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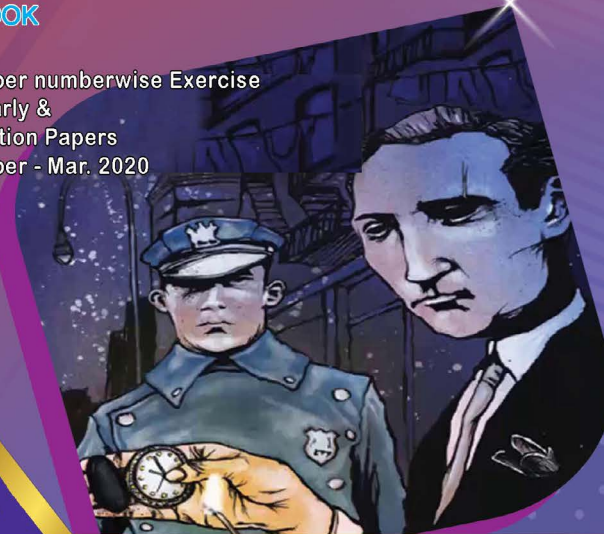
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CONTENTS

UNIT		TOPICS	PAGE
1	PROSE	The Portrait of a Lady	5
	POEM	Once Upon a Time	31
	SUPPLEMENTARY	After Twenty Years	41
2	PROSE	The Queen of Boxing	53
	POEM	Confession of a Born Spectator	78
	SUPPLEMENTARY	Shot in the Dark	89
3	PROSE	Fogetting	103
	POEM	Lines Written in the Early Spring	131
	SUPPLEMENTARY	The First Patient	140
4	PROSE	Tight Corners	161
	POEM	Macavity - The Mystery Cat	188
	SUPPLEMENTARY	With the Photographer	202
5	PROSE	The Convocation Address	213
	POEM	Everest is not the only Peak	240
	SUPPLEMENTARY	The Singing Lesson	249
6	PROSE	The Accidental Tourist	263
	POEM	The Hollow Crown	291
	SUPPLEMENTARY	The Never - Never Nest (Play)	303

GRAMMAR

QN.	Topic	PAGE
1 - 3	Synonyms	317
4 - 6	Antonyms	321
7	Compound Words	325
8	Prefix/Suffix	328
9	Clipped Word	331
10	Blended Words	332
11	Definition of Term	334
12	Syllabification	336
13	Abbreviation/Acronym	339
14	Phrasal Verb	344
15	Idioms	347
16	Foreign Words	349
17	Phrasal Preposition	351
18	Correct Spelling	353
19	Right Words	354
20	Relative Pronoun	355
	Additional	356
	i) Singular or Plural	360
	ii) Question Tag	362
	iii) Sentence Pattern	366
	iv) Preposition	368
	v) American - British English Words	372
	vi) Polite alternative/Eponymous words	373
	vii) Modal/Semi Modal	
21 - 26	Poem Comprehension and Literary Appreciation	377
27	Speech	380

28	Relative Clause	388
29	Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences	389
30	Active and Passive Voice Additional: Inversion/Conditional Clause	393 398
31 - 33	Reference to the Context	400
34 - 36	Prose Question	405
37	Verbal - Non Verbal Representation	406
38	Describing Process	410
39	Draft a Notice	412
40	Proverbs Additional: i) E-Mail Writing ii) Road Map iii) Expand the Headlines iv) Reshuffle the Jumbled Sentences v) Dialogue Writing	416 419 421 423 425 426
41	Prose Paragraphs	428
42	Poem Paragraphs	428
43	Supplementary Paragraphs	429
44	Summary or Note Making	429
45	Job Letter or Paragraph Writing	435
46	Spot the Error / Suitably Words	447
47	Passage Comprehension Additional: i) Dialogue Writing ii) Poem Comprehension iii) Semantic field Matching	459 462 465 466
	Practice Book Keys	468
	Public Model Question Paper	477

Unit

1

PROSE

THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY

- Khushwant Singh

ஒரு பெண்ணின் ஓவியம்

- குஷ்வந்த் சிங்

ABOUT THE AUTHOR ஆசிரியர் குறிப்பு



Khushwant Singh is an Indian novelist and lawyer. He studied at St. Stephen's College, Delhi and King's college, London. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1947. As a writer, he is best known for his keen secularism, Sarcasm, and love for poetry. He served as the editor of several literary and news magazines as well as two newspapers. Khushwant Singh was awarded with Padma Bhushan in 1974, Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India and Sahitya Akademi Fellowship by Sahitya Academy of India. *The Mark of Vishnu*, *A History of Sikhs*, *The Train to Pakistan*, *Success Mantra*, *We Indians* and *Death at my Doorstep* are some of his brilliant works.

குஷ்வந்த் சிங் ஒரு இந்திய நாவலாசிரியர் மற்றும் வழக்கறிஞர் ஆவார். டெல்லியிலுள்ள ஸ்டீபன் கல்லூரியில் லண்டனிலுள்ள கிங்ஸ் கல்லூரியிலும் பயின்றார். 1947-இல் இந்திய வெளியுறவு துறையில் சேர்ந்தார். எழுத்தாளரான இவர், ஆழ்ந்த மதச்சார்பின்மை கேலிக் கிண்டல் மற்றும் கவிதையின் மீது மோகம் இவற்றிற்காக எல்லோராலும் அறியப்பட்டவர். இரண்டு செய்தித்தாள்கள் உட்பட செய்தி இதழ்கள் மற்றும் அநேக இலக்கிய பத்திரிக்கைகளுக்கு இதழாசிரியராக பணிபுரிந்தார். 1974-இல் பத்மபூசன் விருது வழங்கப்பட்டது. இந்திய அரசால், பத்மவிபூசன் விருதும், சாகித்திய அகாடமி ஆய்வாளர் நிலை விருதும் சாகித்திய அகாடமியால் வழங்கப்பட்டது. 'விஷ்ணு குறியீடு', சீக்கியர்களின் வரலாறு, 'வெற்றிக்கான மந்திரம்', 'நாங்கள் இந்தியர்கள்' மற்றும் 'என் வீட்டு கதவருகில் இறப்பு' போன்றவை இவருடைய தலைசிறந்தப் படைப்புகளாகும்.

WARM UP ஆயத்தப்படல்

Based on the visuals given above, give five words/phrases each to describe these two family types.

Nuclear family	Joint family
Ideal	Patriarch
Independent	Secured
Economic	Traditional
We two and have two	Dependent
Sweet couple Sweet children	Happy



மேலே கொடுக்கப்பட்ட காட்சிகளின் அடிப்படையில், இந்த இரண்டு குடும்ப வகைகளை விவரிக்க ஐந்து சொற்கள்/சொற்றொடர்களைக் கொடுங்கள்.

தனிக்குடும்பம்	கூட்டுக்குடும்பம்
சீரிய/உயர்வான	வம்சம்/வம்சத் தலைவர்
சுதந்திரம்	பாதுகாப்பானது
சிக்கனமான	மரபுவழி
நாம் இருவர், நமக்கு இருவர்	சார்ந்திருத்தல்
இனிமையான ஜோடி, இனிமையான குழந்தைகள்	சந்தோஷம்/மகிழ்ச்சி

இந்தப் பாடம் புகழ்பெற்ற இந்திய ஆங்கில எழுத்தாளர் குஷ்வந்த் சிங் என்பவரால் எழுதப்பட்டது. இதில் அவர் தன் பாட்டியின் சித்திரம் பற்றி விவரித்திருக்கிறார். அவர்களுடைய பெற்றோர்கள் நகரத்திற்கு இடம் பெயர்ந்து போனதால் இவர் பாட்டியுடன் கிராமத்தில் இருந்த பள்ளிக்குப் போகும்போது, அவருடன் பாட்டியும் வருவார். காய்ந்து போன ரொட்டித் துண்டுகளை பறவைகளுக்குப் போடுவார். எப்பொழுதும் ஜெபமாலையை உருட்டிக் கொண்டேயிருப்பார். நகரத்திற்கு குடிபெயர்ந்து சென்ற போதும் பாட்டி இதே பழக்கத்தை தொடர்ந்தார். அங்கே அவர் குருவிகளுக்கு தானியங்கள் போடுவார். இவர் வெளிநாட்டுக்கு சென்றபோது பாட்டி மனம் கலங்கவில்லை உடல்நிலை குன்றியபோதிலும் பாட்டி குருவிகளுக்கு ரொட்டித் துண்டுகள் போடுவதை ஒருபோதும் தவறவிட்டதில்லை. பாட்டி இறந்தவுடன் வீட்டு தாழ்வாரத்தில் பறவைகளின் கூட்டம் கூடியது. ஆனால், ரொட்டித் துண்டுகள் போட்டபோதிலும், பறவைகள் கண்டு கொள்ளவில்லை. பாட்டியின் சடலம் இறுதிச் சடங்குக்காக எடுத்துச் செல்லப்பட்டபோது பறவைகள் அமைதியாக பறந்து சென்றுவிட்டன.

Consolidation Points

- ☞ The author's grandfather wore a big turban and loose fitting clothes.
- ☞ The author's parents had gone to the city in order to earn their bread.
- ☞ During his childhood the author studied in the village school which is attached to the temple.
- ☞ The author's grandmother went to temple which was attached to the school.
- ☞ She did not talk or show any emotion at the time of his departure.
- ☞ The whole morning the author's grandmother was busy with her spinningwheel.
- ☞ She read the Holy Scriptures at the temple and in the evening both returned home.
- ☞ In the village school the author had studied alphabet and learnt to recite morning prayers.
- ☞ Being a very pious woman, the grandmother appreciated the value of education.
- ☞ Suddenly her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers.

The Portrait of a Lady

ஒரு பெண்ணின் ஓவியம்

Page - 1

பக்கம் - 1

Here is a story that brings out the bond between the author and his loving grandmother.

எழுத்தாளருக்கும் அவரது அன்பான பாட்டிக்கும் இடையிலான பிணைப்பை வெளிப்படுத்தும் ஒரு கதை இங்கே.

My grandmother, like everybody's grandmother, was an old woman. She had been old and wrinkled for the twenty years that I had known her. People said that she had once been young and pretty and had even had a husband, but that was hard to believe. My grandfather's portrait hung above the mantelpiece in the drawing room. He wore a big turban and loose fitting clothes. His long, white beard covered the best part of his chest and he looked at least a hundred years old. He did not look the sort of person who would have a wife or children. He looked as if he could only have lots and lots of grandchildren. As for my

மற்றவர்களின் பாட்டியைப் போலவே என்னுடைய பாட்டி வயதான பெண்மணி ஆவார். நான் அவரைப் பார்த்த இருபது ஆண்டுகளாக, வயதானவராகவும் சுருக்கங்கள் விழுந்து காணப்பட்டவராகவும் தோன்றினார். அவர் ஒரு காலத்தில் இளமையாகவும் அழகாக இருந்ததாகவும் மேலும் ஒரு கணவர் கூட இருந்ததாகவும் மக்கள் கூறினர். ஆனால் அதை நம்புவதற்கு கடினமாக இருந்தது. வரவேற்பு அறையில் இருந்த தட்டுமாடத்திற்கு மேலே என்னுடைய தாத்தாவின் ஓவியம் தொங்கவிடப்பட்டிருந்தது. தளர்ந்த பொருத்தமான துணிகளையும் ஒரு பெரிய தலைப்பாகையும் அணிந்திருந்தார். அவருடைய மார்பகம் முழுவதையும் நீண்ட வெள்ளை நிற தாடி மூடியிருந்தது. குறைந்தபட்சம் நூறு வருடங்கள் வயதானவராக காணப்பட்டார். ஒரு மனைவியையோ அல்லது குழந்தைகளையோ பெற்றிருக்கின்ற நபராக அவர் காணப்படவில்லை. நிறைய, நிறைய பேர்க்குழந்தைகளை உடையவரைப் போல அவர் தோற்றமளித்தார். என்னுடைய பாட்டி இளமையாகவும் அழகாகவும் இருந்தார் என்பதைப்

grandmother being young and pretty, the thought was almost revolting. She often told us of the games she used to play as a child. That seemed quite absurd and undignified on her part and we treated it like the fables of the Prophets she used to tell us.

She had always been short and fat and slightly bent. Her face was a criss-cross of wrinkles running from everywhere to everywhere. No, we were certain she had always been as we had known her. Old, so terribly old that she could not have grown older, and had stayed at the same age for twenty years. She could never have been pretty; but she was always beautiful. She hobbled about the house in spotless white with one hand resting on her waist to balance her stoop and the other telling the beads of her rosary. Her silver locks were scattered untidily over her pale, puckered face, and her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer. Yes, she was beautiful. She was like the winter landscape in the mountains, an expanse of pure white serenity breathing peace and contentment.

My grandmother and I were good friends, My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayer in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would listen and get to know it by heart; I listened because I loved her voice but never bothered to learn it. Then she would fetch my wooden slate which had already washed and plastered with yellow chalk, a tiny earthen ink-pot and a red pen, tie them all in a bundle and hand it to me. After a breakfast of a thick, stale chapatti with a little butter and sugar spread on it, we went to school. She carried several stale chapattis with her for the village dogs.

My grandmother always went to school with me because the school

பற்றிய எண்ணமானது ஏறத்தாழ வெறுப்பதற்குரியதாக இருந்தது. குழந்தையாக இருந்தபோது அவர் விளையாடிய விளையாட்டுகளைப் பற்றி எங்களிடம் அடிக்கடி சொன்னார். அவரைப் பொருத்தமட்டில் முற்றிலும் முட்டாள்தனமாகவும் கண்ணியமற்றதாகவும் அவை தோன்றியது. எங்களிடம் அவர் சொல்கின்ற தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் கதைகளைப் போல் அதை நாங்கள் எடுத்துக் கொண்டோம்.

எப்போதும் அவர், குள்ளமாகவும், குண்டாகவும் சிறிது வளைந்தும் இருந்தார். எல்லா இடங்களிலும் ஒடிக்கொண்டிருக்கிற அங்கும் இங்குமாக சுருக்கங்கள் கொண்டதாக அவரது முகம் இருந்தது. இல்லை, நாங்கள் அவரை அறிந்தது போலவே அவர் எப்போதும் இருந்தார் என்பதில் நாங்கள் உறுதியாக இருந்தோம். முதுமை, மிகமிக முதுமையாக இருந்ததால் மேலும் முதுமையாக அவரால் ஆகியிருக்க முடியாது. மேலும் இருபது வருடங்களாக அதே வயதுடன் அவர் அமர்ந்திருந்தார். பார்வைக்கு இனியவராக ஒரு போதும் அவர் இருந்திருக்க மாட்டார். ஆனால் எப்போதும் அழகாக இருந்தார். தூய்மையான வெண்ணிற உடையில் ஒரு கையினால் குளிந்து நடப்பதை சமன் செய்து கொண்டும் மறு கையினால் ஜெபமாலை பையின் மணிகளை எண்ணிக் கொண்டு வீட்டுக்குள் நொண்டி அடித்து வந்தார். அவரது வெளிரிய சுருக்கங்கள் கொண்ட முகத்தின் மீது அவருடைய வெள்ளிக் கம்பிகள் போன்ற முடிகள் பரவியிருந்து காதில் விழாத பிரார்த்தனையில் அவரது உதடுகள் எப்போதும் நகர்ந்தன. ஆம், அழகாக இருந்தார். மலைகளில் காணப்படும் குளிர்ப்பருவ இயற்கை காட்சிப் பரப்பைப் போலவும், அமைதி மற்றும் திருப்தி இவற்றை வெள்ளை நிற அமைதியே உருவமான விரிவடைந்த நிலப்பகுதிப் போலவும் அவர் காணப்பட்டார்.

நானும் பாட்டியும் நல்ல நண்பர்களாக இருந்தோம். நகரத்தில் வசிப்பதற்காக சென்ற போது, என்னுடைய பெற்றோர்கள் அவரிடம் என்னை விட்டு சென்றனர். நாங்கள் எப்போதும் ஒன்று சேர்ந்திருந்தோம். காலையில் என்னை எழுந்திருக்க செய்து, பள்ளிச் செல்ல தயாராக இருக்கச் செய்தார். நான் கேட்டுக் கொண்டு மனப்பாடம் செய்வேன் என்ற நம்பிக்கையில், என்னை குளிப்பாட்டும் போதும் உடைகளை அணிவிக்கும் போதும், களைப்பூட்டக்கூடிய குரலில் அவருடைய காலைப்பொழுதுக்கான பிரார்த்தனை பாடலைப் பாடினார். அவரது குரலை நேசித்ததால் நான் கேட்டுக் கொண்டேன். ஆனால் மனப்பாடம் செய்ய ஒருபோதும் கவலைப்பட்டதில்லை. பிறகு, மஞ்சள் நிற கோலால் பூசப்பட்ட ஏற்கனவே கழுவப்பட்ட மரத்தால் ஆன எழுதுபலகையை அவர் கொண்டு வந்தார். சிகப்பு நிற எழுதுகோல் மற்றும் சிறிய மண்ணால் செய்யப்பட்ட மை குப்பியையும் எடுத்து, மூட்டையாக அவற்றைக் கட்டி என்னிடம் தந்தார். சர்க்கரை மற்றும் சிறிது வெண்ணை தடவிய, பருமனான வறட்டு சப்பாத்தியை காலை உணவிற்கு எடுத்துக் கொண்ட பிறகு, நாங்கள் பள்ளிக்குச் சென்றோம். கிராமத்திலுள்ள நாய்களுக்காக, நிறைய வறட்டு சப்பாத்தியை அவர் எடுத்துக் கொண்டு வந்தார்.

கோவிலுடன் பள்ளி இணைந்திருந்ததால், என்னுடைய பாட்டி பள்ளிக்கு என்னுடன் எப்போதும் வந்தார். காலை

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was attached to the temple. The priest taught us the alphabet and the morning prayer. While the children sat in rows on either side of the verandah singing the alphabet or the prayer in a chorus, my grandmother sat inside reading the scriptures. When we had both finished, we would walk back together. This time the village dogs would meet us at the temple door. They followed us to our home growling and fighting with each other for the chapatti we threw to them.

When my parents were comfortably settled in the city, they sent for us. That was a turning-point in our friendship. Although we shared the same room, my grandmother no longer came to school with me. I used to go to an English school in a motor bus. There were no dogs in the streets and she took to feeding sparrows in the courtyard of our city house.

Page - 3

As the years rolled by, we saw less of each other. For some time she continued to wake me up and get me ready for school. When I came back she would ask me what the teacher had taught me. I would tell her English words and little things of western science and learning, the law of gravity Archimedes' Principle, the world being round etc. This made her unhappy. She could not help me with my lessons. She did not believe in the things they taught at the English school and was distressed that there was no teaching about God and the scriptures. One day, I announced that we were being given music lessons. She said nothing but her silence meant disapproval. She rarely talked to me after that.

