

POETRY

1. PRAYER

SUMMARY:

The poem "PRAYER" has been composed by G. A. Mehjoor (1 Aug, 1887 to 9 Apr 1952) popular known as Shair-e-Kashmir (The poet of Kashmir). The poem is actually in Kashmiri version translated into English by Prof G. R. Malik. The poem is addressed to God in which the poet himself makes certain wishes before Him. He has an absolute trust and faith in Almighty Allah and implores Him to lead him to the path of truth and righteousness. He appeals Him to dispel his ignorance and pour on him the nectar of knowledge. He requests Him to listen his complaints and urgent emotional requests and enable him to get rid of all the sorrows and sufferings, pain and hardships. He prays to Him to be kind to him and fulfill his all needs, he requests Him to save him from lethargy, weakness and remove his all doubts. He also prays Him to supply his heart with energy, enthusiasm, eagerness and hope.

The poet asks to his Lord not to let him sing sleep inducing songs, but instead those which can fill life even into the dead. He wants to sing such song which inspire people with love and affection and remove bitterness, envy, jealousy, hatred etc, from their hearts. He is hopeful; that the Almighty Allah, who has brought him up like a flower with the earliest spring breeze, will not fate (die him) away by the burning heat of sun. He compares himself with dew that vanishes with the first flash of the sun. He prays Him to awaken with the flowers very early in the morning. In physical appearance, he is a human being, but in reality he is far from being humane, kind-hearted and loving. He prays Him not to put him to further hard tests and not make him feel ashamed for his selfish and inhumane behavior. The poet thinks that people have (behaved) left him and that is why he is called Mehjoor (abandoned, segregated).

He does not bother if people leave him but he prays his Lord not to leave him because he cannot bear any kind of separation from Him.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: Which way the poet implores his Lord to lead him to?

Ans.: The poet implores his Lord to lead him to the way of truth and righteousness. He appeals Him to remove / dispel his ignorance and shower on him the nectar of knowledge.

Q2: Name the blessing that the poet prays for?

Ans.: The poet prays his Lord to lead him to the way of truth and righteousness, pour on him the nectar of knowledge and dispel his ignorance. He prays Him to listen his complaints, urgent and emotional requests and rid him of all sorrows and sufferings, pains and hardships. He prays Him to save him from laziness, weakness, and remove his all doubts. He also prays Him to supply his heart with extra energy, enthusiasm, eagerness and hope. He prays Him not to supply his heart with extra energy, enthusiasm, eagerness and hope. He prays him not to subject him to further hard tests and not make feel ashamed for his selfish and inhumane behavior.

Q3: What is it that the poet wants to sing?

Ans.: The poet wants to sing those songs which fill life even into the dead, inspire people with love and remove bitterness, envy, jealousy, hatred etc from their hearts.

Q4: "Subject me not to trails, shame not my human form". Explain.

Ans.: The poet, G. A. Mehjoor prays his Almighty not to put him to further tests and make him not feel ashamed for his selfish and inhuman behavior. Though he is a human being in outward physical appearance, but in reality he is far from humanity, i.e, not being humane, kind-hearted or loving.

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES:

1. Metaphor: It is an application of a word or a phrase to somebody or something or some action which is not meant literally but only to make a comparison. e. g, His mind is an ocean which here shows the vastness of mind, He is a snake.

OR

It is a figure of speech in which we make direct comparison between two unlike things or objects categorizing them as identical. Here we don't use the words 'like' and 'as' as in case of simile.

2. **Simile:** It is a figure of speech in which we make indirect comparison between two objects usually introduced by the words 'like' and 'as'

e.g She is as beautiful as moon.

He is like a lion.

Q: Identify the similes and the metaphors in the poem "Prayer".

Ans.: Similes:

- i. Like dew, how long shall I wait for the first flash of the sun?
- ii. Awaken me (like) with the flowers in the first stroke of the dawn.

Metaphors:

- i. The way of truth.
- ii. Dwell in ignorance.
- iii. Nectar of knowledge.

GLOSSARY:

- ➔ **Dwell** : To live in a place or in a particular way.
- ➔ **Wailing** : To cry because of pain or sadness.
- ➔ **Pleas** : Urgent and emotional requests.
- ➔ **Sloth** : Unwillingness to work or make an effort.
- ➔ **Infirmity** : Weakness
- ➔ **Surcharge** : To supply with extra amount (or energy, etc)
- ➔ **Zest** : Enthusiasm, eagerness.
- ➔ **Chant** : To sing a religious prayer or song to a simple tune.
- ➔ **Infuse** : To fill someone or something with an emotion or quality.
- ➔ **Vernal** : Relating to happening in the spring.
- ➔ **Wither** : Fade away.
- ➔ **Trails** : Tough tests.
- ➔ **Desert** : Abandon.
- ➔ **Forsake** : To leave someone forever, especially when they need you.

