edwin Muir**.

Explanation : Here the narrator lamented how their castle was captured though it had strong gates, sufficient food and a brave captain. It was because of the greedy disloyal warder who received gold as bribe. The narrator felt that was the shameful act. And he worried about how this shameful defeat could be told others.

Comment : The narrator feels ashamed of his castle's warder and their defeat.

c) *I will maintain until my death*

Context : The above line is taken from the poem "**The castle**" written by **Edwin Muir**.

Explanation : Here the narrator lamented how their castle was captured though it had strong gates, sufficient food and a brave captain. It was because of the greedy disloyal warder who received gold as bribe. The narrator felt that was the shameful act. And he worried about how this shameful defeat could be told others and also he would maintain the secret of their defeat until his death.

Comment : The narrator expresses his confident and determination.

d) *Our only enemy was gold*

Context : The above line is taken from the poem "**The castle**" written by **Edwin Muir**.

Explanation : Here the narrator lamented how their castle was captured though it had strong gates, sufficient food and a brave captain. It was because of the greedy disloyal warder who received gold as bribe. The narrator felt that the gold received as bribe by the warder was their real enemy.

Comment : The narrator finds the real reason for their defeat.

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

lay	hay
wall	all
fear	near
load	road
thick	trick
bait	gate
stone	groan
air	bare
told	sold

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*

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

- a) *A little wicked wicket gate.* – *Metaphor*
 b) *Oh then our maze of tunneled stone* – *Metaphor*
 c) *Grew thin and treacherous as air.* – *Simile*
 d) *How can this shameful tale be told?* – *Interrogation*
 e) *Our only enemy was gold,* – *Personification*

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

'The castle' is an allegorical poem. In this poem the speaker is one of the soldiers lodged in a castle. He narrates how strong their castle is. He tells that they have plenty of arms and food. He hopes that they are strong enough to face their enemies. But they are defeated when the enemy bribes one of their own warders, who lets the enemy soldiers through a little gate. The citadel was captured by the enemies for gold. Allegory is a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one. This poem uses this defeat to highlight the moral and political points. It tells the idea of corruption and betrayal is often secret and subtle. The poet regretted not finding any weapon to fight with the enemy called 'gold'. And also reveals the truth 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

That is for ever 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 he ways to roam;
 A body of Englands 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

Supplementary Reader – 1

GOD SEES THE TRUTH, BUT WAITS

(கடவுள் உண்மையைப் பார்க்கின்றார், ஆனால் காத்திருக்கிறார்)

Leo Tolstoy

BOOK BACK 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 **had a bad dream** about him. So she feared and tried to stop him from going to the fair.

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

Aksionov's wife told him that she had **a bad dream**. She dreamt that Aksionov had returned from the town **with grey hair**. But Aksionov was fair-haired. Grey hair is a symbol of bad omen. This was the importance of Aksionov's wife's dream.

c) What made Aksionov leave the inn before dawn?

It was **not Aksionov's habit to sleep late night**. He always **wished to travel in the cool morning**. So he left from the inn before dawn.

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

The merchant with whom Aksionov spent the previous night had been found with his throat cut. Aksionov is suspected because **he left the inn before dawn** where he and the merchant stayed. And also the officer **found a blood stained knife from Aksionov's bag** while searching. These were the circumstances that led to Aksionov's imprisonment.

e) Why did Aksionov give up sending petitions?

Aksionov **gave up all his hope**. He **prayed only to God** thereafter. So Aksionov gave up sending petitions.

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

Makar had an **attitude of not admitting his guilt**. So he did not disclose that he had killed the merchant.

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

Yes, Makar felt guilty when he heard Askionov's story.

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

After hearing Aksionov's story, Makkar **behaved indifferently**. When Aksionov asked whether he knew the murderer, he replied that **it must have been the person**, in whose bag the knife was found. He said that **if someone else hid the knife there, he is not a thief till he is caught**. This made Aksionov think that Makar was the real murderer.

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

Every decisions of **God needs enough time**. Aksionov believes that **'God sees the truth, but waits.'** This was Aksionov's realization by the end of the story.

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

Aksionov's wife thought **why he had started that day even though she had explained her bad dream**. So she suspected him of 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. Aksionov is suspected because he **left the inn before dawn** where he and the merchant stayed. And also the officer **found a blood stained knife** from Aksionov's bag while searching.

b) What impact did the book "The Lives of Saints" have on Aksionov?

The book **"The Lives of Saints"** made him meek. His fellow-prisoners **respected him, they called him "Grandfather,"** and **"The Saint."** When there were quarrels among the prisoners, they came to him to get right solution.

c) Pick out the clues that convey that Makar Semeyonich recognized Aksionov.

At first, Semeyonich told that he once really did something wrong, but that time he was not found out. Later When Semyonich knew about Aksionov's story from his companions, **he slapped his own knee.** He exclaimed that that was really wonderful. When Aksionov asked him whether he knew the murderer, he replied that **it must have been the person,** in whose bag the knife was found and if **someone else hid the knife** there, he was **not a thief till he was caught.** These are the clues that convey that Makar Semeyonich recognized Aksionov.