When I went up to University, I was given a room of my own. The common link of friendship was snapped. My grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation. She rarely left her spinning-wheel to talk to anyone. From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers. Only in the afternoon she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. While she sat in the

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பிரார்த்தனை மற்றும் மொழியின் நெடுங்கணக்கு இவற்றை அர்ச்சகர் சொல்லிக் கொடுத்தார். குழுக்களுடன் பிரார்த்தனை பாடும் போதும் அல்லது மொழியின் நெடுங்கணக்கை பாடும் போதும், இருபுறமுமாக வரிசையில் குழந்தைகள் உட்கார்ந்திருந்தனர். அதே சமயத்தில், பாட்டி உள்ளே அமர்ந்து கொண்டு, வேதநூல்களை படித்துக் கொண்டிருந்தார். இருவரும் படித்து முடித்த பின்பு, திரும்ப சேர்ந்து கொண்டு நடந்தோம். இந்த நேரத்தில், கிராமத்திலுள்ள நாய்கள் கோவில் வாசற்படியில் எங்களை சந்திக்கும். நாங்கள் வீசிப் போடுகின்ற சப்பாத்திக்காக ஒன்றோடு ஒன்று சண்டையிட்டுக் கொண்டும் குரைத்துக் கொண்டும் எங்கள் வீடு வரை பின் தொடர்ந்து வரும்.

எனது பெற்றோர் நகரத்தில் வசதியான வாழ்க்கையை அமைத்து கொண்ட போது எங்களை அழைத்தனர். எங்களது நட்பில் திருப்புமுனையாக அது அமைந்தது. அதே அறையை நாங்கள் பகிர்ந்து கொண்ட போதும், பாட்டி என்னுடன் பள்ளிக்கு ஒருபோதும் வரவில்லை. இயந்திர பேருந்தில் நான் பள்ளிக்கு சென்றேன். தெருக்களில் நாய்கள் இப்போதில்லை. நகரத்திலுள்ள வீட்டின் முற்றத்தில் சிட்டுக் குருவிகளுக்கு உணவு தருவதை பாட்டி வழக்கப்படுத்திக் கொண்டார்.

பக்கம் - 3

வருடங்கள் நகர, நகர நாங்கள் ஒருவரை ஒருவர் பார்த்துக் கொள்வது குறைந்து. கொண்டே வந்தது. சில நேரங்களில், என்னை எழுப்பி, பள்ளிக்கு செல்ல தயாராக இருக்கச் செய்தார். நான் திரும்ப பள்ளியை விட்டு வீட்டிற்கு வந்தபோது, ஆசிரியர் எனக்கு என்ன சொல்லிக் கொடுத்தார் என்று கேட்டார். ஆங்கிலச் சொற்கள், மேற்கத்திய அறிவியல் பற்றிய சில செய்திகள், புவியுட்பு விதி, ஆர்க்கிமிடீஸ் தத்துவம், உலகம் உருண்ட இவற்றை படித்ததைப் பற்றி அவருக்குச் சொன்னேன். இது அவரை மனமகிழ்ச்சி கொள்ள செய்யவில்லை. எனது பாடங்களைச் சொல்லித்தர அவரால் எனக்கு உதவ முடியவில்லை. ஆங்கிலப் பள்ளியில் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்கின்றவற்றில் அவருக்கு நம்பிக்கை யில்லை. வேதநூல்களைப் பற்றியே, கடவுளைப் பற்றியே சொல்லித் தராமல் இருப்பது அவருக்கு மனவேதனையை தந்தது. இசைப் பாடங்கள் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதைப் பற்றி ஒரு நாள் நான் அவரிடம் தெரிவித்தேன். அவர் ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை. ஆனால், அவருடைய மௌனம், நிராகரித்தலை உணர்த்தியது. அதன்பிறகு அவர் என்னிடம் அரிதாகப் பேசினார்.

நான் பல்கலைக்கழத்திற்கு சென்ற போது, எனக்கான தன் அறை ஒன்று ஒதுக்கப்பட்டது எங்கள் நட்பின் பொதுவான இணைப்பு துண்டிக்கப்பட்டது. பொறுமையுடன் தனது தனிமையை அவர் ஏற்றுக் கொண்டார். யாரோடும் பேசுவதற்கு கூட நூல் நூற்றல் சக்கரத்தை அரிதாக விட்டு வந்தார். சூரிய உதயத்திலிருந்து சூரியன் மறையும் வரை, சக்கரத்தின் நூல் நூற்றுக் கொண்டும், பிரார்த்தனை செய்து கொண்டிருந்தார். மதிய வேளையில் மட்டும், சிட்டுக் குருவிகளுக்கு உணவளிக்க சிறிது நேரம் ஓய்வெடுத்துக் கொண்டார். முற்றத்தில் அமர்ந்து, ரொட்டியை

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veranda breaking the bread into little bits, hundreds of little birds collected round her creating a veritable bedlam of chirruping. Some came and perched on her legs, others on her shoulders. Some even sat on her head. She smiled but never shooed them away. It used to be the happiest half-hour of the day for her.

சிறிய துண்டுகளாக செய்து கொண்டிருந்த போது, நூற்றுக்கணக்கான சிட்டுக் குருவிகள் அவரைச் சுற்றி நின்று கொண்டு குழப்பம் உண்டாக்கின்ற கீச்சொலியை எழுப்பிக் கொண்டிருந்தன. சில சிட்டுக்குருவிகள் அவர் கால்கள் மீது அமர்ந்தன. மற்றவை, அவளுடைய தோல் மீது அமர்ந்தன. சில, அவள் தலைமீது கூட உட்கார்ந்தன. அவள் சிரித்தாள். ஆனால் அவற்றை விரட்டவில்லை அவளுக்கு, அது அந்த நாளின் மகிழ்ச்சியான அரைமணி நேரமாக அமைந்திருந்தது.

When I decided to go abroad for further studies, I was sure my grandmother would be upset. I would be away for five years, and at her age one could never tell. But my grandmother could. She was not even sentimental. She came to leave me at the railway station but did not talk or show any emotion. Her lips moved in prayer, her mind was lost in prayer. Her fingers were busy telling the beads of her rosary. Silently she kissed my forehead, and when I left I cherished the moist imprint as perhaps the last sign of physical contact between us.

மேற்படிப்பிற்காக நான் வெளிநாடு செல்ல முடிவு செய்தபோது, என் பாட்டி கவலையும் வருத்தமும் கொள்வார் என்று உறுதியாக இருந்தேன். ஐந்து வருடங்கள் வெகுதொலைவில் இருப்பேன். அவருடைய வயதில் எப்படி இருப்பார் என்று யாராலும் சொல்லமுடியாது. ஆனால் எனது பாட்டியால் முடியும். அவர் உணர்ச்சிவசப்படாமல் இருந்தார். என்னை புகைவண்டி நிலையத்தில் வழியனுப்ப வந்தார் ஆனால் பேசவோ உணர்ச்சியை வெளிப்படுத்தவோ இல்லை. அவருடைய உதடுகள் பிரார்த்தனையில் ஈடுபட்டிருந்தது. அவருடைய மனது பிரார்த்தனையில் மூழ்கியிருந்தது. ஜெபமாலையை உருட்டுவதில் அவரது விரல்கள் சுறுசுறுப்பாக இருந்தது. மௌனமாக என்னுடைய நெற்றியில் முத்தமிட்டார். நான் அங்கிருந்து புறப்பட்ட போது, எங்களுக்கிடையேயான உடலுக்குரிய தொடர்பின் கடைசி அடையாளமாக அந்த ஈரமான முத்திரையை மனதில் வைத்து பேணினேன்.

But that was not so. After five years I came back home and was met by her at the station. She did not look a day older. She still had «o time for words, and while she clasped me in her arms I could hear her reciting her prayers. Even on the first day of my arrival, her happiest moments were with her sparrows whom she fed longer and with frivolous rebukes.

ஆனால் அது அவ்வாறு இல்லாமல் போனது. ஐந்து வருடங்கள் கழித்து நான் வீட்டிற்கு திரும்பினேன். இரயில் நிலையத்தில் அவரைச் சந்தித்தேன். அவர் வயதானவராக ஒருநாளும் தோன்றவில்லை. கைகளால் என்னை அவர் இறுக்க பற்றிக் கொண்டபோது, பிரார்த்தனைகளை அவர் சொல்லிக் கொண்டிருப்பதை என்னால் கேட்க முடிந்தது. நான் வந்தது முதல் நாள் கூட, விளையாட்டுத்தனமாக கடிந்து கொண்டு சிட்டுக் குருவிகளுக்கு உணவை கொடுத்துக் கொண்டிருந்த அவருடைய மகிழ்ச்சிகரமான தருணங்கள் அவையுடன் தான் இருந்தன.

In the evening a change came over her. She did not pray. She collected the women of the neighbourhood, got an old drum and started to sing. For several hours she thumped the sagging skins of the dilapidated drum and sang of the home-coming of warriors. We had to persuade her to stop to avoid overstraining. That was the first time since I had known her that she did not pray.

மாலையில் மாற்றும் ஒன்று அவருள் நிகழ்ந்தது. அவர் பிரார்த்தனையை மேற்கொள்ளவில்லை. அக்கம் பக்கத்திலுள்ள பெண்மணிகளை சேர்த்துக் கொண்டார். பழைய முரசு ஒன்றை எடுத்துக் கொண்டு பாடத் துவங்கினார். அநேக மணி நேரங்களில் பழுதான முரசின் தளர்ந்து போன தோலை பலமாக தட்டினார். போர்வீரர்கள் வீடு திரும்புவதைப் பற்றி பாடினார். கடும் முயற்சியில் ஈடுபடுவதைத் தவிர்க்க வேண்டி, அதை நிறுத்தும்படி அவரை இணங்கச் செய்ய வேண்டியதாக இருந்தது. எனக்கு தெரிந்து அவர் பிரார்த்தனை செய்யாமல் இருந்தது, அது தான் முதல் தடவையாகும்.

The next morning she was taken ill. It was a mild fever and the doctor told us that it would go. But my grandmother thought differently. She told us that

அடுத்த நாள் காலை உடல்நலம் குன்றியிருந்தார். சாதாரணமான காய்ச்சல் தான் சரியாகிவிடும் என்று மருத்துவர் எங்களிடம் கூறினார். ஆனால் என்னுடைய பாட்டி வேறுவிதமாக எண்ணினார். முடிவு நெருங்கிக்

her end was near. She said that, since only a few hours before the close of the last chapter of her life she had omitted to pray, she was not going to waste any more time talking to us.

கொண்டிருக்கிறது என்று அவர் எங்களிடம் சொன்னார். அவருடைய கடைசி அத்தியாயம் முடிவடையும் ஒரு சில மணிநேரங்கள், பிரார்த்தனை செய்வதை விட்டு விட்ட காரணத்தினால், எங்களோடு பேசிக் கொண்டு நேரத்தை வீணாக்கப் போவதில்லை என்று கூறினார்.

We protested. But she ignored our protests. She lay peacefully in bed prayed and telling her beads. Even before we could suspect, her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers. A peaceful pallor spread on her face and we knew that she was dead.

நாங்கள் எதிர்ப்பை தெரிவித்தோம். ஆனால் எங்களுடைய எதிர்ப்புகளை நிராகரித்தார். அமைதியாக படுக்கையில் படுத்து, பிரார்த்தனை செய்து கொண்டும் ஜெபமாலையை உருட்டிக் கொண்டிருந்தார். நாங்கள் சந்தேகம் கொள்வதற்கு முன்பாகவே, அவருடைய உதடுகள் அசைவதை நிறுத்திக் கொண்டன. அமைதியான வெளிறிய நிறம் முகம் முழுவதும் பரவியது. அவர் காலமாகிவிட்டார் என்பதை நாங்கள் தெரிந்து கொண்டோம்.

We lifted her off the bed and, as is customary, laid her on the ground and covered her with a red shroud. After a few hours of mourning we left her alone to make arrangements for her funeral. In the evening we went to her room with a crude stretcher to take her to be cremated. The sun was setting and had lit her room and verandah with a blaze of golden light. We stopped half-way in the courtyard. All over the verandah and in her room right up to where she lay dead and stiff wrapped in the red shroud, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. We felt sorry for the birds and my mother fetched some bread for them. She broke it into little crumbs, the way my grandmother used to, and threw it to them. The sparrows took no notice of the bread. When we carried my grandmother's corpse off, they flew away quietly. Next morning the sweeper swept the bread crumbs into the dustbin.

படுக்கையிலிருந்து அவரை தூக்கினோம். வழக்கப்படி தரையில் வைத்தோம். சிகப்பு துணியினால் போர்த்தினோம். சிலமணி நேர துக்கத்திற்கு பிறகு, இறுதி ஊர்வலத்திற்கு ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்ய வேண்டி அங்கிருந்து நகர்ந்தோம். மாலையில், அவரை அடக்கம் செய்வதற்காக செப்பமற்ற ஒரு தள்ளுவண்டியுடன் அறைக்கு வந்தோம். சூரியன் மறைந்து கொண்டிருந்தான். தங்க நிற ஒளியால் அவருடைய அறை மற்றும் முற்றத்தை ஒளி பெறுமாறு செய்தான். முற்றத்தின் பாதி வழியில் நாங்கள் நின்றோம். எங்கே அவர், சிகப்பு துணியால் போர்த்தப்பட்டு, இறந்து விறைப்பாக படுத்திருக்கிறாரோ அதுவரையிலும் அவருடைய அறை மற்றும் முற்றம் முழுவதும் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான சிட்டுக்குருவிகள் தரையில் ஆங்காங்கே இருந்தன. அவை கிரிச் குரல் எழுப்பவில்லை. அந்த பறவைகளுக்காக நாங்கள் வருந்தினோம். எனது அம்மா, அந்த பறவைகளுக்காக ரொட்டியை கொண்டு வந்தார். பாட்டியை போல சிறுசிறு துண்டுகளாக உடைத்து, அவற்றை வீசியெறிந்தார். ரொட்டியை சிட்டுக்குருவிகள் அலட்சியம் செய்தன. பாட்டியின் பூத உடலை தூக்கிய பொழுது அமைதியாக பறவைகள் பறந்து சென்றன. அடுத்த நாள் காலை பெருக்குநர் ரொட்டித் துண்டுகளை குப்பைத் தொட்டியில் பெறுக்கிப் போட்டார்.

GLOSSARY:

WORDS	MEANINGS	தமிழ் அர்த்தம்
mantlepiece	shelf projecting from wall above a fireplace	அடுப்பங்கறையில் உள்ள தட்டு மாடம்
absurd	inconsistent / illogical	அபத்தமான
fables	tales / stories	நீதிக்கதைகள்
hobbled	walked unsteadily	தடுமாறு
puckered	wrinkled	சுருக்கம் விழுந்த
expanse	wide area	விரிவான இடம்
monotonous	unchanging / boring	சலிப்பான

snapped	broke / cut	வெட்டு
seclusion	isolation	தனிமை
bedlam	noisy confusion	கூச்சல் குழப்பம் நிறைந்த இடம்
perched	sat / rested	தாங்கப்பட்ட
rebukes	scolding	கடிந்து
dilapidated	damaged`	சேதமடைந்த
pallor	an unhealthy pale appearance	வெளுப்பு
shroud	cloth used to wrap a dead person	மறைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது

SYNONYMS:

WORDS	SYNONYMS	தமிழ் அர்த்தம்
wrinkled	rumpled/folded	சுருக்கம் விழுந்த
moist	wet/watery	ஈரமான
frivolous	trivial/silly	அற்பமான
omitted	excluded/deleted	தவிர்க்கப்பட்ட
protest	complaint/disapproval/objection	எதிர்ப்பு
serenity	calm/peacefulness/tranquility	அமைதி
scattered	spread	சிதறிய
pretty	attractive/charm	அழகான
believe	trust/rely on	நம்புங்கள்
hard	heavy/complicated/tough	கடினமாக
young	immature	இளமை
portrait	description/picture/photograph	ஓவியம்
hung	suspended/dangling/swaying	தொங்கும்
wore	cover/wrap	அணிந்திருந்த
loose	unconstrained	தளர்ந்த
sort	kind/type/variety	வகையான
often	frequently	பெரும்பாலும்/அடிக்கடி
revolting	disgusting	அருவருப்பான
seemed	appeared	தோன்றியது
quite	completely	மிகவும்/முழுவதும்
undignified	crude/vulgar/rough	கண்ணியமற்ற
prophet	seer/soothsayer/forecaster	தீர்க்கதரிசி
short	abridged	குறுகிய
fat	overweight/obese	கொழுப்பு
slightly	a little	சற்றே

bent	curved	வளை
criss-cross	blend/unite/contrive	கலவை
terrible	very/excessively	பயங்கரமான
spotless	clean/innocent/flawless	சுத்தமான
beads	string of small rosary	மணிகள்
rosary	prayers beads	ஜெபமாலை
announced	declared/reported/revealed	அறிவித்தது
untidily	shabbily	இழிவாக
pale	light in colour or effect	வெளிர்
constantly	uniformly	தொடர்ந்து/சீராக
inaudible	silent/mute	செவிக்கு புலப்படாமல்
contentment	comfort/happiness/satisfaction	மனநிறைவு
bothered	annoyed/upset/anxious	வருத்தம்
fetch	carry/bring	எடு
plastered	Intoxicated	சாந்து
attached	join/fix/add	இணைக்கப்பட்ட
growling	growl sound/moan	முனகல்
comfortably	luxuriously	வசதியாக
settled	established	நிலைபெற்ற
shared	joint	பகிரப்பட்ட
feeding	augment	பாலுட்ட
courtyard	porch/verandah	முற்றத்தில்
verandah	porch/courtyard	தாழ்வாரம்
continued	persist/purse	தொடர்ச்சி
gravity	force of attraction	ஈர்ப்பு
distressed	upset/worried	தடையேற்படுத்தும்
disapproval	condemnation	மறுத்ததற்கான
rarely	seldom	அரிதாக
accepted	agreed/acknowledged/allowed	ஏற்கப்பட்டது
resignation	relinquishment	இராஜினாமா
reciting	narrate/speak	ஒப்புவிக்கும்
relaxed	easygoing	தளர்வான
collected	together	சேகரிக்கப்பட்ட
breaking	bursting/tearing	வெடிப்பு
chirruping	chirp/tweet/twitter	ஒலி

www.Padasalai.Net	authentic/factual	மெய்யான
shooed	leave hastily	அவசரமாக துரத்திவிடு
decided	certain/definite	முடிவு
upset	disturbed/bothered	குழப்பநிலை
sentimental	emotional/romantic	உணர்ச்சி
cherished	care/love/hold	நேசத்துக்குரிய
moist	wet	ஈரமான
clasped	grab tightly	பிடி
frivolous	trivial/silly	அற்பமான
thumped	suggested/touched	பரிந்துரை
sagging	droop/bulge	தொய்வறலில்
persuade	satisfy	ஏற்க
overstraining	exhaust/weary	சோர்வாக
mild	gentle	லேசான
differently	another way/divergently	வேறுபட்டது
omitted	excluded	சேர்க்கப்படாத
protested	disapprove/complain	கண்டனம்
ignore	disregard/neglect	புறக்கணி
peacefully	calmly	நிம்மதியாக
suspect	doubtful	சந்தேக நபர்
lifted	raised	தூக்கி
customary	usual/traditional	வழக்கமாக
mourning	sadness/grief	இரங்கல்
crude	vulgar/rude	கொச்சையான
stretcher	cot/bed	படுக்கை
cremated	burn	உடல்தகனம்
lit	illuminated	வெளிச்சம்
blaze	fire/flare	கூடர்
stiff	hard/tight	கடினமான
crumbs	tiny bit/morsel	பருக்கை
corpse	dead body	பிணம்
swept	clean	சுத்தம்
arrangement	plans	ஏற்பாடு
funeral	cremation	இறுதிச்சடங்கு
stopped	blocked	நிறுத்தப்பட்டது