2. MIRACLES

SUMMARY:

'Miracles' is a poem about miracles (Marvelous acts) composed by an American poet, essayist, journalist and humanist, Walter Whitman (May 31, 1819 to March 26, 1992) in which the poet presents us altogether a different point of view of miracles. In this poem, the poet is surprised why people get excited or greatly admire when they hear of a miracle or happen to see it. It is he (poet) who draws his miracles from everyday life and says that miracles do not happened rarely and unexpectedly. To him walking in the streets of Manhattan (American populous city), looking at the sky high or multi-storyed building, walking through water along the sea shore with naked feet are all miracles. He says some miracles are from nature and other are connected with people and city-life. For him, standing under trees in the forest, talking to anyone whom he loves, sitting for dinner with one's family and looking at the people travelling opposite to him in the subway car are all miracles.

Here the poet moves towards to the other way of miracles. He says watching honeybees that are busy, (humming) around the hive, animals feeding in the fields, charming sight of the sunset, shining of the stars so quietly and brightly and splendorous (wonderful) sight of the new moon in spring are all miracles for him.

The poet says all things which are mentioned and the rest are all miracles for him. Though they are closely connected with one another but at the same time each is different, separate and has its own individuality. Each moment of day and night, every cubic inch of space every square yard of surface of each and every foot of the interior layer of the earth are all miracles for him. To him sea is continual miracle as the fishes that swim the rocks, the motion of waves the ships with men in them are all connected with it (sea) and at the same time are all miracles at their respective places.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: The usual view of miracles is that it seldom happens. What does Walt Whitman think about the miracles?

Ans.: As far as Walter Whitman's point of view of miracles is concerned, he says that miracles do not happen rarely or unexpectedly as he draws his miracles from everyday life. According to him, miracles are everywhere there to enjoy. He says some miracles are from nature and others are connected with the people and city life. The creation and activities of honeybees, animals, fishes, waves, rocks, the sun and the moon are all miracles for him.

Q2: When you read the poem you notice that some miracles are from nature: others are connected with people and city life. Make list of these. Notice how Whitman moves from one to another.

Ans.: **MIRACLES CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE AND CITY LIFE ARE AS:-**

- (a) Walking the city of Manhattan (American populous city).
- (b) Looking at the sky high buildings or multi-storeyed house.
- (c) Wading along the sea-shore with naked feet.
- (d) Standing under trees in the forests.
- (e) Talking to anyone whom he loves.
- (f) Sitting at table for dinner with one's family.
- (g) Looking at the strangers travelling opposite to him in the subway cars.

MIRACLES CONNECTED WITH NATURE ARE AS:

- (a) Watching honeybees busy around the hive.
- (b) Animals feeding the fields.
- (c) The wonderful sight of the sunset.
- (d) Shining of stars so quiet and bright.
- (e) The splendid sight of the new moon in spring.
- (f) Every hour of the day and night.
- (g) Every cubic inch of space.

- (h) Every square yard of the surface of the earth.
- (i) Every foot of the interior layers of the earth.
- (j) The fishes that swim in the sea.

Walt Whitman moves from one to another in a stylish manner which is his own style. Though the poem is well explicit, but it has been written in a free verse.

Q3: What do the lines about the Manhattan and the subway car tell us about Whitman's feeling for people?

Ans.: The lines about Manhattan and the subway car tell us about Whitman's feeling for people that he is surprised to see the attitude of people about miracles who get excited and greatly admire them. To him, there is no difference whether the miracle is connected with the people and the city-life, nature or with rural (village) life. He says that miracles are everywhere to enjoy and there is no need to admire them.

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES:

Q1: What are the images used by the poet?

Ans.: Images are the pictures produced in the mind by the use of typical words. Walt Whitman has used different and clear images in his poem 'Miracles' which are as:

- (a) Sky high buildings or multi-storeyed buildings.
- (b) Wading along the sea shore with naked feet.
- (c) Standing under trees in the forests.
- (d) To sit for dinner at the table.
- (e) To look at strangers travelling opposite to him in the subway cars.
- (f) To watch honeybees busy around their hive.
- (g) Animals feeding in the fields.
- (h) Stars shining so quiet and bright.
- (i) The exquisite (splendid) thin curve of the new moon.

(j) The ships with men in them sailing in the sea.

Q2: Is there any rhyme scheme in the poem?

Ans.: No, there is no rhyme scheme in the poem 'Miracles'. It has been written by Walt Whitman in free verse.