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS**3. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 150 words each.****a) Compare and contrast the main characters, Aksionov and Makar Semeyonich, in the story.**

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov, the protagonist, put his trust in God to see him through his trials in this story. He was the best singer. He had virtuous qualities such as faith, forgiveness, freedom and acceptance. Aksionov was very innocent of the world around him. Though he did not commit any crime he was sent to prison. He was sentenced for 26 years. He did not want to revenge even the real murderer. He forgave him for accepting his guilt. He believed God only and always prayed to God. Aksionov had lost his hope. His freedom and his family had been taken away from him. He was not a bitter man. He never tried to escape from the prison by using illegal way.

Makar Semeyonich, the villain of this story behaved like an arrogant initially. He threatened Aksionov and other prisoners. He attempted to dig a hole to escape. But finally he felt guilty about what he had done to Aksionov. His guilt had been triggered by the fact, Aksionov had not told the authorities about Semeyonich's escape plans. Semeyonich was so overwhelmed and he begged Aksionov for forgiveness. He knew that Aksionov was a good man and did not deserve to be in prison. That's why he admitted his guilt.

b) How did Aksionov react when his wife suspected him?

Once Ivan Dimitrich Aksionov decided to make a trip to Nizhny fair. But his wife tried to stop him because she had a bad dream. She dreamt that Aksionov had returned from the town with grey hair. But he ignored her dream and said that it was a good luck. On his way Aksionov was imprisoned, since he was suspected for killing a merchant. Aksionov's wife asked him why he had started that day even though she had explained her bad dream. So she also suspected him of involvement in the murder. The thought made him even sadder. He told himself that God only knew the truth. He gave up all hope and only prayed to God. For twenty-six years as a convict in Siberia, his hair turned white as snow, and his beard grew. He often prayed and the fellow prisoners called him "Grandfather" and "The Saint."

c) Describe the life of Aksionov in prison.

Aksionov was imprisoned, since he was suspected for killing a merchant. But the actual murderer of the merchant was Semeyonich. Even his wife suspected him for the murder. This thought made him even sadder. He gave up all hope and told himself that God only knew the truth. For twenty-six years as a convict in Siberia, he grew old. In prison, Aksionov learnt to make boots, and earned a little money with which he bought the book 'The Lives of the Saints'. He used to read this book. On Sundays, in the prison-church he read the lessons and sang on the choir. The prison authorities liked him for his meekness. His fellow-prisoners respected and called him "Grandfather" and "The Saint." He was the spokesman among the prisoners. After 26 years, Semeyonich was imprisoned for his sin. Even if Aksionov realized Semeyonich was the real murderer, he saved Semeyonich from the Governor in an incident. Semeyonich realized his mistake and confessed his guilt. But when the order of his release came, Aksionov was already dead.

d) Why did Aksionov decide not to reveal the truth about Makar Semeyonich?

Aksionov was imprisoned, since he was suspected for killing a merchant. For twenty-six years as a convict in Siberia, he grew old. He felt that he had suffered twenty six years in the prison without committing any murder. Most of his life was spent in the prison. He had lost all his hope and his family. His wife was dead and his children had forgotten him. He thought where he could go and he had nowhere to go. He no longer had any desire to leave the prison. But he only hoped for his last hours to come. He believed in God alone. His wife misunderstood and suspected him. In the prison, a new prisoner introduced himself and he was Makar Semeyonich. Besides, Makar Semeyonich confessed his guilt. He forgave him for revealing the truth. He did not want to take revenge the murderer. He thought that forgiveness is the best form of revenge.

e) Discuss the meaning and importance of the saying "God sees the truth but waits".

This story was all about Aksionov who lost hope and just trusted God. Though he didn't commit any crime, he was imprisoned for 26 years in the prison. Makar revealed the truth that he was the real murderer. Aksionov forgave him for accepting the truth and attained self-realization. But when the order of his release came, Aksionov was already dead. Our weakness can only make the problem stronger. Being hopeful can make all things possible. The title means that every decisions of God needs enough time. This story is for all the people who loses hope and don't believe in God. We should wait for the truth to win with a faith in God gives us the answer to all our problems, as the title says GOD SEES THE TRUTH BUT WAITS. At the end of the story there is a shift from materialism to spiritualism.

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

Aksionov lived with his wife and children in Vladimir. He decided to make a trip to the fair. His wife tried to stop him because she had a bad dream. On his way, Aksionov met a merchant. But the merchant was killed. So the local police officer arrested and charged against Aksionov. He was sent to work in the mines of Siberia. He grew old there. Aksionov frequently prayed to God. Aksionov was respected by all the inmates due to his gentle behaviour. One day he met Makar Semeyonich. Aksionov found out the truth that Makar was the real killer. He saved Makar from the officials, when he tried to escape. Eventually Makar admitted his crime. Aksionov forgave Makar. Thus forgiving Makar, Aksionov accepted the truth, attained self-realization and died in peace. Really Forgiveness is the best form of revenge.