- That seemed quite absurd on her part.
a) logical b) **inconsistent** c) isolated d) tempted
- She hobbled about the house in spotless white.
a) talked steadily b) walked steadily
c) **walked unsteadily** d) haggling
- Her silver locks were scattered untidily over the pale puckered face.
a) **wrinkled** b) unfolded c) beautiful d) neatly
- She was like the winter landscape in the mountains an expanse of pure white serenity breathing peace.
a) **widespread** b) tales c) stones d) minimum
- The common link of friendship was snapped.
a) cute b) lenient c) **cut** d) pasted
- My grandmother accepted her seclusion.
a) altitude b) **abandon** c) energetic d) routine
- Some birds perched on her legs.
a) returned b) **rested** c) sequenced d) substantiate
- Four several hours she thumped the surging skins of dilapidated drum.
a) mended b) created c) confused d) **damaged**
- A peaceful pallor spread on her space.
a) **unhealthy appearance** b) healthy appearance
c) energetic posture d) nagged
- Her silver locks were scattered untidily.
a) stained b) **spreaded** c) spotless d) inadvertency

ANTONYMS:

WORDS	தமிழ் அர்த்தம்		ANTONYMS	தமிழ் அர்த்தம்
moist	ஈரமான	X	arid/dry	வறண்ட
frivolous	அற்பமான	X	serious/sensible	தீவிர/புத்திசாலி
omitted	நகர்த்தப்பட்டிருந்தன	X	included	சேர்க்கப்பட்டிருந்தன
protest	எதிர்ப்பு	X	accept/approve	ஏற்கவும்/ஏற்றுக்கொள்
serenity	அமைதி	X	anxiety/agitation/ disturbance	கவலை/கிளர்ச்சி/தொந்தரவு
scattered	சிதறிய	X	gathered/assembled	சேகரிக்கப்பட்ட/சூட்டி
monotonous	சலிப்பான	X	interesting/exciting	சுவாரசியமான/அற்புதமான
wrinkled	சுருக்கமுடைய	X	unwrinkled	சுருக்கமில்லாத
pretty	அழகான	X	repulsive	வெறுப்பூட்டும்
believe	நம்பு	X	disbelieve/distrust	நம்பமுடியாத
hard	கடுமையான	X	easy	எளிதான

young	இளம்	X	adult/old	வயதுவந்தோர்/பழைய
wear	அணிந்திருந்த	X	bare	வெற்று
big	பெரிய	X	small/tiny	சிறிய
loose	தளர்வான	X	tight/stiff	இறுக்கமான/கடினமான
covered	மூடப்பட்டது	X	uncovered/bare	வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்ட/வெற்று
least	குறைந்த	X	huge/large	பெரிய
often	பெரும்பாலும்	X	rarely/seldom	அரிதாக உள்ள
revolting	புத்துணர்ச்சி	X	comforting/pleasing	வசதியான/மகிழ்ச்சி
undignified	இழிவான	X	kind/polite	கண்ணியமாக
short	குறுகிய	X	huge/enormous/big	பெரிய/மகத்தான
fat	குண்டான	X	lean/slim	ஒல்லியான
slightly	சற்று	X	considerably/greatly	கணிசமாக/பெரிதும்
bent	வளைவு	X	straight	நேராக
absurd	அபத்தம்	X	sensible	விவேகமான
hobbled	தடுமாறும்	X	walk steadily	சீராக நட
expanse	விரிவடைவது	X	limitation	தடை
snapped	உடைந்த	X	combined	இணைந்த
seclusion	தனிமை	X	companionship	தோழமை
bedlam	கூச்சல் குழப்பம் நிறைந்த இடம்	X	calm	அமைதியாக
perched	உட்காரு	X	move	நகர்வது
rebukes	திட்டு	X	praise/ encouragement	புகழ்/ஊக்கம்
dilapidated	பாழடைந்த	X	repaired	பழுதுநீக்கப்பட்ட
pallor	வெளுப்பு	X	healthy	ஆரோக்கியமான
shroud	மூடப்பட்ட	X	unwrap	திறந்த
beautiful	அழகான	X	ugly/repulsive	அசிங்கமான/வெறுப்பூட்டும்
balance	சமநிலை	X	imbalance/instable	ஏற்றத்தாழ்வு/உறுதியான
unhappy	மகிழ்ச்சியற்ற	X	cheerful/joyful	சந்தோஷமாக/மகிழ்ச்சி
common	பொதுவான	X	unusual	அசாதாரண
announced	அறிவிக்கப்பட்ட	X	unannounced	அறிவிக்கப்படாத
untidily	பொருட்படுத்தாமல்	X	organize/order	ஏற்பாடு/ஒழுங்கு
pale	வெளிர்	X	healthy	ஆரோக்கியமான
inaudible	செவிக்கு புலப்படாமல்	X	audible	கேட்கக்கூடிய

contentment	திருப்தி	X	dissatisfaction	அதிருப்தி
bothered	தொந்தரவு	X	unworried/relaxed	தளர்வான
attached	இணைக்கப்பட்ட	X	detach	கழற்றி
comfortably	சௌகரியமான	X	uncomfortably	அசௌகரியமான
settled	நிலைபெற்ற	X	unsettled	நிலையில்லாத/நிலைபெறாத
shared	பகிரப்பட்ட	X	unshared	பகிரப்படாத
continued	தொடர்ச்சி	X	stop	நிறுத்தம்
distressed	தடையேற்படுத்தும்	X	calm	அமைதி
disapproval	அங்கீகரிக்கப்படாத	X	approval/sanction	ஒப்புதல்/அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்ட
rarely	அரிதாக	X	frequently	அடிக்கடி
accepted	ஏற்கப்பட்ட	X	disapproved/ protested	ஏற்கவில்லை
breaking	உடைத்தல்	X	juncture/attaching	இணைத்தல்
veritable	தவறான	X	fake/false	போலி
decided	முடிவு	X	uncertain	நிச்சயமற்ற
upset	குழப்பநிலை	X	joyful	மகிழ்ச்சிமிக்க
sentimental	உணர்ச்சிவசப்படு	X	unfeeling/indifferent	அலட்சியமாக
cherish	சந்தோஷமாக	X	hate/dislike	வெறுப்பு
clasped	கட்டு	X	release	வெளியிடு
persuade	ஏற்க	X	dissuade	பிரிக்க
overstrain	மன அழுத்தம்	X	invigorate	ஊக்கமூட்டி
mild	லேசான	X	strong/severe	வலுவான/கடுமையான
ignored	புறக்கணிக்கப்பட்ட	X	approve	ஒப்புதல்
peacefully	அமைதியுடன்	X	angrily/hostilely	கோபமாக/விரோதமாக
suspect	சந்தேகப்படு	X	trust	நம்பிக்கை
lifted	உயர்த்தப்பட்ட	X	descend	இறங்கு
customary	வாடிக்கையாளர்	X	unusual/ uncommon	அசாதாரணமானது /வழக்கமில்லாத
mourning	இரங்கல்	X	joy	மகிழ்ச்சி
crude	கடினமான	X	kind/polite/gentle	கண்ணியமான/ மென்மையான
lit	ஒளியேற்றப்பட்ட	X	extinguished	அணைந்து
crumbs	துண்டு	X	glob/lot	நிறைய

1. My grandmother was an old woman.
a) young b) elderly c) grown d) segregated
2. She had been wrinkled for the twenty years.
a) straight b) strait c) dirty d) agitation
3. It was hard to believe.
a) rough b) terrible c) revolution d) soft
4. That seemed quite absurd.
a) reasonable b) foolish c) irritation d) breaking
5. She had always been short and fat and slightly bent.
a) pretty, young, energetic b) recognize, retaliate, crevasse
c) tall, lean, straight d) abridged, condensed, contracted
6. Her silver locks were scattered.
a) littered b) sputtered c) gathered d) withered
7. An expanse of pure white serenity breathing place and contentment.
a) agitation, dissatisfaction b) tranquility, gratification
c) peace and satisfaction d) serenely, comfort
8. After a breakfast of a thick, stale chapatti, with a little butter and sugar spread on it we went to school.
a) refresh b) fresh c) old d) bright
9. She was distressed that there was no teaching about God.
a) sad b) sorrowful c) gloom d) joyful
10. She rarely talked to me.
a) seldom b) occasionally c) often d) never

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS



1. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences based on your understanding of the story. Page - 5
 - a. Describe the grandfather as seen in the portrait.
In the portrait the grandfather worn a big turban and loose fitting clothes. He had a long white beard which covered the major portion of his chest and he looked as if he was hundred years old.
 - b. Why was the author left with his grandmother in the village?
The author was left with his grandmother in the village because his parents went to live in the city.
 - c. Where did the author study in his childhood?
The author studied in his childhood in the village. His school was attached to a temple and the priest was their teacher.
 - d. Why did the grandmother accompany the author to school?
The grandmother accompanied the author to school because she had a chance to feed the stray dogs with stale chapattis. Moreover she had time to read scriptures inside the temple.
 - e. What made the dogs follow the grandmother after school hours?
When the grandmother with the author went back home she used to throw chapattis to the dogs. So the dogs followed the grandmother after school hours.
 - f. Why didn't the grandmother feel sentimental when the author went abroad for higher education?
The grandmother was old but she believed that she would live to see the author after his completion of studies abroad. So she was not sentimental.

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What was the happiest time of the day for grandmother?
In the afternoon the grandmother relaxed to feed the sparrows with bits of bread. That was the happiest time of the day for grandmother.

Portrait - ஓவியம்; **childhood** - குழந்தைப்பருவம்; **Priest** - குருக்கள்; **accompanied** - உடனிருத்தல்; **stray dogs** - தெரு நாய்கள்; **stale** - பழைய; **scriptures** - வேதங்கள்; **sentiment** - உணர்ச்சிவசப்பட்ட; **sparrows** - குருவிகள்.

2. Answer the following questions in three or four sentences. Page - 5

a. Describe the author's grandmother.

The author's grandmother was an old woman with wrinkled skin. She had been like that for twenty years. Once she had been young and pretty.

b. What was the daily routine of the grandmother at home?

The grandmother walked about the house in neat white dress. She always had rosary with her. Every morning she walked the author up for the school. While she bathed him she said her prayer. Then she went to school with him. She had some stale chapattis with her to feed the stray dogs.

c. How is school education in the village different from that in the city?

The village school was attached to a temple. The priest acted as the teacher and taught the children alphabet and morning prayer. In the city school is conducted in separate building and qualified teachers are appointed to teach the children.

d. The grandmother appreciated the value of education. Give instances in support of your answer.

According to the grandmother children should be taught prayer and scriptures. She was very upset to know that in city school there was no teaching about God. She did not think the subjects taught in the school would not teach any value to the children.

e. The grandmother was strong-minded. Justify.

When the author decided to go abroad for further studies he thought that the grandmother would be upset. But she was not sentimental. When she went to the railway station with the author she did not show any emotion. She only prayed for the author.

f. How did the grandmother spend the last few hours of her life?

When the grandmother realised that her end had come, she stopped her prayer. She gathered some women. She got an old drum and sang the sange of the home-coming warriors. The next morning she was taken ill. The doctor said that it was not serious. But she said that her end was near. She stopped talking to her people. She lay peacefully in bed praying and telling her beads. In a short time she died.

wrinkled - சுருங்கிய; **pretty** - அழகான; **scriptures** - வேதங்கள்; **gathered** - கூட்டத்தைக் கூட்டினாள்; **warriors** - போர்வீரர்கள்; **peacefully** - நிம்மதியாக; **beads** - ஜெபமாலை.

TEXTUAL PARAGRAPHS



3. Answer the following in a paragraph of 100 – 150 words each.

a. The grandmother played a vital role in the author's formative years. Give your own example of how elders have a positive influence on the younger generation. Include examples from the story also.

Title : "The Portrait of A lady"
Author : Khushwant Singh
Theme : Bond of family relationship
Character : The Narrator, his grandmother

In the lesson 'The Portrait of a Lady' Khushwant Singh describes the importance of the grandmother to shape the life of the author. When the author was a child his whole life was filled with the activities of the grandmother. When the author was left to the care of the grandmother he was led by her from morning till evening. In his formative period she taught him importance of prayer and

God. Usually, the elders play a vital role in the life of the children. Elders are experienced people who understand what is good for the future of the children. So they could have a positive influence on the younger generation. In this story the grandmother took him to a school which was attached to the temple. Their children were taught good values. She showed her strong will to the author which must have influenced him.

importance - முக்கியத்துவம்; **activities** - செயல்பாடுகள்; **vital** - முக்கியமான; **experienced** - அனுபவம் பெற்ற; **influence** - செல்வாக்கு; **good values** - நல்ல பழக்கங்கள்; **will** - தைரியம்.

b. As young Khushwant Singh, write a letter to your parents describing your daily routine experience your thoughts and feelings about staying in the village.

Old Dharmapuri,
Dharmapuri,
25 July 2020.

Dear Mother and Father,

I am doing well here. I hope you both are fine there. My grandma takes care of well. Everyday morning she wakes me up with her prayer song. Though it is in a monotonous tone I like it. She bathes me and gets me ready to go to school. Then she will get my slate, a small tiny earthen ink-pot and a red pen. She will tie them all in a bundle and give it to me. She will take some stale chapattis with her and accompany me to the school. My school is attached to a temple and the priest teaches us alphabet and morning prayer while we sit in the verandah. Grandma will sit inside and read scriptures. In the evening many stray dogs will follow us and grandma will feed them with the stale chapattis. I enjoy my life in the village. But I always miss you both. When will you come here?

Your loving son,
Tamil

monotonous tone - சலிப்பான குரல்; **bundle** - குவியல்; **verandah** - முற்றம்.

c. Animals are capable of empathy. Substantiate this statement with examples from the story as well as your own experiences.

Title : "The Portrait of A lady"
Author : Khushwant Singh
Theme : Bond of family relationship
Character : The narrator, his grandmother

Animals are capable of empathy. Their love towards their owners cannot be described. Dogs will always follow their owners even if they beat them. Sometimes they follow their cars or two-wheelers. In this story the little sparrows were fed by the grandmother everyday. They sat on her legs, shoulders and head. She also enjoyed that. Everyday they waited for her. On her death day the sparrows came but refused to eat from others. When her body was lifted they flew away. My uncle had a big dog. When he died all of us totally forgot about the dog. When his body was lifted for cremation the dog gave a groaning voice. Then we realised that the dog did not eat anything the whole day. After all the function my aunty gave some food but it refused to eat. It died the next day.

empathy - கருணை; **beat** - அடி; **sparrows** - குருவிகள்; **refused** - மறுத்தல்; **lifted** - தூக்கிப்போக; **cremation** - தகனம்; **groaning** - முனகுகின்ற.

CENTUM STUDENTS

SYNOPSIS

- ☞ Introduction
- ☞ Life in village
- ☞ Change in life style
- ☞ Growing separation
- ☞ Author's return
- ☞ Grandmother's death
- ☞ Conclusion

Khushwant Singh is an Indian novelist and lawyer. He studied at St. Joseph's College, Delhi and Kings College in London. As a writer he is best known for his secularism, sarcasm and love for poetry. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1974. 'The Mark of Vishnu', 'A History of Sikhs', 'A Train to Pakistan' are some of his brilliant works. The story The Portrait of A Lady depicts the bond of family relationship between a grandmother and her grand son. The grandson (author) lives with his grandmother in their village house.

Life in Village:

His parents have moved to the city and for the time being, he is under the guardianship of her widowed grandmother. She is a pious and beautiful woman even though she has grown old and wrinkly. She moves slowly with slumped shoulders but is in a constant mode of spiritual and religious enchantment. This gives her an air of calmness that the author likens to that of snow-capped peaks under the winter sun.

The author studies in a school attached to a temple complex so the grandmother escorts him to it and spends her time in religious devotion till he finishes his school day. In the evening they both return home and feed stray dogs along with their journey.

Change in Life Style:

The daily routine is finally disrupted when they both are relocated to the city where the author's parents reside. The settling-in period in the big city brings its own set of forces for both the grandson and his grandmother. Even though they share the same room, they grow apart gradually. The author is enrolled in English medium school where he learns Science and Mathematics in place of religion and spirituality. He also starts taking interest in Music which is a taboo for the austere grandmother.

Growing Separation:

The grandson then moves to University and is given a separate room for privacy and independence. This alienates the two further. As time goes by the author decides to move abroad for higher studies. His stay would last 5 years. So he assumes that it would be the last time he would get to see his grandmother who was not getting any younger. She goes to see him off to the railway station and they say their warm good-byes.

Author's Return:

When the author returns home 5 years down the line, he is pleasantly surprised to see his grandmother lead the welcoming party. Back at home, she keeps busy with her sparrows but arranges a celebratory function for the returning grandson. She, along with other womenfolk from the vicinity, partakes in festive song and dance to rejoice the return of her grandson.

Grandmother's Death:

However, the festivities do not last long as the very next day the grandmother falls sick. Even though the doctor allays fears of serious illness, she could feel a nearing demise. She asks to be left alone and devotes herself to prayer and appreciation of God. Suddenly, her rosary drops to the floor as her soul departs to the heavens.

The funeral is arranged and has some special guests in the form of her beloved sparrows that gather around the house in a poetic procession for the dearly departed. As the body of the grandmother leaves the house, so do the sparrows, untying another string of love, care and family concern.

Conclusion

A grandmother's love for her grandchildren is always incomparable. She is always ready to do any kind of sacrifice for the sake of her grandchildren

SLOW LEARNERS

Title : "The Portrait of A lady"
Author : Khushwant Singh
Theme : Bond between Grandmother and Grandson
Character : The narrator, his grandmother

- www.Padasalai.Net's grandmother was old and wrinkled. She was fat and short. www.CBSEtips.in
- ii. She moved around the house with rosary beads in her hand. She was always dressed in white.
 - iii. Her lips always uttered prayer. She accompanied the writer to the school. The school was attached to the temple.
 - iv. While the author learnt the alphabet, the old woman read religious books inside the temple.
 - v. The grandmother took to feeding sparrows. She was much distressed that there was no religious teaching at that school.
 - vi. The old lady did not at all feel upset when the narrator left for England for further studies.
 - vii. When he returned home after five years, his grandmother came to the railway station to receive him.
 - viii. She did not look even a day older. One day she did not pray. She brought a drum.
 - ix. Then gradually her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her hands.
 - x. She was dead. Her death affected even the sparrows. They neither chirped nor did they eat the crumbs thrown to them.