GLOSSARY:

- ➔ **Makes much of** : greatly admires, gets excited about.
- ➔ **Ask to me** : A way of saying, 'if you ask me'.
- ➔ **Miracle** : An action or event that is impossible according to the ordinary laws of nature, believed to be done by God or any supernatural force.
- ➔ **The streets of Manhattan** : Manhattan Island is one of the busiest and most crowded parts of the New York City.
- ➔ **Dart** : Sudden quick movement.
- ➔ **Wade** : To walk through water.
- ➔ **The whole referring, Yet each distinct** : All these things are closely connected with one another, but at the same time, each is separate
- ➔ **Interior** : The interior the earth.

3. WHEN YOU ARE OLD

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT:

SUMMARY:

The poem 'When you Are Old' has been written by an Anglo-Irish poet and dramatist William Butler Yeats (13 June, 1865 – 28 January 1939). The poem has actually been taken from 'The Rose' addressed to Maud Gonne, the poet's beloved, who was an Irish patriotic lady but she never responded to Yeats love. In this poem, the poet addresses to Maud Gonne that one day she will become old. Her hair will turn grey. She will feel sleepy and will be approaching death. She will lose soft look of her eyes and will spend most of her time by the fire side. She should then take his (Yeats) book of poems and read it keenly. It will remind her of the days when she was young, beautiful and strong. Her eyes were soft, graceful, etc. There were so many men who used to love her youthful charms and the external beauty. Some loved her beauty with true sentiment while as others with false passion. But there is only one man; i.e, the poet himself among her lovers who loves her soul (heart). He loves her from the core of his heart and his love is constant and undying, he loves her at every stage of life, even when sorrow and grief dawns upon her face. Those who loved her youthful charms and the external beauty would have disappeared with the passage of time. There will be only the poet, W. B. Yeats whose love will never fade away because his love is not based upon physical charms but spiritually. She will then realize the worth of poet's love for her but unfortunately, he would have departed from this mortal world.

QUESTIONS:-

Q1: How is the journey from youth to old age described in the poem?

Ans.: The journey from youth to old age described in the poem is full of ups and downs. Youth is a time of joy, love, strength, etc. Life seems to be sweet and charming. We have all around admirers and lovers but with the

passage of time, they all disappear (vanish). When we enter the old age, we lose strength, our hair turns grey and we lose soft look of our eyes. We feel sleepy and the life seems to be listless (without emotions and sentiments). There are wrinkles everywhere on our face and we lose charm in every respect.

Q2: What does the phrase 'full of sleep' mean?

Ans.: The phrase 'full of sleep' means approaching death which actually means laziness and weakness that comes naturally in human beings with the passage of time.

Q3: How is the poet's love different from others?

Ans.: The poet's love is different from those who also loved his beloved in a way that his love is not based on Maud Gonne's youthful charms and external beauty but his love for her is based on spirituality. His love is far reaching and loves her soul (heart) from the core of his heart while as others loved her youthful charms and the beauty of her face. They all disappear with the passage of time and only the poet's love is proved true and constant (unchanged).

Q4: What is Maud Gonne reminded of in the poem?

Ans.: In the poem Maud Gonne who is the poet's beloved is reminded of the day when she will become old, her hair will turn grey. She will lose soft look of her eyes and will feel sleepy. Those who loved her youthful charms and the external beauty would have all gone. The poet's book of poems will then remind her worth (Value) of his true love for her in her old age whose love is constant and undying.

Q5: 'But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you'. Explain.

Ans.: 'But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you' which / that comes in the second quatrain William Butler's poem, 'When You Are Old' has a last and deep meaning in the light of true lovers. When the poet's beloved, Maud Gonne, was in her prime youth, she was having so many lovers among whom the poet was one. All except the poet loved her physical charms and the

external beauty that with the passage of time disappeared because their love was not constant and undying. But it is the poet's love for Maud Gonne which is based on spirituality. He loves her pure soul (heart) from the bottom of his heart and his love is unchanging and undying. He not only loves her youthful charms but her every stage of life even when sorrow and grief's downs upon her face.

Q6: Write a short paragraph of 150 – 200 words on the emotions in the poem.

Ans.: Willam Butler Yeats, the composer the poem, 'When You Are Old' believes in spiritual love rather than physical. It is a love lyric in which Yeats expresses his emotions intensely regarding his unrequited love. The poem is addressed to Maud Gonne, the poet's beloved who was an Irish patriotic lady, but never responded to Yeats' love. He was madly in love with her and leaves no stone unturned to convince his beloved that he loves her from the core of his heart but of no use.

The poet becomes emotional and says to his beloved that one day she will lose her external beauty and those who used to admire and love her when she was in her prime youth, would have all gone with the passage of time because their love would not be constant and undying. It will be then only Yeats' love that will prove unchanging and undying as his love for Maud Gonne is based on spirituality. He loves her at every stage of life even when she is in grief or sorrow. She will then realize the worth of Yeats' true, evergreen love for her and will be able to differentiate between a true and a false love / lover.