VOCABULARY



- a) Read the following words and choose the correct antonyms from the options given. Page - 6

WORDS	Options				Answer
moist	a. marshy	b. arid	c. slimy	d. sultry	b. arid
frivolous	a. serious	b. sad	c. furious	d. happy	a. serious
omitted	a. isolated	b. rejected	c. contracted	d. included	d. included
protest	a. promote	b. apprehend	c. accept	d. project	c. accept
serenity	a. simplicity	b. anxiety	c. absurdity	d. stupidity	b. anxiety
scattered	a. sprinkled	b. multiplied	c. gathered	d. covered	c. gathered
monotonous	a. interesting	b. tiresome	c. fragrant	d. satisfying	a. interesting

- b) Fill in the blanks choosing the appropriate compound words from those given in the box.

Reeta hurried along the road, dressed in her **spotless** new dress towards the bus stop. Before **sunset**, she had to reach the house of her **grandmother**. But the first **half-hour** travel was slow due to traffic jam. Her **homecoming** would be regarded with joy. She was **overstraining** herself to reach the place. When she finally stepped into the **courtyard**, she was received with a big hug by her kind aunt. She was in time to join the **singsong** at the village for a **gentlefolk**.

singsong	overstraining	spotless
gentlefolk	grandmother	courtyard
sunset	half-hour	homecoming

- c) Match the words in Column A with their pairs in Column B to form compound words and write them in Column C.

A	B	C
mantle	lashes	mantlepiece
eye	wheel	eyelashes
water	gate	waterproof

bee	knob	beehive
toll	piece	tollgate
door	proof	doorknob
spinning	hive	spinning wheel

d) Frame meaningful sentences of your own using the following expressions from the story. Use a dictionary if required.

- the thought was almost revolting
We had in mind to visit Kashmir **but the thought was almost revolting.**
- an expanse of pure white serenity
The old lady was sitting with **an expanse of pure white serenity.**
- a turning point
A job in a MNC was **a turning point** in Gita's life.
- accepted her seclusion with resignation
The sadhu **accepted his seclusion with resignation.**
- frivolous rebukes
The children enjoyed the **frivolous rebukes** from their kind grandmother.

e) Prefixes and Suffixes.

Form two derivatives from each of the following words. Page - 7

eg: honest - **dishonest**, honesty

Words	Prefix		Suffix
manage		manger	management
differ		different	difference
beauty		beautify	beautiful
peace		peaceful	peacefulness
arrange	rearrange	arranging	arrangement
collect	recollect	collector	collection
approve	disapprove	disapprove	approval
narrate		narrator	Narration
class		classic	classical

f) Homophones:

Fill in the blanks with suitable homophones.

- brake/break
a) We have a short **break** between the sessions.
b) The car skidded to a halt when I applied the **brake**.
- waste/waist
a) Shivani wears a belt around her **waist**.
b) We should never misuse or **waste** natural resources.
- principle/principal
a) Oxygen is the **principal** element present in the earth's crust.
b) Both these machines work on the same **principle**.
- bread/bred
a) Turtles should be **bred** in a healthy environment.
b) I like to have toasted **bread** for breakfast.

- a) This medicine will **lessen** your pain.
b) Finally, the manager learnt a **lesson** the hard way.

(vi) pale/pail

- a) The child looks very sick and **pale**.
b) I need a **pail** of water to wash these cups.

vii) through/threw

- a) Ravi picked the banana peel and **threw** it in the dustbin.
b) The soldiers had to pass **through** a dark tunnel.

viii) corps/corpse

- a) The **corpse** was covered with a shroud.
b) A five-day annual training camp for the senior cadets of National Cadet **Corps** has been organised.

LISTENING ACTIVITY

Page - 8

Read the following statements and the given options. Now, listen to your teacher read aloud a passage or play it on a recorder. You may listen to it again if required to help you choose the right options.

[for the passage see Text book page - 198]

- i) According to Napoleon 'Good mothers make good
a) housewives b) jobs c) nations d) ideas
- ii) Mothers exhibit love.
a) unauthorized b) unapproval c) unacceptable d) unconditional
- iii) mothers care much for their children.
a) adapted b) adopted c) adaptive c) adaptable
- iv) is the most important thing in the world.
a) wealth b) power c) love d) influence
- v) Love should be extended to too.
a) friends b) relatives c) countrymen d) creatures

SPEAKING ACTIVITY

- a) Work in pairs and arrive at five points that bring out the benefits and challenges of living in either a nuclear family or a joint family. Share your views with your class.**

In a joint family we have chances to learn manners and etiquettes. We can enjoy unbounded love of all, which is very difficult in a nuclear family. There are lots of children to play, to talk and even some of our age to discuss all the joyful moments.

There is caring and sharing from different people. Some one will be always ready to fulfil our needs. We can take varieties of food. We can hear interesting stories with good morals from our grandparents - whereas in a nuclear family children don't get chance to learn anything from elders. They don't get proper love from their grand parents. They don't get chances to learn life skills. Children are spoilt because there are no elders at home to keep an eye on them. The couples (husband & wife) are confused to handle the situation. Joint family helps the overall development of children. So it's always good to live in a joint family.

- b) Build a conversation of eight to ten sets of exchanges, with your grandmother discussing the incidents that happened in your school that day.**

Grandson : Grandma.....

Grandma : Yes come in dear. Go and refresh yourself. I have prepared vadai for you.

Grandson : Oh it's very tasty. Grandma.

Grandma : Then what happened today in the school? Did you have an assembly today?

Grandma : Did you say the morning prayer in the assembly?

Grandson : We said the morning prayer. Then Tamil and English news were read. I really like Thirukural very much.

Grandma : What did your maths teacher teach today?

Grandson : She taught mental arithmetic which is really very interesting.

Grandma : How about you English class?

Grandson : We always wait for our English class. Because unlike other subjects, English is our interesting one and its an international language too.

Grandma : Well - said,

Grandson : We had games period too. We simply relax ourselves and enjoy the game. Our physical Education teacher taught us the techniques to follow while playing hockey.

Grandma : Do you have homework?

Grandson : yes, I do.

Grandma : Then bring your books and note-books. I will help you in doing your homework.

Grandson : Wait. I shall bring.

c) Every member contributes to forming a happy family. Share your views for a minute to two with your class.

A single tree cannot be a garden and no man is an island. Unless each member of the family contributes, a happy family cannot be formed. Ours is a happy family because each one of us contributes for the happiness of others.

My grandmother gets up early in the morning and wakes up. She takes bath every day and makes us take a bath and say the morning prayer. Mother prepares tea, breakfast and lunch. Grandpa goes for a walk, buys newspaper and vegetables. Father irons the clothes and our uniform. I water the plants and my sister polishes our school shoes.

In the evening when we come back from the school, we share what happened in the school. Then we do our homework. During supper all of us will sit together and talk. We really enjoy the bedtime stories told by our grandmother. Ours is really a happy family because each member of the family contributes for the happiness of others.

READING



Page - 9

Now Read the following passage on “Laughter Therapy” and answer the questions that follow.

[for the passage see text book page - 10]

Answer the following:

a. How does laughter help one to cope with stress?

Laughter provides full support for your muscles. It releases a rush of stress breaking endorphins.

b. Which word in the text (para 2) means the same as ‘dedicated’?

committed

c. Why do you think voluntary laughter provides the same physiological as well as psychological benefits as spontaneous laughter?

Laughter comes from the body not from the mind. To get the benefit of laughter one need not feel it in mind.

d. “Laughter is the best medicine” Explain.

Laughter removes stress from our body. Breathing exercises are used to prepare the lungs for laughter. Laughter combines a method of acting and visualization. Laughter helps in psychological development.



- sitting on the ground with legs crossed.
- body movements
- clapping
- closed eyes
- breathing exercises
- chanting
- stretching of arms and legs
- bending backwards
- running/jogging
- eye contact

Ans: body movements, clapping, chanting, stretching of arms and legs.

f. 'Laughter therapy also plays a crucial role in social bonding.' How?

Laughter therapy brings many people together. They work together to achieve the same goal. It brings a team spirit among the people. So it plays a crucial role in social bonding.

GRAMMAR



Articles and Determiners: Page - 11

a. Read the paragraph below and fill in the blanks using 'a', 'an' or 'the'.

It is said that 1 the computer is 2 an electronic extension of the human brain. Therefore, in principle, 3 a computer can do all those activities which 4 the human brain can do. Today computers are found to be 5 the most useful devices as knowledge providers. Another important field of application of computers is 6 the development of robots. 7 The internet has brought 8 a drastic change in communication systems.

b. In the following paragraph, insert 'a', 'an' or 'the' wherever necessary and rewrite the sentences.

In our family, we have planned to take the children to a zoo next Sunday. A van has been arranged and we are sure to have a comfortable journey. The zoo is an interesting place for the children who enjoy watching the animals and want to know more about them. Even the youngsters love to visit the zoo.

c. Fill in the blanks with appropriate determiners. (Articles have been included)

Once the emperor gave a bag of seeds to his council of ministers and said that he would give them six months' time to grow the seeds. Whoever does a good job will be made the second emperor of that empire. All the ministers took their task seriously. After six months some ministers had small plants in their pots. A few had very large plants. Others had medium sized plants. The emperor entered the hall. He was much amused to see some plants. He called the first minister and asked him what he did with the seed. The first minister explained the process he adopted to make his plant grow. The Emperor called all the other ministers to explain what they did. Only one minister had come with an empty pot. They laughed loudly at the foolishness of this minister. But the emperor applauded him and made him the second Emperor. Do you know why? He had given them boiled seeds which would not grow. Only that minister was honest.

d. Fill in the blanks with appropriate determiners.

- They came early but there was (little / **a little**) work to do.
- Anand invited (few / **a few**) friends for the birthday party.
- The teacher gave (all / **every**) student a separate topic for the assignment.
- (**Most of** / Many) the water overflowed from the tank.
- (**One/Any**) of my friends wished me on my birthday.
- Vijay had (**no** / any) idea about the problem.
- Adhi had taken (much / **many**) photos during the program me.
- (**Some** / Few) girls who attended the class informed the others about the tests.

a. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets and read the completed passage aloud. Page - 14

The people of India, as a whole, 1 are (be) warm hearted and hospitable. Any calamity in any part of the world immediately 2 arise (arise) their charity and generosity and a committee 3 will be (be) promptly 4 set (set) up to collect funds to help the distressed. The most endearing quality in them 5 is (be) the respect they show for the work done in any capacity. They 6 believe (believe) in what we 7 call (call) the dignity of labour.

b. Now, use the verbs given in brackets in the following sentences in their correct forms.

1. I like to spend time with my friend, whenever I am free.
2. He is likely to miss the train. He is running up to the station.
3. At the moment they wait at the bus-stop. But I do not know their plans for the journey.
4. They firmly believe in the existence of God.
5. We hear a lot of noise because the new buildings transmit sound vacant.
6. She always makes excuses for coming late.
7. The Prime Minister leaves for America to meet the delegates of tomorrow.

c. You are a commentator for a 5000 metre running race. Use simple present and present continuous tenses and complete the commentary from the beginning to the end of the race. Read the completed passage aloud.

The 5000 metre race is about to begin. Lined up at the starting point, from left to right, are John of Great Britain, Peter of Nigeria and Jeeva of India. The runners are warming up for great event. Now they 1 take (take) their positions on the track. They 2 are (be) all ready for the start. There 3 goes (go) the starter's gun! Yes, the race has begun. John 4 is leading (lead) with Jeeva 5 is following (follow) him closely.

d. Read the extract from Kayal's diary entry regarding her Nepal Trek, fill in the blanks with the correct tense form of the verbs given in brackets.

DAY 1. We left (leave) Anna International Airport in Chennai two days ago catching a direct flight to Kathmandu in Nepal. We spent (spend) a day sightseeing. Kathmandu is full of people, rickshaws and the smell of sandalwood, I've never been (be) on a trip like this before. So I'm really excited.

DAY 2. It rained (rain) when we reached Pokhara, Nepal's second largest city, and saw the snowy peaks of the Himalayas for the first time. We reached (reach) Pokhara after a hair-raising six-hour bus journey along very narrow roads with a lot of hairpin bends. The bus was (be) so full that one person had to share the driver's seat.

DAY 3. We began (begin) our trek at last. We are at about 900 metres and the weather is warm and humid. For lunch we had chips and yak cheese sandwiches. I didn't like them very much. I'm thrilled that we pitched (pitch) tents for our camps in the dense forests.

DAY 4. Yesterday a landslide blocked (block) our path and we had to use ropes to get over it. This morning we walked along the river Kali Gandaki through dense forests of oak trees and we pitched our camp at Tukuche below the Annapurna mountain range. The main danger in addition to landslides, is 'yak attack.' Yaks are (be) not dangerous but you have to be careful if you meet a herd of them because they can push you off the sides of the mountain.

DAY 5. We met a lot of children on our trek through the villages. They played (play) in the pool of muddy rain water as we left the place. We have already climbed 2,400 metres. Up here, it never rains (rain) and there are no trees. It is (be) windy and dusty and I am always thirsty.

DAY 6. Yesterday we went (go) to the mountainside of the township of Mukthinath, at 3600 metres. The thin air with less oxygen there left (leave) us breathless. We felt (feel) that we couldn't go any further. We drank (drink) a lot of extra fluids to prevent altitude sickness.

DAY 7. We turned around today and started to descend to Jomosom. As we went down, the oxygen filled our blood again and we seemed to fly (fly) instead of walking.

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went back to Pokhara in a small plane yesterday. It was exciting when we flew (fly) between the mountain peaks. We arrived in Kathmandu this afternoon and we spent (spend) our last few hours in shopping. We leave for Chennai tomorrow. We've had a trip of a lifetime.

e. In the following passage, circle the verbs in simple present tense and underline the verbs in simple past. The first one has been done for you. Page - 15

- i) Unless one (is) upright there (is) no use in being a charming fellow. Sometimes it (is) better to be honest than attractive. These (are) the great truths of modern life which Shyam never realised. He never said an ill-natured word in his life. He was always polite and spoke softly to everyday.
- ii) That night he strolled into Palette Club about eleven o'clock, and found Trevor sitting by himself in the long room. "Well, Alan, did you get the picture finished all right?" he said, as he lit his cigarette. "finished and framed, my boy!" answered Trevor, "and by-the-bye, you have made a conquest. That old model you saw is quite devoted to you. I had to tell him all about you - who you are, where you live, what your income is, what prospects you have".
- iii) "And now tell me how Laura is. The old model was quite interested in her." "You (don't) mean to say you talked to him about her?" said Hughie. "Certainly I did. He (knows) all about the relentless colonel, the lovely Laura, and the €10,000". "You told that old beggar all my private affairs?" cried Hughie, looking very red and angry. "My dear Alan," cried Hughie, "I shall probably find him waiting for me when I (go) home."

f. Fill in the blanks using Past tense forms of the verbs: Page - 16

- i) I had never seen (see) such a beautiful sunrise before I came here.
- ii) We were not able to stay overnight as we had not reserved (reserve) the tickets in advance.
- iii) Nirmala had been (be) to the concert several times.
- iv) Mariappan knew Pudukottai so well because he had been living (live) there for five years.
- v) Yusuf understood the problem because he had experienced (experience) the situation earlier.
- vi) Catherine did not have any cash because she had lost (lose) her purse.
- vii) My father had been (be) to Mumbai once before.
- viii) The cat had chased (chase) the bird before it flew out of yard.
- ix) Edith had visited (visit) several doctors before she found out what the problem was with her knee.
- x) If we had called (call) the manager ahead, we would not have needed to wait so long for a table.

g. Read the following news report and underline the past perfect tense form of the verb and circle the simple past tense form of the verb. Page - 16

INDIA BEAT PAKISTAN TO WIN BLIND CRICKET WORLD CUP

Chasing a huge target of 308 runs, India (romped) home in the penultimate over of the match to defeat Pakistan and win the Blind Cricket World Cup. India (started) off their chase in a cracking manner, but had lost two quick wickets. Sunil Ramesh (rose) to the occasion as he

www.Padasalai.Net to help India beat Pakistan and had scored 93 runs. Early in the morning the toss and had decided to bowl first. Pakistan amassed a huge score of 307 for eight in 40 overs. Their openers had given them a brisk start which the later batsmen capitalized on.

h. Read the following extract and fill in the spaces with the right form of verbs and complete the passage. The first one is done for you.

- i) The poet stops to hear the maiden singing while she 1 cuts (cut) and binds (bind) the grain. The song of the lady 2 fascinates (fascinate) the poet who 3 stands (stand) there to listen to the song. The girl 4 sings (sing) a sad song.
- ii) During the monsoon, a tender slightly warm breeze 1 blows (blow) on a cloudless afternoon. A sort of fragrance 2 rises (rise) from the wet grass and trees in the sunlight. It 3 seems (seem) as if the warm breath of the exhausted earth 4 falls (fall) against one's skin. A sweet voiced bird somewhere 5 chirps (chirp) repeatedly.

i. Read the news item that appeared in a daily and fill the blanks with suitable forms of the verbs given in brackets. Page - 17

Ever since social networking sites entered our lives, they 1 have served (serve) as platforms where users could use the virtual space offered by these social media. However, recent incidents 2 have caused (cause) many to question the freedom to express views on various issues and in some cases it 3 has become (become) a dangerous platform. Social Contact 4 has transformed (transform) people. They 5 have developed (develop) an addiction to it.

j. Read the following passage and correct the errors you come across.

1. Rajan slowly settled down to his retired life. His pension plus what his wife brought from the household work she did helped them to meet their requirements. Life was easy until one Sunday. His granddaughter came crying. The clay doll in her hand had broken into two. Rajan pacified her and promised to mend it. This small repair work became the founding stone of a very prosperous venture into making clay dolls, which earned him great respect.
2. Games and sports help in recreation. Soccer, cricket, lawn tennis or wrestling is eagerly watched by millions of fans all over the world. It helps one get a temporary relief from the tensions of a day. The dedication displayed by all players in the field indicates the mental and spiritual development of the players.

WRITING



a. Notice

- i. Prepare a notice to be displayed on the notice-board of your school for the students of Class 11, informing them about the educational tour that has been arranged for them the next month.

ATTENTION STUDENTS OF CLASS-11

EDUCATIONAL TOUR
PROPOSED PLACE – KODAIKANAL
PROPOSED DATES – 7 & 8 JULY
Interested students can give your name
Principal

NOTICE

20 June 2020

This is to inform the students of I & II year Higher Secondary class that it has been decided to start a LAUGHTER CLUB in our school. Its inauguration will be on 28 June 2020 at 4.30 pm. It will be conducted in our school playground. All the Higher Secondary students are invited to attend the function.

Sd/-
KAVIYA
SPL

b. Message Page - 18

You are the Sports Captain of your school. Write a message to the Physical Director, requesting him to be present during the football team selection scheduled for tomorrow.

NOTICE

Respected sir,

Tomorrow we have football team selection in our school campus around 5 p.m. We humbly request you to make your presence at the most .

6.p.m.
28, Aug.

Xavier
School sports captain

c. Do you exercise regularly? If you do, which of the following activities do you prefer? Discuss and share with your partner a few lines about your preference.

a) walking b) working out in a gym c) swimming d) cycling

Ans : a) walking

Yes, I exercise regularly. I prefer walking. Walking in the morning is very pleasant. There is fresh air. There is no traffic problem. There is no noise pollution. I enjoy the natural scenery. I watch birds on the way. I enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. So I go for a walk everyday.

Given below is the format for drafting a speech. An example has also been given.

FORMAT

Analysye the topic and be clear abot the purpose of the speech

Gather enough material

Construct an outline. Don't forget to greet and thank the audience.

Add supporting details

Think of an effective opening

Sum up your points in your conclusion.

Write your speech and edit it.

Good morning everyone! Respected Principal, Teachers and Friends;

I am Kumar of Class XI and I stand before you to share a few thoughts on the importance of games and sports in Your lives.

Most of us spend our leisure time indoors, watching TV or playing video games. This makes us physically lazy and leads to many diseases. Mentally we become dull and unimaginative. But all this can be reversed with regular sports activities.

First of all, sports and games make us mentally alert and physically strong. Further, good health is one of the most important benefits of games and sports. They help us relax and give us energy to learn our lessons well. Playing games also helps in developing a sense of cooperation or team-spirit in an individual. For Example, games like cricket and football, etc. are won by the collective efforts of all the members of the team. They shape our body, give us energy and strength and improve blood circulation.

Sports should be an integral part of education. Education without sports is incomplete. Thus, we should understand that sports is of great value in life. That is why facilities are being developed in rural and semi-urban areas. There are playgrounds everywhere. Let us all remember that a healthy mind can exist only in a healthy body and that health is wealth.

I wish to thank you all for having given me the opportunity to speak on the importance of sports and games. Let us pledge to keep ourselves healthy and active by participating more and more in outdoor activities.

Task:

You are Mani/ Megalai of Class XI, President of the English Club of your school. Draft a speech on the topic “Reading Maketh a Complete Man” to be delivered in the school assembly.
Page - 19

“Reading Maketh a Complete Man”

Respected Headmaster / Headmistress / Principal, Dear teachers, Friends, Club Members, Good Morning to one and all. I am Mani/Magalai of Class XI. Here I stand before you to deliver a speech on “Reading Maketh a Complete Man”.

There are different forms of study - reading, discussing and writing which perfect human understanding in different ways. Reading develops faculties of comprehension and judgement of a man. It makes him a scholar.

When one reads a lot of books, one gets observing power, concentration, planning, getting a suitable conclusion and so on. Finally he becomes a complete man.

So I humbly request every one of you to read atleast one book of social acceptance per month. You will really become not only a motivator to others bus also an embodiment of social culture and etiquettes.

Ultimately, I appeal to you be a good or voracious reader: be a good leader’. I thank one and all for having given this opportunity on this auspicious day. Let us all take a vow ‘We will become good readers to be good leaders’, Thank you.

POEM

Unit

1

ONCE UPON A TIME

- Gabriel Okara

முன்னொரு காலத்தில்

- கேப்ரியல் ஓகாரா

ABOUT THE AUTHOR ஆசிரியர் குறிப்பு



Gabriel Okara (born 1921) is a Nigerian poet and novelist. His verse has been translated into several languages. His poem *The call of River Nun* won the best award for Literature at the Nigerian Festival of Arts in 1953. Some of his poems were published in the influential periodical *Black Orpheus*, and by 1960 he established himself as an accomplished writer. He was honoured with the Commonwealth Poetry Award. Okara's typical poem transits from everyday reality to moments of delight and moves back to reality, making a complete circle. Okara infused African thought, folklore, and imagery into both his verse and prose. His first novel, *The Voice*, is an outstanding linguistic experiment. His later works include a collection of poems *The Fisherman's Invocation* (1978) and two books for children, *Little Snake and Little Frog* (1981) and *An Adventure to Juju Island* (1992).

கேப்ரியல் ஓகாரா ஒரு நைஜீரிய நாட்டு கவிஞர் மற்றும் நாவலாசிரியர். அவரது வசனம் பல மொழிகளில் மொழிபெயர்க்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. அவரது கவிதை 'த கால் ஆப் ரிவர்' நன் 1953ஆம் ஆண்டில் நைஜீரிய கலை விழாவாக இலக்கியத்திற்கான சிறந்த விருதை வென்றது. அவரது சில கவிதைகள் செல்வாக்குமிக்க கால இடைவெளியில் பிளாக் ஆர்ஃபியஸில் வெளியிடப்பட்டன. 1960இல் அவர் ஒரு திறமையான எழுத்தாளராக தன்னை நிறுத்திக் கொண்டார். அவருக்கு காமன்வெல்த் கவிதை விருது வழங்கப்பட்டது. ஓகாராவின் வழக்கமான கவிதை அன்றாட யதார்த்தத்திலிருந்து மகிழ்ச்சியின் தருணங்களுக்கு மாறி, உண்மைக்குத் திரும்பி, ஒரு முழுமையான வட்டத்தை உருவாக்குகிறது. ஓகாரா தனது வசனம் மற்றும் உரைநடை இரண்டிலும் ஆப்பிரிக்க சிந்தனை, நாட்டுப்புறக் கதைகள் மற்றும் உருவங்களை ஊடுருவினார். அவரது முதல் நாவலான 'தி வாங்ஸ்' ஒரு சிறந்த மொழியியல் சோதனை. அவரது பிற்கால படைப்புகளில் 'தி ஃபிஷர்மேன் இன்வாகேஷன்' மற்றும் குழந்தைகளுக்கான இரண்டு புத்தகங்கள், 'லிட்டில் ஸ்னேக்' மற்றும் 'லிட்டில் ஃப்ராக்' மற்றும் 'ஆன் அட்வென்ச்சர் டு ஜுஜு தீவு' ஆகியவை அடங்கும்.

WARM UP ஆயத்தப்படல்

a. Guess what friendly words these two gentlemen exchange when shaking hands.

கை குலுக்கும்போது இந்த இரண்டு மனிதர்களும் என்ன நட்பு வார்த்தைகளை பரிமாறிக்கொள்கிறார்கள் என்று யூகிக்கவும்.

Pleased to meet you.

உங்களை சந்தித்ததில் மிக்க மகிழ்ச்சி.

How do you do?

நீங்கள் எப்படி இருக்கிறீர்கள்?

Where had you been so long?

நீங்கள் இவ்வளவு காலம் எங்கு இருந்தீர்கள்?



Nice to see you.

தங்களை சந்தித்ததில் மகிழ்ச்சி.

How are you?

நீங்கள் எப்படி இருக்கிறீர்கள்?

How is life going on?

வாழ்க்கை எப்படி போய் கொண்டிருக்கிறது?

How is your father?

உங்கள் தந்தை எப்படி இருக்கிறார்?

b. The children in the picture are watching an exciting sporting event, where their school team is winning. Suggest suitable utterances reflecting their feelings.

படத்தில் உள்ள குழந்தைகள் ஓர் உற்சாகமான விளையாட்டைப் பார்த்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கு அவர்களின் பள்ளி அணி வெற்றி பெறுகிறது. பொருத்தமான சொற்களை பரிந்துரைக்கவும்.



c. Given a chance, any adult would wish to become a child again for many reasons. Fill the boxes with some of what you imagine could be the reasons.

e.g. I need not worry about project deadlines.	I've no homework.	I need not worry about school uniforms and tight shoes.	I can eat, play and sleep as I wish.
I can wear my pajamas the whole day.	I can play in the street with other children.	Light dress and light heart.	I am a free bird at home.
I can sleep as long as I like.	I need not carry a heavy bag.	No rule about dress at home.	I won't worry about my future.

ஒரு வாய்ப்பு வழங்கப்பட்டால் எந்தவொரு பெரியவரும் பல காரணங்களுக்காக குழந்தையாக மாற விரும்புவார்கள். காரணங்களாக என்ன இருக்கலாம் என்று நீங்கள் நினைக்கும் சிலவற்றை கட்டங்களில் நிரப்பவும்.

எ.கா. திட்ட காலக் கெடுவைப் பற்றி நான் கவலைப்பட தேவையில்லை.	எனக்கு வீட்டு வேலை இல்லை	பள்ளி சீருடை மற்றும் இறுக்கமான காலணிகள் பற்றி நான் கவலைப்பட தேவையில்லை	நான் விரும்பியபடி சாப்பிடலாம், விளையாடலாம், தூங்கலாம்
நான் சுடிதார் உடைகளை நான் முழுவதும் அணியலாம்	நான் மற்ற குழந்தைகளுடன் தெருவில் விளையாட முடியும்	மென்மையான உடை மற்றும் மென்மையான இதயம்	நான் வீட்டில் ஒரு சுதந்திரப் பறவை
நான் விரும்பும் வரை என்னால் தூங்க முடியும்	நான் ஒரு கனமான பையை எடுத்துச் செல்லத் தேவையில்லை	வீட்டில் உடை பற்றி எந்த விதியும் இல்லை.	எனது எதிர்காலத்தைப் பற்றி நான் கவலைப்பட மாட்டேன்.

முன்னொரு காலத்தில் கவிஞர் முந்தைய காலத்தில் குழந்தைகளிடமிருந்த சிறந்த மனித பண்புகளை, தற்காலத்திலுள்ள வளர்ந்த குழந்தைகளின் மாறுபட்ட பண்புகளோடு ஒப்பிடுகின்றார். குழந்தைகள் உள்ளத்தாலும், கண்களாலும் சிரிப்பார்கள். வளர்ந்தவுடன் போலியாகச் சிரிப்பார்கள். பெரியவர்கள் சூழ்நிலைக்கு ஏற்றவாறு தங்கள் முகத்தோற்றத்தை மாற்றிக் கொள்வார்கள். கவிஞரும் கூட பல முகங்களை அணிந்து கொள்ள கற்றறிந்து கொண்டு இருக்கிறார். அவர் இதுபோன்ற போலியான பழக்கவழக்கங்களைத் தன் நினைவில் இருந்து அகற்ற ஆசைப்படுகிறார். தான் சிறு வயதில் சிரித்த அந்தச் சிரிப்பை தனக்கு மிண்டும் கற்றுத்தருமாறு தன் மகனிடம் கேட்கிறார்.

Consolidation Points

- ☞ The title clearly indicates about the past. I associate that a fairytale may be in a poetic form.
- ☞ The relationship between the narrator and the listener is father and son.
- ☞ The expressions that indicate conflicting ideas are “laugh with their hearts and laugh with their eyes”, and “laugh with their teeth”.
- ☞ The poet learnt how to change faces in different situations,
- ☞ The poet has been able to change with the society.
- ☞ People welcome the guests for two times but the third time they will treat the guests differently.
- ☞ The poet desires to learn how to say goodbye in a nice way.
- ☞ He desires to unlearn all the bad habits he has picked up over the years.
- ☞ The poet's laugh reflected in the mirror is like a snake's bare teeth.
- ☞ The poet longs for child-like innocence.

Once Upon A Time

முன்னொரு காலத்தில்

Page - 21

பக்கம் - 21

*Once upon a time, son
They used to laugh with their hearts
And laugh with their eyes:
But now they only laugh with their teeth
While their ice-block-cold eyes
Search behind my shadow*

ஒரு காலத்தில், மகனே
மனிதர்கள் தங்கள் இதயங்கள் மூலம் சிரித்தனர்,
மற்றும் கண்களின் மூலமும் சிரித்தனர்
ஆனால் இப்பொழுது வெறும் பற்களால் மட்டுமே சிரிக்கின்றனர்,
அவர்களின் பனிகட்டி போன்ற குளிர்ச்சியான கண்கள்
என் நிழலுக்கு பின்னால் தேடுகிறது.

*There was a time indeed
They used to shake hands with their hearts
But that's gone, son
Now they shake hands without hearts
While their left hands search
My empty pockets.*

உண்மையில் ஒரு காலம் இருந்தது,
மக்கள் இதயப்பூர்வமாக கைகளை குலுக்குவார்கள்
ஆனால் அது மறைந்து விட்டது, மகனே
இப்பொழுது அவர்கள் இதயங்கள் இல்லாமல் கைகுலுக்குகின்றனர்.
அதே வேலையில் அவர்களின் இடது கை எனது
வெற்று பாக்கெட்டுகளை தேடுகின்றன.

*“Feel at home!”, “Come again”:
They say, and when I come
Again and feel
At home, once, twice
There will be no thrice -
For then I find doors shut on me.*

“இயல்பாக இருங்கள்”, “மீண்டும் வாருங்கள்”;
என்பார்கள் அவர்கள், ஆனால் நான் மீண்டும்
வந்து இயல்பாக இருக்கும்பொழுது
ஒருமுறை, இருமுறை, மூன்றாம்முறை
மூன்றாவது முறை இருக்காது -
ஏனெனில் கதவுகள் அடைக்கப்படுவதை நான் கண்டேன்

So I have learnt many things, son
I have learned to wear many faces
Like dresses – home face
Office face, street face, host face
Cocktail face, with all their conforming smiles
Like a fixed portrait smile.

ஆனால் நான் பல விஷயங்களை கற்றுக்கொண்டேன், மகனே
ஆடைகளைப் போல் பல முகங்களை அணிய நான் கற்றுக் கொண்டேன்.
வீட்டிற்கு ஒரு முகம், அலுவலக முகம், தெரு முகம்,
விருந்தாளிகளுக்கு ஒரு முகம் இவை அனைத்தும் சேர்த்து சிரிப்புடன்
கூடிய கலவை முகம் ஒரு புன்னகைக்கும்
உருவப்படம் போல இருக்க கற்றுக்கொண்டேன்.

And I have learned too
To laugh with only my teeth
And shake hands without my heart
I have also learned to say “Goodbye”
When I mean “Good-riddance”:
To say “Glad to meet you”
Without being glad; and to say “It’s been
Nice talking to you”, after being bored

நானும் கூட கற்றிருக்கிறேன்
உணர்வின்றி சிரிப்பதற்கு,
மற்றும் உணர்வின்றி கரங்களை குலுக்குவதற்கு
நான் “சென்று வருக” என்று கூறவும் கற்றுக்கொள்
“நல்ல வேளை தொலைந்தான்” என எண்ணிய பொழுது;
“சந்தித்ததில் மகிழ்ச்சி” என்று கூற
மகிழ்ச்சியின்றி; மற்றும் அலுப்பற்ற பின்பு
“உங்களிடம் பேசியது நன்றாக இருந்தது” என்று கூற.

Page - 22

பக்கம் - 22

But believe me, son
I want to be what I used to be
When I was like you. I want
To unlearn all these muting things
Most of all, I want to relearn
How to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
Shows only my teeth like a snake’s bare fangs!

ஆனால் என்னை நம்பு, மகனே
நான் எப்படி இருந்தேனோ
அப்படியே இருக்க ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்.
இந்த இழிவான விஷயங்களை மறக்க நினைக்கிறேன்.
எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலாக, நான் எப்படி சிரிக்க வேண்டும்
என்பதை திரும்பவும் கற்க வேண்டும்,
ஏனென்றால் நான் எனது பற்கள் பாம்பின் பற்களை
நினைவூட்டுகின்றது.

So show me, son
How to laugh; show me how
I used to laugh and smile
Once upon a time when I was like you.

எனவே எனக்குக் காட்டு மகனே
எப்படி சிரிக்க வேண்டும் என்பதை
ஒரு காலத்தில் உன்னைப்போல் இருந்தபொழுது
எப்படி சிரித்தேனோ அவ்வாறு சிரிக்கக் கற்றுக்கொடு.

GLOSSARY:

WORDS	MEANINGS	தமிழாக்கம்
laugh with their teeth	to fake a laugh, laugh without associated emotions	உணர்ச்சி இல்லாத சிரிப்பு
ice - block - cold eye	eyes lacking a feeling of warmth or endearing expression	அன்பு கலக்காத உணர்வு
search behind my shadow	people are hypocritical and they don’t mean what they say	குற்றம் காணும் இயல்புள்ள மக்கள்
while their left hands search my empty pockets	evaluating the narrator’s worth and power or calculating how he could be exploited	கதாசிரியரின் பலம் மற்றும் மதிப்பினை கணக்கிடுதல்
cocktail face	face showing mixed emotions.	கலவையான
conforming smiles like a fixed portrait smile	wearing a standard deceitful artificial smile on all occasions	பொய்ப்புன்னகை (அ) அசட்டுப் புன்னகை

www.Padasalai.Net good-riddance	expression of relief at being free of an unwanted person	கெட்டதை - நீக்குதல் www.CBSEtips.in
fangs	teeth of a venomous snake used to inject poison	பாம்பின் நச்சுப்பற்கள்

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS



1. Based on your understanding of the poem answer the following questions in one or two sentences each: Page - 23

- What do you associate with the title of the poem?**
I associate myself with my childhood days in which I was very innocent, sincere and true.
- What is the relationship between the narrator and the listener?**
Father and son
- What happens to the poet when he visits someone for the third time?**
When the poet visits someone for the third time, the doors are shut on him.
- Pick out the expressions that indicate poet's conflicting ideas.**
The expressions that indicate the poet's conflicts are 'laugh with their teeth', shake hands without heart', 'doors are shut, 'Good riddance, 'without being glad', 'being bored'.
- How does the poet compare his face with dresses?**
The poet has learned to wear many faces like dresses.
- What does the poet mean when he says 'good' bye'?**
When the poet says 'Good bye', he means 'good - riddance'. It means that the poet is relieved of an unwanted person.
- What pleasantries does the poet use to fake cordiality?**
The poet uses pleasantries like "Feel at home", and "come again" to fake cordiality.
- What does he desire to unlearn and relearn?**
He desires to unlearn all the muting things. He wants to relearn how to laugh with heart as he used to when he was like his son.
- How is the poet's laugh reflected in the mirror?**
The poet's laugh reflected in the mirror shows only the teeth and not the heart and his teeth are like snake's bare fangs.
- What does the poet long for?**
The poet longs to laugh as he used to laugh once upon a time when he was like his son.
- Mention the qualities, the child in the poem symbolises**
genuineness, sincerity, happiness and innocence are the qualities.

innocent- அப்பாவி; conflicts - மோதல்கள்; riddance - நீக்குதல்; pleasantries - அக்கறை; cordiality - திருப்திகரமான; fangs - கோரைப் பற்கள்; genuineness - உண்மைத்தன்மை.