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES:

Q1: What are the images used by the poet?

Ans.: Images are the pictures produced in the mind by the use of typical words. William Butler Yeats has used so many images in his poem 'When You

Are Old'. Which are as:-

- a. Nodding by the fire.
- b. Dram of the soft look
- c. Deep shadows of the eys.
- d. Movements of glad grace.
- e. The pilgrim soul.
- f. The glowing bars.
- g. Crowd of stars.
- h. Sorrow of the changing face.

Q2: What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

Ans.: A four-line verse/ stanza, rhymed or unrhymed is called a quatrain. The poem, "When You Are Old' has three quatrains. Its rhyme scheme is: abba, cdde effe.

Which means that the first line of every quatrain rhymes with its fourth line and the second line of every quatrain rhymes with its third line?

GLOSSARY:

- ➔ **full of sleep** : Approach death
- ➔ **nodding by the fire** : Sitting by the fire side
- ➔ **and slowly read** : The poem of Yeats
- ➔ **moments of glad grace** : the time of youth when poet's beloved was very beautiful.
- ➔ **pilgrim soul** : pure heart / soul of Maud Gonne.
- ➔ **glowing bars** : a fire lace
- ➔ **murmur** : speak softly

4. SPEAK UP

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT:

SUMMARY:

‘Speak Up’ is a beautiful expression of Faiz Ahmad Faiz (Feb. 13, 1911 – Nov. 20, 1984) to defy British oppression. The poem was written before 1941 during the last phase of the British rule and is evocative of that era (period). It is a poem of profound meaning and courage that intends to give voice to the voiceless. In this poem, the poet instigates (provokes / incites) and encourages his countrymen, who are the victims of injustice, oppression, brutality, the unfair and unjust authority to speak up bravely, courageously, clearly, fearlessly and raise the voice against the Britishers because God has bestowed them their lips which are not locked. They have got upright (honest) bodies and their soul is still within their framework of skeleton. So they must speak whatever they have to say.

The poet wants his countrymen to have look at smithy where ones sees red oven in which fierce (dreadful) flames are produced. The padlocks and chains are formed for those who raise voice against oppression and brutality and rebel openly against the unjust system of British rule. But this sight would not demoralize the self-confidence of those who are always against cruelty. One will be able to break the claims only when he has got courage and confidence to break them and refuse to life in them. He addresses the reader to speak up now, for time is running out and he has to take full advantage of it. Before he meets his death and his body goes into permanent sleep and the alertness of his mind fades away, he should come up with the truth because the truth is ageless and it never dies. He should strike the iron while it is hot; i.e, he should make the right use of his golden opportunity and speak up freely without any hesitation whatever he has to say.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: The poet provokes the reader to speak up. Why does he do so?

Ans.: The Indians had been under British rule for a long time. Though they wanted to be free from oppression and brutality and wanted to get rid of unfair and unjust system of British rule, they had got no courage, confidence and determination to speak up against them (British). Every action has its proper time and the poet, Faiz Ahmad Faiz instigates / provokes the reader to have courage and confidence and speak whatever he has to say against the cruelty and revolt against it because the time is running out and God has bestowed him his lips and tongue to speak up.

Q2: The poet addresses the reader to come up with the truth, how does he do so?

Ans.: The poet addresses the reader to come up with the truth and he (Poet) does so by saying that though the truth is bitter, it never dies as it is ageless. Since the time is running out so one has to take full advantage of it and speak up whatever he has to say and prove that the truth is always victorious (prevails) over falsehood.

Q3: How will the chains prevails break?

Ans.: The chains will break when we have courage to speak up whatever we have to say. They (chains) will break when we refuse to live in them. They will break when we come up with the truth and raise voice against the oppression and brutality and revolt against the unfair and unjust system of rule as the truth is evergreen and it never dies.

Q4: Why does the poet urge the reader to speak up now?

Ans.: The poet urges the reader to speak up now as every action has its proper time. He think that it is the right time to speak up and raise the vice against the cruel system of British rule because time is running out and one has to take full advantage of it.

Q5: Do you think 'Speak up' is an effort of the poet to give voice to voiceless?

Ans.: Yes, we do think 'Speak up' is an effort of the poet to give voice to the voiceless. It is a beautiful expression Faiz Ahmad Faiz to defy British oppression. It is really a poem of profound meaning and courage that intends to give voice to those who are the victims of cruelty, brutality. Though they want to get rid of unfair and unjust system of rule; they have no confidence and courage to speak up whatever they think. The poet provokes / instigates his countrymen to speak up bravely, clearly, freely and fearlessly and raise the voice against the Britishers as God has bestowed them their lips which are not locked. They are having the upright bodies and their soul is still within their framework of skeleton. So they must speak now on behalf of those too who are also the victims of oppression and brutality like them because time is running out and it waits for none.

LEARNING LITERACY DEVICES:

1. **Metaphor:** It is an application of a word or a phrase to somebody or something or some action which is not meant literally by only to make a comparison. e.g, His mind is an ocean which here shows the vastness of mind, he is a snake.

OR

It is figure of speech in which we make indirect comparison between two unlike things of objects categorizing them as identical. Here we don't use the words 'like' and 'as' as in case of simile.

2. **Similie:** It is a figure of speech in which we make direct comparison between two objects usually introduced by the words 'like' and 'as' e.g She is like a lion. She is as beautiful as moon.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: What are the metaphors used in the poem?

Ans.: Metaphors used in the poem, 'Speak Up' by Faiz Ahmad Faiz are as:

- (a) Lips are not sealed.
- (b) Upright body.

- (c) The padlocks are already opening their mouth.
- (d) Each fetter is skirting.
- (e) Time is running out.
- (f) Truth is not yet dead.

Q2: What images does the poet draw from blacksmith's shop?

Ans.: Following are the images drawn by the poet from the blacksmith's shop:

- (a) Red oven
- (b) Fierce flames.
- (c) Padlocks
- (d) Fetter.

GLOSSARY:

- ➔ **sealed** : locked, closed
- ➔ **upright** : straight, honest
- ➔ **smithy** : a place where things are made out of metal, especially iron or steel, by heating and hammering.
- ➔ **padlock** : a small metal lock with a V-shaped bar.
- ➔ **fetter** : a chain or shackle for feet.
- ➔ **skirting** : avoidance, dodging , escaping.

5. SNOWDROP

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT:

SUMMARY:

The poem, 'Snowdrop' by Ted Huges is a short master piece in which the poet creates an atmosphere of a hard winter and uses images from nature to portray the toughness and brutality that a severe winter brings. In this poem, he depicts a better aspect of nature. He describes briefly the way winter has reduced the horizon of many creatures. He feels the whole earth has shrunk due to the terribly freezing cold. The poet looks at a mouse and watches its miserable condition. He sees that severe winter has reduced the functioning of mouse's heart. Many outdoor creatures have died. The movements of Weasels and Crows have also been restricted due to the coldness of winter. They look as if moulded in brass which means that they have frozen with severe winter and are nearly immovable. If they make any movements, they are all in darkness because it seems dark even during the day. They are not in their right mind due to the freezing cold. They can't think what to do or where to find any shelter as they see other creatures dying all around them because of bitter cold.

Ted Hughes then surprises the reader by what he says about a beautiful white flower but delicate plant. She comes out her plan as she wishes. Nature has bestowed her the surprising ability to bear flowers in such severe cold. She shows extraordinary power of survival and despite the delicateness of its flowers, she can withstand winter. In spite of such cold, she keeps pursuing her ends (goals). But her pale head seems brutal as the stars of this season don't have any charm; so produce no emotions on observer's heart. Similarly, the snowdrop too fails to produce emotions on the same heart. Her pale head seems to be heavily, like a tough metal to shoot up through the frozen ground. Moreover, she hangs on one side

because of severe cold but she is more successful as compared to other creatures because she wins her battle against the harsh winter.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: How has nature shrunk the globe?

Ans.: Nature has shrunk the globe tightly with its bitter cold. It has stopped the activities of many creatures and has restricted their mobility.

Many outdoor creatures have died. Most of the creatures are not in a position what to do or where to find any shelter as they live in a constant fear of death.

Q2: What has dulled the mouse's heart?

Ans.: Severe winter has dulled the mouse's heart which means that the bitter winter has reduced the functioning of mouse's heart. All its alertness and sportive activities have come to an end.

Q3: What suffering do the animals undergo in winter as portrayed in the poem?

Ans.: In the poem, the animals undergo many sufferings. Almost all animals feel dull in the severe winter. It has reduced the functioning of mouse's heart. Many outdoor animals have died and some are at the jaws of (death) extinction. The movements of Weasels and crows have been restricted due to the coldness of winter. It seems that they are frozen with the cold and nearly immobile. They are not in a position to find any place of shelter. They see deaths all around them and they too remain in a constant fear of death.

Q4: Write a short note of 50 – 100 words on Hughes' view of nature.

Ans.: Although Ted Hughes is also a poet of nature like William Wordsworth, he writes in the poem 'Snowdrop' about the wild aspect of nature. He presents nature as very cruel, tough and heartless. He is of the opinion that nature has two aspects. It not only creates thing, but, with the passage of time, destroys them. It often adopts a cruel attitude to perish things before their expiry. He uses images from nature to portray

the tough and brutal feeling that a severe winter brings. It remains indifferent to the sufferings of helpless little creatures. It restricts the movements of all creatures and dulls their heart but, on the other hand, poet surprises the reader by giving an example of Snowdrop. He checks out the qualities of frail looking delicate tender plant and reaches a surprising conclusion about her strength that pushes its stem up even through the thick layers of snow. Hence, she is able to bear flowers even in the intense cold.