2. Fill in the blanks choosing the words from the box given and complete the summary of the poem.

The poet Okara in this narrative monologue painfully condemns the (a) **duplicity** displayed by adults, both in their words and actions. Here, a father laments to his son about the negative changes that creep into the attitude and behaviour of humans, when they grow into (b) **adults**. He says that people used to be (c) **genuine** when they laugh and the honesty would be reflected

www.Padasalai.Net, people of modern times laugh (d) superficially. Their handshakes (e) shake be warm and happy conveying a sense of togetherness, but nowadays the handshakes have become a mere (e) falsity. He warns his son that people are not trust-worthy and have become so selfish that they are concerned only about their own (f) personal benefits.

People utter words of welcome and exchange (g) pleasantries but those words come only from the tip of their tongues and not from the depth of their hearts. Humans have learnt the art of changing their (h) facial expressions according to situations merely to ensure social acceptance. They wear (i) masks and exhibit multiple faces. The narrator admits that he has also changed into a hypocrite. However, he tells his son that though he (j) fakes, his expressions, he does all these against his will. He says he wants to become a (k) child again and laugh genuinely. He wants to (l) unlearn the unreal things and (m) relearn how to laugh as he had done once upon a time. When he laughs before the (n) mirror, he sees no expression. His teeth are bare like that of the (o) fangs of a snake. So, he asks his son to show him how to laugh the way he used to laugh, when he was a kid like him.

relearn	adults	facial
personal	fangs	child
fakes	superficially	duplicity
genuine	unlearn	falsity
masks	mirror	pleasantries

3. A. Interpret each of the following expressions used in the poem in one or two lines.

Page - 24

i) *laugh with their eyes.*

Once people were very genuine and sincere and they laughed with their eyes.

ii) *shake hands without hearts.*

Formerly, a handshake was the outcome of real interest and understanding but nowadays people shake hands without hearts.

iii) *like a fixed portrait smile*

My neighbour is capable of wearing many faces with a smile like a fixed portrait smile.

iv) *hands search the empty pockets*

When the fake and insincere people shake hands with their right hands, their left hands search the poet's empty pocket.

v) *to unlearn all these muting things.*

He wants to unlearn all the muting things such as insincere exchanges and fake smiles.

B. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow.

i) *'But now they only laugh with their teeth While their ice-block-cold eyes...'*

a) Who are 'they'?

The word 'They' refers to the people of modern society.

b) Explain: ice-block-cold eyes.

Ice-block-cold eyes means eyes lacking a feeling of warmth or endearing expression.

c) Identify the figures of speech used here.

Metaphor.

*How to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
Shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!'*

a) **Why does the poet want to relearn how to laugh?**

As the poet's laugh is corrupted by the polluted environment he wants to relearn how to laugh.

b) **Whom does the poet want to relearn from?**

The poet wants to relearn from his son.

c) **Mention the figure of speech used here.**

Simile.

C. Explain the following lines with reference to the context.

i. *Once upon a time, son*

They used to laugh with their hearts:

Reference	These lines are taken from the poem, ' Once Upon a Time ' written by ' Gabriel Okara '.
Context	The poet recalls how people interacted with fellow humans with real feelings.
Explanation	The poet laments the loss of genuine warmth and feelings in social interactions in modern times. He recalls with pain how the older generation expressed their love and warmth through their eyes. Their laughter originated from their eyes (i.e.) gateways of their hearts. As adults they have only fake smiles and fake laugh.

ii. *There will be no thrice*

Reference	This line is taken from the poem, ' Once Upon a Time ' by ' Gabriel Okara '.
Context	The poet describes how modern men fake their feelings in their social interactions with fellow humans. They don't mean 'welcome', when they say please 'feel at home' and 'come again'.
Explanation	Men today say 'feel at home', 'come again'. But their invitation is shallow. They will welcome you once or twice. When you visit the third time, you will not be received and doors will be shut on you.

iii. *I have learned to wear many faces*

Like dresses

Reference	These lines are taken from the poem, ' Once Upon a Time ' written by ' Gabriel Okara '.
Context	The poet explains how shamelessly he has joined the people in wearing masks for different social occasions.
Explanation	Adults today wear different expressions on their face for different occasions like for the home, for the street, for the host and for the party. They change their faces as they change their dress for different occasions.

iv) *I want to be what I used to be*

Reference	This line is taken from the poem, ' Once Upon a Time ' by ' Gabriel Okara '.
Context	The poet expresses desire to regain his childhood innocence.
Explanation	The poet regrets that he is living with hypocrisy, falsehood and duplicity. He expresses his desire to relearn the genuine smile of childhood from his son. He wants to regain warmth and love.



4. Answer the following questions in about 100 – 150 words.

i. Explain the things that the poet has learnt when he grew into an adult.

Title : "Once Upon A Time"
 Author : Gabriel Okara
 Theme : How to laugh with true emotions
 Character : The Narrator his son

The poet Okara in his poem 'Once Upon a Time' painfully condemns the duplicity displayed by adults both in their words and actions. Here, a father laments to his son about the negative changes that creep into the attitude and behaviour of humans, when they grow into adults. He used to be genuine when he laughed. But now his laughter is fake. He has learnt to laugh without any feeling. Their handshakes used to be warm and happy conveying a sense of togetherness, but nowadays the handshakes have become a mere falsity. He has learnt to give such handshakes. He has again learnt how to welcome people with words coming from the lips. Now he can change the facial expressions according to the situations.

painfully - வேதனையுடன்; **condemns** - தண்டிக்கிறான்; **duplicity** - வஞ்சித்தல்; **laments** - வருந்துதல்; **attitude** - மனோநிலை; **genuine** - உண்மையான; **falsity** - துரோகம்; **facial expressions** - முகபாவங்கள்.

ii. This poem is nothing but a criticism of modern life. Justify this statement.

Title : "Once Upon A Time"
 Author : Gabriel Okara
 Theme : How to laugh with true emotions
 Character : The Narrator, his son

The poet Okara in his poem 'Once Upon a Time' painfully condemns the duplicity displayed by adults both in their words and actions. The poet laments about the negative changes that have come upon the modern society. In the modern world people do not have real laughter; they have only fake laughter. Their eyes do not show any feeling when they laugh. The handshakes have become mere duplicity. People do not have the warmth when they handshake with others. The words of welcome come only from the lips not from the hearts. Nowadays people change their face as they change their dress. The facial expressions change according to the situation. Thus the poet criticises the modern life.

negative - எதிர்மறை; **real laughter** - உண்மையான சிரிப்பு; **fake** - பொய்; **handshakes** - கைகுலுக்கல்கள்; **warmth** - மனமார்ந்த அன்பு; **situation** - சூழ்நிலை; **criticises** - விமர்சித்து.

iii. 'Face is the index of the mind'. Does this adage concur with the views of the poet?

Title : "Once Upon A Time"
 Author : Gabriel Okara
 Theme : How to laugh with true emotions
 Character : The Narrator, his son

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This poem, 'Once Upon a Time' painfully condemns the duplicity displayed by adults both in their words and actions. The poet laments about the negative changes that have come upon the modern society. It is an old saying 'Face is the index of the mind'. It means that face can reflect the real mind of a person. But because of the changes brought into the modern world this proverb has lost its meaning. People laugh covering their real intention. People's handshakes do not come from their hearts. So the face does not show reality. In the same way people give words of welcome only from the lips. In the modern world people change their face as they change their dress. Now, in no way the face shows the real mind of a person.

modern society - நவீன சமூகம்; **reflect** - பிரதிபலிக்கும்; **intention** - உள்நோக்கம்; **reality** - உண்மை; **covering** - உள்ளடக்கியது; **painfully** - வலிமிகுந்த; **modern world** - நவீன உலகம்.

CENTUM STUDENTS

SYNOPSIS

- ☞ Introduction
- ☞ About the Artificiality of Relationships and Manners
- ☞ The artificial and hence mechanical
- ☞ The Poet Learnt Many Things
- ☞ The Innocence, Faithfulness and Sincerity
- ☞ Conclusion

Introduction:

Gabriel Okara is a Nigerian poet and novelist. His poem entitled "The Call of the River Nun" won the best award for Literature at the Nigerian Festival of Arts. He was also honoured the Commonwealth Poetry Award. He infused African thoughts, folklore, and imagery in to both his verse and prose.

About the Artificiality of Relationships And Manners:

Gabriel Okara's 'Once Upon A Time' is about the artificiality of relationships and manners prevailing in the present day world. The past, according to the poet, is better than the present; because there were love, sincerity and faithfulness in the past. Now that in the present, everything has changed. Hence the poet wants to relive the past.

The Artificial and hence Mechanical:

Once upon a time, the people used to laugh with their hearts and eyes. That is, there was genuineness in what they said and did. But in the present, there is only outward 'teeth laugh' without understanding the speaker's real self. The eyes are described as 'ice block – cold'. The people have become money minded and naturally develop their relationships with the rich. Even when shaking hands with others, they are very artificial and hence mechanical

The Poet Learnt Many Things:

Guests are no longer welcome these days. They are given a warm reception only once. If they visit their friends or relatives thrice or more number of days, the doors are shut on them. In this material and artificial world, the poet has learnt many things – especially wearing many faces like putting on many dresses. One has to have 'home face', 'office face', 'cocktail face' and so on. All are fixed just like the portrait smile. As this is the way of the world, the poet – cum – speaker has also learnt laughter with teeth; the art of saying 'goodbye' when he means 'Good-riddance'; 'Glad to meet you' when he is not glad; and 'Nice talking to you' when bored.

The poet wants to be like his son with all the exemplary conduct. He himself becomes the victim of the present showing 'the fangs of a snake'. Towards the end of the poem, the poet appeals to his son to show him how to smile whole-heartedly. Desire to relive the past is nothing but a yearning for the innocence, faithfulness and sincerity. The poem is written as though a father were talking to his son.

Conclusion :

Finally the poet implores his son to teach him how to laugh with true emotions and love as he had in his earlier days.

SLOW LEARNERS

Title : "Once Upon A Time"
 Author : Gabriel Okara
 Theme : Criticism of Modern Life
 Character : The Narrator his son

- Poet Okara condemns false appearances projected by people to safeguard their own interests.
- He condemns the loss of genuine laughter and deep relationship between friends when he was a kid.
- He is saddened by the inconsistent nature of people and how successfully they take emotions to suit their convenience and personal ends.
- They show false warmth during daily exchanges of courtesy and wear masks to prevent discovery of their real feelings.
- The poet admits that he had also become a hypocrite like the rest and his reflection in the mirror does not reflect warmth of human love but the fangs of a snake deadly enough to kill fellow humans.
- So, he requests his son to teach the forgotten art of spontaneous and genuine laughter similar to his boyhood days.

5. Listening Activity: Page - 24

First read the questions given below. Next, listen to an excerpt from a poem read out by your teacher or played in a recorder. Note how a child admires and praises the abilities of his/her father. Then tick the right answers from the options given below.

[for the poem see text book page - 198]

- When the needs to be repaired, they have to hire a man.
 a) heater b) furnace c) stove d) oven
- Father knows no word like
 a) fail b) frail c) jail d) snail
- It is certain that the father would restore the of the family members.
 a) glory b) prosperity c) confidence d) happiness
- The father will not be able to mend a broken
 a) table b) bench c) chair d) stool
- The children expect their to guide them in action.
 a) mother b) father c) teacher d) guardian

SUPPLEMENTARY

Unit

1

AFTER TWENTY YEARS

- O. Henry

இருபது வருடங்களுக்குப் பின்

- ஓ. ஹென்றி

ABOUT THE AUTHOR ஆசிரியர் குறிப்பு

O. Henry (1862–1910) is a popular American short-story writer whose original name is William Sydney Porter. His works romanticized the life of ordinary people in New York City. His stories are well-known throughout the world. They expressed the effect of coincidence on character and often had unexpected twists in the end. His stories are also noted for their witticism and clever wordplay. O. Henry's prolific writing period began in 1902 in New York City, where he wrote 381 short stories. He wrote one story a week for The New York World Sunday Magazine for over a year. O. Henry's short story 'After Twenty Years' was first published in the Sunday edition of the *New York World* in 1905. The story was included in the 1906 anthology *The Four Million*, and it has since been re-published in many short story collections. A few of his other popular short stories are, *The Gift of the Magi*, *The Cop and the Anthem*, *The Ransom of Red Chief*, *A Retrieved Reformation* and *The Third Ingredient*.

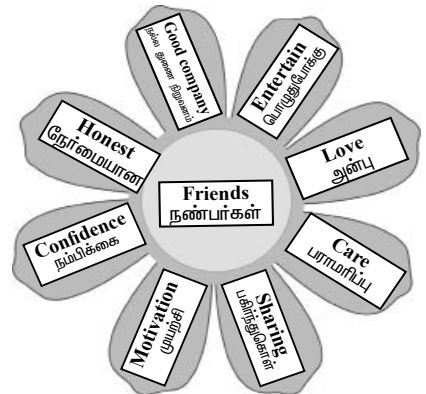


ஓ ஹென்றி (1862–1910) ஒரு பிரபல அமெரிக்க சிறுகதை எழுத்தாளர். இவருடைய இயற்பெயர் வில்லியம் ஸிட்னி போர்ட்டர். இவருடைய கதைகள் பொதுவாக நியூயார்க் நகரத்தின் சாதாரண குடிமக்களைச் சுற்றியே பின்னப்பட்டிருக்கும். இவரது கதைகள் உலகம் முழுவதும் பிரபலமானவை. இவருடைய கதையும் கதை மாந்தர்களும் பொருந்தி வருவது போல கதை அமைந்திருக்கும். முடிவில் யாரும் எதிர்பாராத ஒரு திருப்பம் வரும். அவருடைய கதைகளில் உள்ள நகைச்சுவையும், புத்திசாலித்தனமான வார்த்தை வர்ணனைகளும் மிகவும் பேசப்படுபவை. இவருடைய தீவிரமான எழுத்துக்காலம் நியூயார்க் நகரில் 1902இல் தொடங்குகிறது. அவர் 381 சிறுகதைகளை எழுதியுள்ளார். தி நியூயார்க் வேர்ல்ட் என்ற ஞாயிறு வார இதழில் வாரத்திற்கு ஒரு கதை வீதம் இவரது கதைகள் ஒரு வருடத்திற்கும் மேலாக வெளிவந்து கொண்டிருந்தது. ஓ ஹென்றியின் சிறுகதையான ஆஃப்டர் டு டிவண்டி, தி நியூயார்க் வேர்ல்ட் இதழில் 1905 முதல் வெளியிடப்பட்டது. இந்தக் கதை 1906இல் தி ஃபோர் மில்லியன் என்ற பெயரில் கதைத் தொகுப்பில் சேர்க்கப்பட்டு வெளியிடப்பட்டது. அது முதல் ஏராளமான கதைத்தொகுப்புகளோடு இணைந்து இக்கதை மறுபதிப்பு செய்யப்படுகிறது. *The Gift of the Magi*, *The Cop and the Anthem*, *The Ransom of Red Chief*, *A Retrieved Reformation* மற்றும் *The Third Ingredient*. போன்றவை இவருடைய பிரபலமான சிறுகதைகளில் சில.

WARM UP ஆயத்தப்படல்

- a. What do you expect your close friends to do for you? Beautify the petals with your thoughts.

உங்கள் நெருங்கிய நண்பர்கள் உங்களுக்காக என்ன செய்வார்கள் என்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறீர்கள்? உங்கள் எண்ணங்களால் இதழ்களை அழகுபடுத்துங்கள்.



b. i. Find out when the International Day of Friendship is celebrated.

August 5.

சர்வதேச நட்புதினம் எப்போது கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது என்பதை கண்டறியவும்.

ஆகஸ்டு 5.

ii. How is that day celebrated?

On the day of Friendship, We will meet our friends either in different places, exchange our greetings and memories. We shall take lunch together and exchange gifts. Friendship gets renewed and gets strengthened.

அந்த நாள் எவ்வாறு கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது?

நட்பு நாளில், நாங்கள் எங்கள் நண்பர்களை வெவ்வேறு இடங்களில் சந்திப்போம். எங்கள் வாழ்த்துக்களையும், நினைவுகளையும் பரிமாறிக்கொள்வோம். நாங்கள் ஒன்றாக மதிய உணவு எடுத்துக் கொள்வோம். நட்பு புதுப்பிக்கப்பட்டு பலமடைகிறது.

c. We have heard of the proverb 'Familiarity breeds contempt'. Do you think that the passage of time strengthens friendship? Share your reasons with your class.

The familiarity breeds contempt cannot be used with friendship. Friendship will never get satiated. On the other hand, friendship goes on getting strengthened. It is not like getting satiated, when one goes on eating sweets. The passage of time will never affect friendship.

பரிச்சயம் அவமதிப்பை வளர்க்கிறது என்ற பழமொழியை நாம் கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறோம். காலப்போக்கில் நட்பை பலப்படுத்துகிறது என்று நினைக்கிறீர்களா? உங்கள் காரணங்களை உங்கள் வகுப்போடு பகிர்ந்து கொள்ளுங்கள்.

பரிச்சயம் அவமதிப்பை வளர்க்கிறது என்பதை நட்புடன் பயன்படுத்த முடியாது. நட்பு ஒருபோதும் திருப்தி அடையாது. மறுபுறம் நட்பு வலுப்பெற்றுக் கொண்டே போகும். ஒருவர் அதிகமாக இனிப்புகள் சாப்பிட்டு திருப்தி அடைவது போல, நட்பு திருப்தி அடையாது. காலப்போக்கில் நட்பு ஒருபோதும் பாதிப்படையாது.

புடக்கருக்கம்

இருபது ஆண்டுகளுக்குப் பிறகு, இந்தக் கதை பிரபல அமெரிக்க சிறுகதை ஆசிரியர் ஓ. ஹென்றி யால் எழுதப்பட்ட இரு நெருங்கிய நண்பர்களாகிய பாப் மற்றும் ஜிம்மி பற்றிய கதையாகும். பாப் செல்வம் ஈட்டி வெளிநாட்டிற்கு சென்றிருந்தன. போகும் முன் 20 ஆண்டுகளுக்குப் பிறகு, அதே இடத்தில், அதே நேரத்தில் மீண்டும் சந்திக்க நண்பர்கள் இருவரும் உடன்படிக்கை செய்து கொண்டனர். பாப் வாக்களித்தவாறு 20 ஆண்டுகளுக்குப் பிறகு அதே இடத்திற்கு வந்தார். முதலில் உயரமான ஒரு போலிஸ்காரர் வந்தார். பின்பு தன் வேலையைத் தொடர்ந்து செய்ய சென்றுவிட்டார். அவர் தன் நண்பர் ஜிம்மி இல்லைமென்று பாப் நினைத்தார். அதன் பின் மற்ற ஒருவர் வந்தார். அவர் மூலமாக முதலில் வந்தவர் தன்னுடைய நண்பர் ஜிம்மி என்பதை அறிந்தார். பாப் சிக்காக்கோவில் ஒரு தேடப்படுகிற குற்றவாளி. பாப் அவருடைய நண்பராக இருப்பதால், ஜிம்மி அவரை தானே கைது செய்யாமல் மற்றவர் மூலமாக கைது செய்தார். கடமை நட்பை காட்டிலும் முக்கியமானது என்று ஜிம்மி மெய்ப்பித்தார்.