Q5: 'Her pale head heavy as metal' Explain.

Ans.: 'Her pale head heavy as metal' means that snowdrop has a very light blossom; i.e, pale head. But she seems to have shot up through the frozen ground due to weight, she hangs one side, but as a matter of fact, this heaviness and hardness of her head is the secret of her strength.

Moreover, the snowdrop is successful as compared to other creatures as she wins her battle against the harsh winter.

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES:

QUESTIONS:

Q1: Weasel & Crow as if moulded in brass. Explain the simile.

Ans.: The simile, 'Weasel and Crow as if moulded in brass' used by the poet in his poem, 'Snowdrop' means that the movements of Weasels and Crows have been restricted due to the coldness of winter. They look as if they are moulded in brass. It also means, in other words, that they have frozen with the severe cold and are nearly immobile.

GLOSSARY:

- ➔ **Ted Hughes** : The author of this poem
- ➔ **Globe** : Snowdrop is metaphorically called globe because of its round shape.

- **Dulled winter heart** : Severe winter has reduced the functioning of mouse's heart.
- **Weasel** : A small mammal with reddish brown fur and a long body, which can kill other small animals such as mice and birds for food.
- **Moulded in brass** : Frozen stillness of creatures compared to brass. It depicts their immobility.
- **She too pursues Her end** : Nature knows how to achieve her goals
- **Other deaths** : Severe winter cold which is the cause of death.

LITERARY DEVICES:

A. Assonance: It is the similarity in the sound between two syllables that are close together, created either by the same consonants but different vowels (e.g, hit and heart) or by the same vowels but different consonants (e.g, back and hat)

Q: Trace two lines in which 'ou' sound is used. Also write down the words with 'ou' sound.

Ans: A. The two lines are:-

- a. Round the mouse's dulled wintering heart, 'ou' words: Round, mouse.
- b. Move through an outer darkness 'ou' words: through, outer.

B. Alliterations: It is used especially in poetry of the same sounds, especially consonants, at the beginning of several words that are close together. e.g, she sells sea shells on the seashore.

Q: Pick out two example of alliteration from the poem?

Ans: The two examples are:

- a. Her pale head heavy as metal.
- b. Move through an outer darkness.

6. MY MOTHER AT SIXTY-SIX

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT:

QUESTIONS:

Q1: How does the poet describe her mother in the poem?

Ans.: While driving to the airport to Cochin, the poet looks at her mother who is sitting beside her. She describes her (mother) as entering the grips of old age. Her face has turned pale like the pale face of a dead body. She finds her mother dozing, open mouthed and realizes that her mother is not going to live long.

Q2: Why does the poet look outside? What activities does the poet see outside the car window?

Ans.: The poet looks outside the car window in order to drive out the negative feelings about her aged mother as her mind is filled by the painful thoughts of her mother.

Outside the car window, the poet sees young trees running fast the speedy car. She also sees little children coming happily out of their homes.

Q3: Why are the young trees in the poem described as sprinting?

Ans.: The young trees in the poem have been described as sprinting because they seem to be running fast the speedy car. But as a matter of fact, it is only the car which is running and not the trees that are actually stationary.

Q4: Why is the mother compared to the late winter's moon?

Ans.: Since, winter is the last phase of a year. Similarly, old age is also the last phase of one's life. In old age, a man grows pale as moon in the late winter looks dull and is mostly covered with clouds which indicate that old age is the time of inactivity and the sign of one's approaching death.

Q5: What childhood fear do you think the poet is referring to in the poem, 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'?

Ans.: In the poem, 'My Mother at Sixty-Six', the poet is referring to childhood fears that adhere to its loss and separation from its mother. A child always

fears that it may have its mother and does not want to lose its mother even for a single moment. It is very difficult for a child to imagine life without mother so, one thing is clear here that a mother keeps a lot of importance for a child particularly in his childhood.

Q6: What does Kamala Das do after the security check? What does she notice?

Ans.: After the Security check up, Kamala Das looks again at her mother who is standing a few yards away.

The poet notices that her mother's face has turned pale and weak (worn out) indicating that her mother's days are numbered which gives her pain. But she manages to cheer up her mother by saying her smiling, 'See you soon, Amma'.

Q7: 'But all I said was, see you soon Amma; all I did was smile and smile and smile;

(a) What does the poet actually feel at this moment?

Ans.: At this moment, the poet actually feels painful, dejected and heartbroken because of other mother's old age and her approaching death. She fears that she would never see her mother again.