Consolidation Points

- ☞ Bob shared with the policeman his strange appointment made twenty years ago.
- ☞ He also shared the details of their childhood days and how they were raised in New York.
- ☞ He can recognize his friend as soon as he sees his face in the cigar light. He is duty bound.
- ☞ Though his friend is a criminal wanted in Chicago.
- ☞ Bob pulled out a handsome watch having the lid set with small diamonds.
- ☞ Bob had to compete with some of the intelligent people going to get his pile.
- ☞ Jimmy Wells is very cordial with everyone, especially with Bob
- ☞ He has done his duty. He knows his responsibilities.
- ☞ When he comes to know that his friend is a criminal, he does not want to arrest him himself.
- ☞ He has sent another policeman to arrest Bob. For him duty is more important than friendship.

Page - 27

பக்கம் - 27

Here is a story entitled After Twenty Years' which is about two best friends who had to part ways. They return to keep an appointment they had made twenty years ago. Read to find out what happens when they meet again.

இரு சிறந்த நண்பர்கள் வெவ்வேறு வழியில் வாழ்க்கையில் பயணிக்கின்றனர். அவர்கள் இருபது ஆண்டுக்குப் முன் மீண்டும் இதே தேதியில் சந்திக்க வேண்டும் என்று நினைத்ததை நிறைவேற்ற திரும்பி வந்தனர். வாசித்து பாருங்கள் அவர்கள் மீண்டும் சந்தித்தபோது என்ன நடந்தது என்று.

The policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively. The impressiveness was habitual and not for show, for spectators were few. The time was barely 10 o'clock at night, but chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain in them had well nigh depeopled the streets.

அந்த போலீஸ்காரர் அந்த அகன்ற தெருவில் தன்னுடைய பணியின் நிமித்தம் வழக்கமான பாதையில் மிடுக்காக நடந்து கொண்டிருந்தார். அம்மிடுக்கு வழக்கமான ஒன்று. மற்றவர் காண்பதற்காக அல்ல; ஏனெனில் பார்வையாளர்கள் அங்கு எவருமில்லை. நேரம் வெறும் 10 மணியே ஆகியிருந்தது. ஆனால் மழையின் அறிகுறி கொண்ட பலமான காற்று கிட்டத்தட்ட அந்தத் தெருக்களை மக்களின்றி வெறிச்சோடச் செய்திருந்தது.

Trying doors as he went, twirling his club with many intricate and artful movements, turning now and then to cast his watchful eye adown the pacific thoroughfare, the officer, with his stalwart form and slight swagger, made a fine picture of a guardian of the peace. The vicinity was one that kept early hours. Now and then you might see the lights of a cigar store or of an all night lunch counter; but the majority of the doors belonged to business places that had long since been closed.

கதவுகளை சோதித்துக் கொண்டே தனது லத்தியை பல கோணங்களில் இலாவகமாக முறுக்கியும் சுழற்றியும் கொண்டு அவ்வப்பொழுது தனது கூர்ந்து நோக்கும் கண்களால் அந்தப் பசிபிக் பெருஞ்சாலையை நோட்டமிட்டுக் கொண்டும் தனது கம்பீரமான தோற்றத்துடனும், நம்பிக்கையுடைய நடையுடன் சென்ற அந்த அலுவலர், அமைதியின் பாதுகாவலரின் ஓர் அருமையான தோற்றத்தை உருவாக்கியிருந்தார். அவ்விடத்தைச் சுற்றியிருந்த பகுதிகளோ அதிகாலைக்கு முற்பட்ட காலத்தைப்போல் காட்சியளித்தது. அவ்வப்பொழுது சுருட்டுக் கடை அல்லது இரவு முழுவதும் இயங்கும் உணவு விடுதியின் விளக்குகளையோ காண முடிந்தது. ஆனால் பெரும்பாலான கதவுகள் வர்த்தக நிறுவனங்களைச் சார்ந்ததாக இருந்ததால் அடைக்கப்பட்டு வெகு நேரமாயிருந்தது.

Page - 28

பக்கம் - 28

When about midway of a certain block the policeman suddenly slowed his walk. In the doorway of a darkened hardware store a man leaned, with an unlighted cigar in his mouth. As the policeman walked up to him the man spoke up quickly.

ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட அடுக்குமாடிக் கட்டிடத்தின் பாதித் தொலைவைக் கடந்த நிலையில் அந்தப் போலீஸ்காரர் தனது நடையின் வேகத்தைக் குறைத்தார். ஒரு இருண்ட இரும்பு சாமான்கள் விற்கும் கடையின் வாசலில், தனது வாயில் பற்ற வைக்காத சுருட்டுடன் ஒரு மனிதன் சாய்ந்து நின்று கொண்டிருந்தான். அந்தப் போலீஸ்காரர் அவனை நோக்கி நடந்த பொழுது அவன் விரைவாக உரக்கப் பேசினான்.

"It's all right, officer," he said, reassuringly. "I'm just waiting for a friend. It's an appointment made twenty years ago. Sounds a little funny to you, doesn't it? Well, I'll explain if you'd like to make certain it's all straight. About that long ago there used to be a restaurant where this store stands-Big Joe' Brady's restaurant."

"ஒன்றும் பிரச்சினையில்லை, ஐயா" என்றான் அவன். "நான் ஒரு நண்பனுக்காகத்தான் காத்திருக்கிறேன். இது இருபது ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பே முன்குறித்த ஏற்பாடு. இது உங்களுக்கு கேலித்தனமாகத் தெரியும். இல்லையா? நல்லது." விரும்பினால் விவரிக்கிறேன். வெகு நாட்களுக்கு முன்பு இந்தக் கடை இருக்கும் இடத்தில் ஒரு உணவு விடுதி Big Joe Brady உணவு விடுதி இருந்தது.

"Only five years ago," said the policeman. "It was torn down then."

ஐந்து வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பு அது இடிக்கப்பட்டது என்றார் அந்த போலீஸ்காரர்.

The man in the doorway struck a match and lit his cigar. The light showed a pale, square-jawed face with keen eyes, and a little white scar near his right eyebrow. His scarf pin was a large diamond, oddly set.

வாயிற்படியில் இருந்த மனிதன் வெண்குழலில் நெருப்பு பற்ற வைத்தான். அந்த ஒளியில் அவனுடைய வெளிறிய சதுரமான முகம் கூரிய கண்களுடன் சிறிய வெள்ளை தழும்பு வலது புருவத்தில் தெரிந்தது. அவனுடைய கழுத்தில் அணிந்திருந்த துணியில் பெரிய வைரம் அழகாக பதிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது.

"Twenty years ago to-night," said the man, "I dined here at Big Joe Brady's with Jimmy Wells, my best chum, and the finest chap in the world. He and I were raised here in New York, just like two brothers, together. I was eighteen and Jimmy was twenty. The next morning I was to start for the West to make my fortune. You couldn't have dragged Jimmy out of New York; he thought it was the only place on earth. Well, we agreed that night that we would meet here again exactly twenty years from that date and time, no matter what our conditions might be or from what distance we might have to come. We figured that in twenty years each of us ought to have our destiny worked out and our fortunes made, whatever they were going to be."

இருபது ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்னால் இந்த இடத்தில் இருந்த பெரிய ஜோ பிராந்தி கடையில் ஜிம்மி வெல்ஸ் உடன் சாப்பிட்டேன் எனது நெருங்கிய நண்பன், இந்த உலகில் சிறந்த நட்பு இந்த நியூயார்க்கில் நானும் அவனும் இரண்டு சகோதரர்கள் போல் இருந்தோம். எனக்கு பதினெட்டு வயது ஜிம்மிக்கு இருபது. மேற்கில் சென்றேன் எனது வருங்காலத்தை அடுத்த நாள் நான் ஆரம்பிக்க. உங்களால் ஜிம்மியை நியூயார்க்கிலிருந்து பிரிக்க முடியாது. அவனுக்கு இது ஒன்றே இடம் இந்த உலகில். நன்று நாங்கள் அன்று இரவில் ஒத்துக் கொண்டோம். இதே இரவில் எங்கள் நிலை எதுவாக இருந்தாலும் எவ்வளவு தொலைவிலிருந்தாலும் வருவது என்று நாங்கள் 20 வருடம் பிரிக்கப்பட்டோம். விதியால் என்ன நடந்தாலும் எங்கள் முயற்சி நடப்பதை தீர்மானிக்கும்.

"It sounds pretty interesting," said the policeman. "Rather a long time between meets, though, it seems to me. Haven't you heard from your friend since you left?"

காவலர் கேட்க சுவாரஸ்யமாக ரம்மியமாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். சந்தித்து நீங்கள் நீண்ட நாட்களாகிறது உங்களுக்கிடையில் என்று தோன்றுகிறது. நீங்கள் சென்றபின் நண்பனை பற்றி கேட்கவில்லையா?

"Well, yes, for a time we corresponded," said the other. "But after a year or two we lost track of each other. You see, the West is a pretty big proposition, and I kept hustling around over it pretty lively. But I know Jimmy will meet me here if he's alive, for he always was the truest, staunchest old chap in the world. He'll never forget. I came a thousand miles to stand in this door tonight, and it's worth it if my old partner turns up."

நன்று, ஆம், நாங்கள் தொடர்பு கொண்டோம். அடுத்தவன் சொன்னான். ஒன்றிரண்டு வருடங்களுக்கு பின் எங்கள் தொடர்பு காணாமல் போய்விட்டது. உங்களுக்கு தெரியுமா மேற்கு ஒரு ரம்மியமான பெரிய கட்டமைப்பு. நான் அங்கு தள்ளப்பட்டு அதை சுற்றி ரசித்திருக்கிறேன். அதன் அழகை நேரிடையாக எனக்கு தெரியும். அவன் உயிரோடிருந்தால் என்னை இங்கு சந்திப்பான். அவன் எப்போதும் என்னுடைய உண்மையான கீழ்ப்படிதலுள்ள பழைய நண்பன் அவன் என்னை மறக்க மாட்டான். நான் ஆயிரம் மைல்கள் கடந்து அவனை சந்திக்க இந்த இரவில் இந்த வாசலில் நிற்கிறேன். எனது பழைய பங்காளி வந்தால் இது உபயோகமாக இருக்கும்.

The waiting man pulled out a handsome watch, the lids of it set with small diamonds.

காத்திருப்பவன் தனது அழகிய கைக்கடிகாரத்தை வெளியே இழுத்தான். அதன் மூடி மிகச் சிறிய வைரங்களால் பதிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தன.

"Three minutes to ten," he announced. "It was exactly ten o'clock when we parted here at the restaurant door."

அவன் அறிவித்தான். பத்தாக மூன்று நிமிடங்கள் இருக்கிறது. நாங்கள் பிரியும் போது சரியாக பத்து மணி.

<p>“Did pretty well out West, didn’t you?” asked the policeman.</p>	<p>மேற்கு மிக ரம்மியமானதா? என்று காவலா கேட்டார்.</p>
<p>“You bet! I hope Jimmy has done half as well. He was a kind of plodder, though, good fellow as he was. I’ve had to compete with some of the sharpest wits going to get my pile. A man gets in a groove in New York. It takes the West to put a razor-edge on him.”</p>	<p>நீங்கள் பந்தயம் கட்டுங்கள் நான் நம்புகிறேன் ஜிம்மியும், நன்றாக இருப்பான். அவன் ஒரு நேர்மையான கடும உழைப்பாளி அறிவாளியானவர்கள் எனது பெரிய கூட்டமான கட்டிடங்கள் நிரம்பிய நியூயார்க்கில் திரும்ப திரும்ப அதே சோம்பேறித்தனமான வேலை. மேற்கு அவன்மேல் மிகவும் இக்கட்டான நிலையை கொடுத்திருக்கும்.</p>
<p>Page - 29</p>	<p>பக்கம் - 28</p>
<p>The policeman twirled his club and took a step or two.</p>	<p>காவலாளி கேளிக்கை விடுதியிலிருந்து தன்னுடைய லத்தியை சுழற்றிக்கொண்டு ஒன்று அல்லது இரண்டு அடி திரும்பினார்.</p>
<p>“I’ll be on my way. Hope your friend comes around all right. Going to call time on him sharp?”</p>	<p>“நான் எனது வழியில் செல்கிறேன். உன்னுடைய நண்பன் நல்ல நிலையில் அநேகமாக வேறொரு நீண்ட பாதையில் வருகிறார் என நம்புகிறேன். அவர் சரியான நேரத்திற்கு வர வேண்டும் என எதிர்பார்க்கப் போகிறீர்களா?”</p>
<p>“I should say not!” said the other. “I’ll give him half an hour at least. If Jimmy is alive on earth he’ll be here by that time. So long, officer.”</p>	<p>நான் நிச்சயம் இல்லை என்றுதான் கூற வேண்டும் என்றான் அவன். நான் அவனுக்குக் குறைந்தபட்சம் அரைமணி நேரம் கொடுப்பேன். ஜிம்மி இப்பூமியில் உயிரோடிருந்தால் அவன் இங்கிருப்பான்.</p>
<p>“Good-night, sir,” said the policeman, passing on along his beat, trying doors as he went.</p>	<p>நல்ல இரவு, ஐயா என்றார் அப்போலீஸ்காரர். கதவுகளை சோதித்துக் கொண்டு தன்னுடைய பணிக்காக அவ்வழக்கமான பாதையில் சென்று கொண்டே கூறினார்.</p>
<p>There was now a fine, cold drizzle falling, and the wind had risen from its uncertain puffs into a steady blow. The few foot passengers astir in that quarter hurried dismally and silently along with coat collars turned high and pocketed hands. And in the door of the hardware store the man who had come a thousand miles to fill an appointment uncertain almost to absurdity, with the friend of his youth, smoked his cigar and waited.</p>	<p>தற்போது குளிர்ந்த மழை தூறல் பொழிந்தது காற்றும் அதிகமாக நிரந்தரமில்லாததுடன் நிரந்தரமாக வீசியது. சிலர் கால்நடையாக செல்பவர்கள் ஆச்சரியமாக சுறுசுறுப்பும் சந்தோஷமும் இல்லாமல் அமைதியாக மேலங்கி பட்டையை உயர்த்திவிட்டு சட்டைப்பையில் கையை விட்டு கொண்டு சென்றனர். வன்பொருள் விற்கும் கடையில் வாயிலில் ஆயிரம் மைல்கள் கடந்து வந்த மனிதன் தனது சந்திப்பினை நிறைவேற்ற முட்டாள்தனமாக நிரந்தரமில்லாத இளமைகால நண்பனின் வருகைக்காக வெண்குழல் ஊதிக்கொண்டு காத்திருந்தான்.</p>
<p>About twenty minutes he waited, and then a tall man in a long overcoat, with collar turned up to his ears, hurried across from the opposite side of the street. He went directly to the waiting man.</p>	<p>இருபது நிமிட காத்திருப்பில் உயர்ந்த மனிதன் ஒருவன் நீண்ட மேலங்கியுடன் கழுத்து பட்டையை மேலே காது வரை உயர்த்திவிட்டு வேகமாக எதிர்பக்கத் தெருவிலிருந்து தாண்டி வந்தான். அவன் நேராக காத்திருந்த மனிதன் அருகில் சென்றான்.</p>
<p>“Is that you, Bob?” he asked, doubtfully.</p>	<p>நீ தானே பாப்? சந்தேகமாக கேட்டான்.</p>

<p>www.Padasalai.Net</p> <p>“Is that you, Jimmy Wells?” cried the man in the door.</p>	<p>www.CBSEtips.in</p> <p>கதவருகில் நின்றவன், நீ தானே ஜிம்மி வெல்ஸ் என்றான் சத்தமாக.</p>
<p>“Bless my heart!” exclaimed the new arrival, grasping both the other’s hands with his own. “It’s Bob, sure as fate. I was certain I’d find you here if you were still in existence. Well, well, well!. Twenty years is a long time. The old restaurant’s gone, Bob; I wish it had lasted, so we could have had another dinner there. How has the West treated you, old man?”</p>	<p>இதயம் ஆசிர்வதிக்கப்பட்டும் சந்தோஷத்தில் சொன்னார் புதியவர். இருவரும் கைகளை பற்றிக் கொண்டனர். இது பாப். இதுதான் தலைவிதி நான் உன்னை இங்கு சந்தித்தேன். நீதான் காணாமல் போய்விட்டாய். நன்று! நன்று, நன்று, இருபது வருடங்கள் நீண்ட காலம். பழைய உணவு விடுதி போய்விட்டது பாப். அது போய் இருக்காவிட்டால் இன்றும் நாம் மற்றொரு இரவு உணவு சாப்பிட்டிருக்கலாம். எப்படி மேற்கு உன்னை உபசரித்தது வயதானவனே?</p>
<p>“Bully; it has given me everything I asked it for. You’ve changed lots, Jimmy. I never . thought you were so tall by two or three inches.”</p>	<p>Bully அது எனக்கு நான் கேட்ட எல்லாவற்றையும் கொடுத்தது நீ நிறைய மாறியிருக்கிறாய் ஜிம்மி. நீ இப்படி வளர்ந்திருப்பாய் என்று நினைக்கவில்லை. இரண்டு மூன்று அங்குலம் உயரமாய் இருப்பாய் என்று நினைத்தேன்.</p>
<p>“Oh, I grew a bit after I was twenty.”</p>	<p>ஓ, நான் இருபதுக்கு அப்புறம் கொஞ்சமா வளர்ந்தேன்.</p>
<p>“Doing well in New York, Jimmy?”</p>	<p>நியூயார்க்கில் நன்றாக இருக்கிறாயா?</p>
<p>“Moderately. I have a position in one of the city departments. Come on, Bob; we’ll go around to a place I know of, and have a good long talk about old times.”</p>	<p>ஜிம்மி. பரவாயில்லை. நான் பல்பொருள் அங்காடியில் வேலை பார்க்கிறேன். வா பாப் நாம் இந்த இடத்தை சுற்றுவோம். உன்னை தெரிய நீண்ட நேரம் பேசுவோம் பழைய காலத்தைப் பற்றி.</p>
<p>The two men started up the street, arm in arm. The man from the West, his egotism enlarged by success, was beginning to outline the history of his career. The other, submerged in his overcoat, listened with interest.</p>	<p>இருவரும் தெருவில் நடந்தனர். விரலோடு விரல் கோர்த்து. மேற்கிலிருந்து வந்தவன் தான் எப்படி வெற்றி பெற்று வாழ்கிறான் என்று சுய தம்பட்டம் அடித்தான். அடுத்தவன் தன்னை மேலங்கியில் புதைத்து கொண்டு சுவாரஸ்யமாக கேட்டான்.</p>
<p>Page - 30</p>	<p>பக்கம் - 30</p>
<p>At the corner stood a drug store, brilliant with electric lights. When they came into the glare each of them turned simultaneously to gaze upon the other’s face. The man from the West stopped suddenly and released his arm.</p>	<p>அந்த மூலையில் மருந்து கடையில் பிரகாசமாக மின் விளக்கு எரிந்தது. இருவரும் திரும்பி விளக்கொளியில் ஒருவர் முகத்தை ஒருவர் பார்த்தனர். மேற்கிலிருந்து வந்தவன் உடனே கையை விடுவித்து கொண்டான்.</p>
<p>“You’re not Jimmy Wells,” he snapped. “Twenty years is a long time, but not long enough to change a man’s nose from a Roman to a pug.”</p>	<p>நீ ஜிம்மி வெல்ஸ் இல்லை என்று உடைத்தான். இருபது வருடம் நீண்ட காலம். ஆனால் ஒருவருடைய மூக்கு மட்டும் காலம் சென்றாலும் நாய் மாதிரி மாறாது.</p>
<p>“It sometimes changes a good man into a bad one”, said the tall man. “You’ve been under arrest for ten minutes, ‘Silky’ Bob. Chicago thinks you may have dropped over our way and wires us she wants to</p>	<p>உயர்ந்தவன் சொன்னார் நல்லவரை கெட்டவராக காலம் மாற்றும். நீபத்துநிமிடங்களாக சிறைப்பிடிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறாய் ஜொலிக்கும் பாப். சிக்காக்கோ நினைக்கிறது நீ எங்கள் வலையில் விழுந்துவிட்டாய். அவர்கள் எங்களுக்கு தந்தி மூலம் தகவல்கள் கொடுத்துள்ளார்கள். உன்னுடன் பேச</p>

have a chat with you. Going quietly, are you? That's sensible. Now, before we go on to the station here's a note I was asked to hand you. You may read it here at the window. It's from Patrolman Wells."

The man from the West unfolded the little piece of paper handed to him. His hand was steady when he began to read, but it trembled a little by the time he had finished. The note was rather short.

"Bob, I was at the appointed place on time. When you struck the match to light your cigar I saw it was the face of the man wanted in Chicago. Somehow I couldn't do it myself, so I went around and got a plain clothes man to do the job.

- JIMMY.

வேண்டுமாம். அமைதியாக செல் அதுதான் அறிவாளிக்கு உகந்தது. இப்போது காவல் நிலையத்திற்கு செல்லுமுன் உன்னிடம் கொடுக்கச் சொல்லி ஒரு கடிதம் கொடுத்துள்ளனர். இதை அந்த சன்னல் பகுதிக்கு சென்று வாசி. இது ரோந்துகாவலன் வெல்ஸ்-ஆல் அனுப்பப்பட்டது.

மேற்கிலிருந்து வந்தவன் அந்த காகித துண்டை பிரித்தான் படிக்க ஆரம்பிக்கும் போது கை நன்றாக இருந்தது. படித்து முடிந்தவுடன் கை நடுங்கியது. அந்த குறிப்பு சிறியதாக இருந்தது.

பாப் நான் குறித்த இடத்திற்கு குறித்த நேரத்தில் வந்தேன். நீ உன் வெண்குழலை பற்றவைத்த ஒளியில் உன் முகத்தைப் பார்த்தேன். அது சிக்காக்கோவால் தேடப்படும் முகம் என்னால் உன்னை சிறைபிடிக்க முடியாது எனவே உன்னை பிடிக்க நான் சென்று வேறொரு மனிதனை அனுப்பினேன்.

- ஜிம்மி

GLOSSARY:

WORDS	MEANINGS	தமிழாக்கம்
avenue	a wide street	பெரிய சாலை
habitual	regular	வழக்கமான
nigh	almost	அநேகமாக
twirling	twisting and spinning around	முறுக்கி விடுதல்
intricate	complicated	சிக்கலான
stalwart	physically strong	பலமுள்ள
swagger	a confident walk	நம்பிக்கையுடன் நடந்து செல்
vicinity	the surrounding area (neighbourhood)	நம்பிக்கையுட்படும்
reassuringly	making someone feel less doubtful	அக்கம் பக்கம்
proposition	theory or system	ஒழுங்கு முறை
plodder	one who toils slowly but steadily	சிரமப்பட்டு செய்யும் வேலை தேகஉழைப்பு
wits	intelligent people	சாமர்த்தியசாலிகள்
groove	a dull routine that does not change	அன்றாட வேலை
razor-edge	a critical situation	இக்கட்டான சூழ்நிலை
dismally	without happiness and cheer	சோகமான
absurdity	quality of being silly and foolish	அபத்தம்
egotism	a feeling of self-importance	தற்புகழ்ச்சி
outline	describe	குறிப்பு
wires	sends a telegraphic message	தந்திச்செய்தி



1. Answer the following questions in a sentence or two each, based on your understanding of the story. Page - 31

a) **Describe the appearance of the policeman on the beat.**

The policeman on the beat moved in the street impressively. He was twisting his club with some complicated movement. He was physically a strong man.

b) **What did he keep doing while on his rounds?**

He was looking at the doors of the shops and turning now and then to watch the traffic carefully.

c) **Why were the streets devoid of people?**

The streets were devoid of people because that it was night and the time was around 10 pm.

d) **What story did the man standing near the hardware store tell the passing cop?**

The man standing near the hardware store told the passing cop that he was waiting for his friend Jimmy Wells. Both of them had made a promise to meet there twenty years back.

e) **What used to be there in the place of that shop twenty years ago?**

A restaurant named Big Joe' Brady's used to be there in the place of the shop twenty years ago.

f) **Describe the man awaiting the arrival of his friend.**

The man awaiting the arrival of his friend had a pale squire-jawed face. He had keen eyes and a little white scar near his right eyebrow. His scarf pin was a large diamond.

g) **Why did the friends part ways?**

The friends parted ways to find their livelihood in their own way. One went the West and the other stayed in New York.

h) **When and how did Bob realise that the tall man was not his friend?**

When they came to a bright electric lamp Bob looked at the other man. The other man's nose was different from his friend's nose. So he realised that the tall man was not his friend.

i) **Who was the tall man?**

The tall man was a policeman in plainclothes who was sent by Wells the patrolman.

j) **What did he give Bob?**

He gave a letter from Wells to Bob.

impressively - அழகாக; twisting - திருகல்; scar - வடு; complicated - சிக்கலான; patrolman - ரோந்து காவலர்.

2. State whether the following statements are true or false. Page - 32

a) The cop suddenly slowed his walk, when he heard the barking of dogs.

Ans: true

b) The friends grew up together in the city of New York,

Ans: true

c) Both Jimmy and Bob were of the same age.

Ans: false

d) The friends parted one night after watching a movie together.

Ans: false

e) The friends could not keep in touch because they lost each other's phone numbers.

Ans: false

f) Bob wanted to stay for half an hour more than the appointed time.

Ans: true

g) Jimmy grew a little taller after he was twenty.

Ans: false

h) Bob realised that the tall man was not Jimmy Wells from the shape of his nose.

Ans: true

3. What does each of the following mean in the story? Choose the right option. Page - 32

a) **on the beat:**

i) moving around hitting every one with a stick

ii) on duty walking around the assigned area

iii) marching with his heart beating fast **Ans: ii) on duty walking around the assigned area**

b) **a guardian of peace:**

i) a watchman

ii) a holy man

iii) a policeman

Ans: iii) a policeman

- c) with arms linked together
- ii) with weapons in hands
- iii) with handcuffs on wrists

Ans: i) with arms linked together

d) plainclothes man:

- i) a man who wears simple clothes for grand occasions
- ii) a policeman in civilian clothes while on duty
- iii) a cine artist in ordinary costumes

Ans: ii) a policeman in civilian clothes while on duty

4. Answer the following questions in three or four sentences each. Page - 32

a) What did Bob share with the cop about their friendship?

Bob said that he and his Jimmy lived together in New York. They were good friends. Twenty years back they had dined in Big Joe' Brady's restaurant. They decided to find their own ways for the livelihood. After the dinner they had taken a promise that they would meet in the place at the same time after twenty years. Bob went to West and Jimmy stayed in New York

b) What are the strengths and weaknesses of Jimmy Wells from Bob's point of view?

Jimmy would not go out of New York. He could not earn as much as Bob. Jimmy was slow in his dealings but a good fellow. He would surely keep his promising of meeting him the particular place though he had taken the promise twenty years back.

c) Was Bob hopeful of his friend's arrival? How do you know?

Bob was hopeful that his friend would come to meet him. He told the policeman that his friend would never forget his promise. He was ready to wait for half an hour more than the appointed time.

d) How did the cop come to understand that Bob had been successful in the West?

Bob had an expensive large diamond scarf pin which an ordinary man could not wear. When Bob took out his watch to see the time the cop noticed that it was a handsome watch with the attachment of small diamonds. Thus he came to understand that Bob had been successful in the West.

e) Bob's life in the West was not a bed of roses. Give reasons.

Bob said that the life in West was not that easy. West had put him into many critical situation. He had to compete with many people to earn his livelihood.

f) Why didn't Jimmy Wells, being a cop himself, arrest Bob?

Jimmy Wells gave a letter to Bob through the plainclothes man. He wrote that when he saw Bob's face he understood he was the wanted criminal in Chicago. But he himself could not arrest him because he was once his best friend.

g) Who do you think has been more successful between the two? Give reasons.

Jimmy Wells has been more successful than Bob. He is now respectable police man though his earning may not be as big as what Bob has. Bob has become a criminal and has earned huge money. But he could not lead a peaceful life.

dined - உணவருந்தினர்; **expensive** - விலையுயர்ந்த; **respectable** - கௌரவமான; **livelihood** - வாழ்வாதாரம்; **ordinary** - சாதாரண; **situation** - நிலைமை; **attachment** - இணைப்பு; **peaceful** - அமைதியான.

TEXTUAL PARAGRAPHS



5. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 150 words each. Page - 32

a) Compare and contrast the character of Jimmy Wells and Bob with suitable references from the story to support your view.

Title : "After Twenty years"

Author : O. Henry

Theme : means should justify the end

Character : Jimmy Wells, Bob, Plainclothes man

www.Padasalai.Net Short story 'After Twenty Years' describes the friendship of two men, Jimmy Wells and Bob. They lived in New York. When Bob was eighteen and Jimmy was twenty they decided to go their own way to find their livelihood. When they parted they decided to meet each other after twenty years. On that day they dined in Big Joe's Brady's restaurant and said they would meet in the same place at the same time. Bob went to the West and Wells stayed in New York. So far they did not have much difference in their characters. But West has changed Bob a lot. He became a criminal and earned a lot. Wells became a respectable policeman. As they planned Bob came to the place at the scheduled time. Wells was also in the same place as the patrolman. Wells identified Bob as the wanted criminal from Chicago but Bob could not identify Wells. In the twenty years Bob became very rich with the ill-gotten money. Wells was not that rich in money but he was rich in character. He respected his friendship with Bob so he did not arrest him. He sent another plainclothes man to arrest him.

decided - முடிவெடுக்கப்பட்ட; **restaurant** - உணவகம்; **stayed** - தங்கியிருந்தார்; **planned** - திட்டமிடப்பட்ட; **identified** - அடையாளம் காணப்பட்ட; **scheduled** - திட்டமிடப்பட்டது; **ill-gotten** - தவறான வழியில் சம்பாதித்த.

b) 'Means should justify the end' Explain the adage with reference to O. Henry's story.

Title : "After Twenty years"
 Author : O. Henry
 Theme : means should justify the end
 Character : Jimmy Wells, Bob, Plainclothes man

'Means should justify the end' means the steps we take to reach the end should be right socially. The steps should justify the end when we reach it. The end may be to become rich but the steps we take to reach our end should justify the end. If we become rich by foul means, the means will not justify the end. O. Henry, in his short story 'After Twenty Years' brings two characters – Jimmy Wells and Bob. Both were good friends. They parted to search for their livelihood. Wells became a respectable policeman but he was not very rich. Bob became very rich but only with ill-gotten money. He was a criminal and wanted by the police. His end might be great but his means would never justify the end. At the end of the story the money he had earned through his criminal activities did not help him. Wells end is not very great but his means as a professional policeman justify his end.

justify - நியாயப்படுத்து; **respectable** - மரியாதைக்குரிய; **criminal** - குற்றவாளி; **ill-gotten** - தவறான வழியில் சம்பாதித்த; **wanted** - விரும்பிய; **earned** - சம்பாதித்தது; **activities** - நடவடிக்கைகள்; **professional** - தொழில்முறை.

c) 'Tell me who your friends are and I shall tell you who you are'. How will you explain this statement in the light of Jimmy's and Bob's friendship?

Title : "After Twenty years"
 Author : O. Henry
 Theme : Means should justify the end
 Character : Jimmy Wells, Bob, Plainclothes man

O. Henry in his short story 'After Twenty Years' introduces two friends – Jimmy Wells and Bob. They were friends for many years. Both of them lived in New York. When Bob was eighteen and Wells was twenty they parted to find their own means to earn money. When they parted, they decided to meet after twenty years in the same place at the same time. Bob went to the West to find his ways but Wells stayed in New York. After twenty years Bob came to the place and he was met by a patrolman. The patrolman was none other than Wells. He realised Bob but he understood that he was the criminal wanted in Chicago. But he did not want to arrest his friend so he sent another policeman in plainclothes to arrest. In the beginning their friendship might prove the statement. But at the end it was totally different.

introduces - அறிமுகப்படுத்துகிறது; **earn money**- பணம் சம்பாதிக்க; **decided** - முடிவெடுத்த; **find** - கண்டுபிடி; **stayed**- தங்கியிருந்தார்; **realised** - உணரப்பட்டது; **patrolman** - ரோந்துக்காரர்; **understood** - புரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டது.

Title : "After Twenty years"
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Character : Jimmy Wells, Bob, Plainclothes man

If my friend is indulging in some wrong activity surely it will shock me. I will not avoid him but I will try to correct him. I can give many reasons for this. To err is human. Most of the time people fall into some wrong activity because of some compelling situation. We have to decide whether we should hate the man or the situation. I will hate the sin rather than sinner. I have the hope that my friend will listen to me if I tell him in the proper way. Moreover my friend is a nice guy and he can change his way of life if he comes to know the consequences of his action.

indulging - ஈடுபடுவது; **activity** - செயல்பாடு; **avoid** - தவிர்க்க; **reasons** - காரணங்கள்; **compelling** - நிர்ப்பந்திக்கப்பட்ட; **situation** - நிலைமை; **rather** - மாறாக; **hope** - நம்பிக்கை; **listen** - கேளுங்கள்; **consequences** - விளைவுகள்.

e) What would you do in this situation, if you were Jimmy Wells? Substantiate your reason.

Title : "After Twenty years"
Author : O. Henry
Theme : Means should justify the end
Character : Jimmy Wells, Bob, Plainclothes man

If I were Jimmy Wells I must have done the same as Wells did. Bob had become a hard core criminal. If he had just started slipping from the right attitude there might have been some possibilities to help him put out of his criminal activities. But in the situation it is very difficult to change him. Moreover as a responsible patrolman I may not have any other choice.

done - முடிந்தது; **hard** - கடினமான; **slipping** - நழுவுதல்; **attitude** - அணுகுமுறை; **might** - வலிமை; **possibilities** - வழிகள்; **situation** - நிலைமை; **difficult** - கடினம்; **responsible** - பொறுப்பு; **patrolman** - ரோந்துக்காரர்.

CENTUM STUDENTS

SYNOPSIS

- ☞ The Patrolman meets Bob
- ☞ Recognition
- ☞ Friendship
- ☞ Life in the west
- ☞ Arrival of tallman
- ☞ Sudden twist
- ☞ Conclusion

Introduction:

William Sydney Porter whose pen name is O. Henry. He is known as a Master of the American short story. This story tells us about two old friends who had made appointment twenty years ago to see each other again in New York city. They had lived very different ways of lives since the day they parted. What happened when they meet will surprise you. Jimmy Wells and Bob are the pivotal characters. Both of them were raised in New York and grew up as two brothers. However when Jimmy was 20 years old and Bob was 18 they separated. Bob ventured to the west to make his fortune but Jimmy opted to stay in New York to do the same. For a couple of years the two friends communicated between themselves but subsequently they lost track of each other.

The story opens with a policeman on night patrol. It is nearly 10'O clock. All is quiet as he walk with his beat. Suddenly a tuff figure standing in a doorway catches his attention. The man who is waiting reassures the officer that he is not looking to cause any trouble. He adds that he is waiting for his friend with he had made an appointment twenty years ago to meet at that spot. Bob and Jimmy were friends. Bob left to try his luck in the west.

Recognition:

The man who is waiting lights a cigar, in the brief flash of illumination, the officer notes that the person before him with a little white scar near his right eyebrow.

Friendship:

Bob tells the law man about his friend Jimmy wells. He had been more like a brother to him when they were younger. Bob assures the policeman that he will keep their appointment at 10'O clock. Jimmy wells was always the truest chap in the world.

Life in the west:

Bob wanted to live a wealthy life. So he left for west to make easy money. He looked respectable with his diamond scarf and an expensive watch. He became a criminal. It takes the west to put a razor edge on him.

Arrival of tall man:

Another man arrives after twenty minutes. Bob believes him to be his friend Jimmy. Bob recognizes some unfamiliar characteristics in his friends name he since taller than he remembered. He accepts his friends reply that he had grown in twenty years until they come across a bright light of a drug store.

Sudden twist:

Bob suddenly realizes that the man who has come is not his friend with the shape of nose. It's too late to escape arrest from the plainclothes man.

Conclusion:

Bob was handed over a note to read. In that note Jimmy wells explained that he was informed the officer who was with Bob at the site. When he saw the face of Bob he recognized he was the one who wanted in Chicago Jimmy was not able to arrest him so he sent another man in plainclothes.

SLOW LEARNERS

Title : "After Twenty years"

Author : O. Henry

Theme : Means should justify the end

Character : Jimmy Wells, Bob, Plainclothes man

- i) "After Twenty Years" tells the story of two friends who made a pact to meet at a specific time and place.
- ii) Bob, a noted criminal from Chicago, arrives on time and speaks to a policeman who happens to be walking by.
- iii) Later, it's revealed that this policeman was Jimmy Wells, Bob's friend.
- iv) Bob and Jimmy were friends when they were younger.
- v) Before Bob left to try his luck in the West, he and Jimmy made a pact to meet again exactly twenty years later.
- vi) At the appointed time, Bob waits outside a hardware store.
- vii) A policeman walks up and asks what he's doing.
- viii) Bob explains, boasting about how well he has done for himself.
- ix) Later, a man claiming to be Bob's friend arrives.
- x) It turns out that this man in a plainclothes police officer sent to arrest Bob, a known criminal from Chicago.
- xi) The original policeman, Jimmy Wells, didn't have the heart to arrest Bob, because Bob was his friend.

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