(b) Why did the poet say 'see you soon Amma'? What does the poet actually mean by 'smile and smile and smile...'? What kind of smile is it?

Ans.: The poet said, 'see you soon Amma' because though she was aware of her mother's old age and her approaching death, but she was still hopeful of seeing her soon. By 'smile and smile and smile...' the poet actually means that she should smile continuously so that her mother might not grasp her daughter's sorrow. She smiles only to reassure her mother.

Q8: Driving from my home to Cochin last ... and thought away;

(a) Where was the poet driving to? Who was sitting beside her?

Ans.: The poet was driving to the airport to Cochin.

Her mother was sitting beside her.

(b) What did the poet notice about the mother?

Ans.: The poet noticed that her mother was entering the grips of old age as she was dozing and open mouthed. She looked as pale as that of a dead body which was the sign of her approaching death.

(c) Why did the mother's face look like that of a corpse?

Ans.: The mother's face looked like that of corpse because her face had turned pale due to her old age.

Q9: Discuss mother-daughter relationship as described in the poem?

Ans.: Relationship is the nucleus of the poem, 'My Mother at Sixty-Six' and it is love that creates an unfading and undying relationship between two people. The relationship between mother and a daughter described in the poem is not any kind of different relationship but it seems to be formal. Although the daughter is filled with agony and is disappointed by / with the thought of her mother, even on seeing her mother's face which is just like the pale of a dead body, she tries to drive out the negative feelings from her mind by looking outside the car window hiding her pain in her heart. At the airport, she does not embrace her mother, but she simply bids adieu (goodbye) to her mother with a fake smile and is hopeful to see her soon. Her smile is just to reassure her mother that there is nothing to worry though she knows that fate of her mother is too evident.

Q10: 'My Mother at Sixty-Six' is an emotional account of poet towards the numbered days of her mother, Discuss.

Ans.: The poem, 'My Mother at Sixty-Six' and emotional account of the poet towards the numbered days of her mother, conveys us that every body's fate is evident right after getting his/her birth. The poet say that once a person enters the old age, one can say he / she is approaching death. In this poem, the poet, Kamala Das is on her way to the Cochin airport with her mother sitting beside her in the car. When she looks at her mother, she observes that her face has turned pale like that of dead boy which makes her realize about the numbered days of her mother. The daughter

is deeply disturbed and painful with the thought of imaging life without her mother. She feels uneasy but hiding her pain in her heart, she bids goodbye to her mother with a showy smile and is hopeful to see her again.

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES:

QUESTIONS:

A. The poet compares her mother to many things. Pick out two similes which reinforce this comparison?

Ans.: The two similes which reinforce the comparison of poet's mother to something are as:-

- i. Her face ashen like that of a corpse.
- ii. Wan, pale as a late winter's moon.

B. What images does the poet use to describe death in the poem?

The image used by the poet to describe her mother's death is:

'Her face ashen like that of a corpse'.

C. Cite an example of one device of contrast that the poet uses in the poem?

Ans.: An example of device of a contrast used in the poem is:

Young trees sprinting 'or'

Merry children spilling out of their home.

D. Smile and smile and smile ... is a poetic device. What is it called?

Ans.: It is called alliteration which means the repetition of the initial letter usually a consonant or first sound of two or more neighbouring words or syllables in a line of poetry.

GLOSSARY:

- **Dose** : sleep lightly
- **Ashen** : pale
- **corpse** : dead nobody
- **Sprinting** : running
- **wan** : colourless
- **spilling** : to (cause to) flow, move, fall

7. EVENING WET WITH RAIN

SUMMARY

The poem, 'An Evening wet with Rain' composed by an eminent Dogri writer, Ved Pal Deep (1929 – 1995), is a Dogri poem translated into English by Shiv Nath. The poem expresses the poet's sadness hopelessness and depression when he walks through a lane in an evening wet with rain. There is perfect silence all around and everything is wet with rain. The evening is giving way to night and almost all activities have come to a halt. He has lost all hope in the evening of his life which means that he has reached the last stage of his life and it has filled his old age with darkness. So, he is not in a position to decide whether he should stop walking or keep going in the rain. The rain water is seeping through his shoes which have turned his feet cold and he feels feverish. The ground is slippery and there is no place to stand. His mind is exhausted and his heart is dejected. So, he looks for some sport to rest.

In this poem, he is reminded of his childhood memories. He remembers the days when he used to stand alone in the courtyard, listening to the sweet and pleasant sound of cymbals brought by the cool breeze. His heart would then be filled with joy as it was the time when life was full of joy and hope and free from burden and responsibilities. But he regrets that the days gone by do not return. He feels sad and dejected on remembering those days and is disappointed. He finds no way to call the times back which are past and gone. So the clouds of despair and hopelessness have gathered in his mind. Although there is a light of electric bulbs in some house indicating some ongoing activities in them, but the poet is going about in vain in the silent streets. He doesn't know where his destination is and he is in no hurry to reach there. He simply seeks some temporary shelter but not permanent because he knows that he is at the edge of death.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: What are the memories that the poet talks about in the poem?

Ans.: In the poem, the poet, Ved Pal Deep talks about his childhood memories. He

remembers the days when he used to stand alone in his courtyard, listening to the sweet sound of cool breezes. Those were the days when the life was full of joy and hope. The waves of air used to bring so sweet and melodious sound that it seemed to him, the sound of cymbals, very pleasant to listen to and his heart would then be filled with joy.

Q2: What kind of atmosphere is created in the poem?

Ans.: In the poem, serious and sad atmosphere has been created with the dark wet evening that portrays sadness, hopelessness and depression of the poet because he has reached the last stage of his life. He doesn't know where to stand and what to do as he is quite unaware of his destination. So, he is wondering through the desolate lane in the evening wet with rain.

Q3: What makes the poet tired?

Ans.: The whole atmosphere created in the poem makes the poet tired as he is in the evening of his life and no hope is left for him. The sleepless nights have made his eyes heavy and his body is feverish. His mind is exhausted and his heart is painful. The ground is slippery. There is no place for him to stand and he is looking for some sport to rest.

Q4: What has darkened the evening of poet's life?

Ans.: It is the loss of hope that has darkened the evening of poet's life. It has rightly been said that hope is the sustenance of life. When there is no hope left in one's life, life becomes dull and full darkness and one's desire to live nearly halts (stops). The clouds of despair, sadness, depression and hopelessness have gathered in his mind.

Q5: Discuss the poet's regret in the poem?

Ans.: In the poem, the poet remembers the days of his childhood. It was the time when life was full joy and hope and free from burdens and responsibilities but in contrast, the poet has reached the last stage of his life and he regrets that the past day of his childhood do not return. He finds no way to call back times that are past and gone. There is no hope and joy left for him so he feels dejected and is disappointed. It is his

mental weariness and physical exhaustion which make him look for some spot to rest.

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES:

QUESTIONS:

Q1: Comment on the imagery used by the poet in the poem?

Ans.: The poet, Ved Pal Deep known as the greatest pictorial artist, has used pictorial imagery in his poem. 'An evening wet with rain'. He creates a clear picture of sights and sounds of an evening wet with rain. The whole atmosphere created in the poem portrays his sadness, hopelessness and depression. He has used the word pictures and the sound pictures as well e.g, windows, doors, awnings of the house are wet.

The ground is very slippery.

Stirring of the leaves of banyan tree.

The sound of cymbals.

GLOSSARY:

- ➔ **Waft** : to (cause to) move gently through air.
- ➔ **beckons** : summons, calls
- ➔ **Subtle** : not loud, noticeable in any way
- ➔ **awnings** : canvas stretched in a frame as a shelter
- ➔ **yonder** : over there; at some distance in that direction
- ➔ **reigns** : rule
- ➔ **seeping** : percolate, ooze out
- ➔ **cymbals** : a flat round musical instrument made of brass, which makes a loud noise when hit with a stick or against another cymbal!

8. THE TALE OF CUSTARD THE DRAGON

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

SUMMARY:

The poem, 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon', is a ballad but ridiculous verse too composed by an American poet, Fredric Ogden Nash (August 19, 1902 to May 1, 1971). In this poem, the poet wants to tell us that those people who are looked down upon by others for being lazy and coward and claim of no bravery, sometimes turn out to be brave and courageous when the occasion demands it. There lives a girl Belinda in a little white house who has four little pets – a black kitten (Ink), a grey mouse (Blink), a yellow dog (Mustard) and a dragon (Custard). All except the Custard praise their bravery and claim to be brave and courageous. The Custard has big sharp teeth. There are scales beneath (under) its body but the top has spikes. His mouth is like a fire place and nose like a chimney. Though he appears to be ferocious, yet he always prays for a nice safe cage.

It is thought that Belinda tickles the Custard unmercifully while Ink, Blink and Mustard make fun of him and call him coward. He is neglected while the others are given proper care. One day a pirate breaks into Belinda's house with a pistol in his each hand and sharp little sword in his mouth. The pirate is having a black beard with ferocious look and has not come with a good intention. Ink, Blink and Mustard run away in fear and hide themselves. But it is the Custard who faces the pirate bravely and courageously and kills him.

Finding herself free from the danger, Belinda embraces him and the other three begin to dance in joy around him. Then Ink, Blink and Mustard start claiming that they would have proved twice or thrice braver than the Custard if they weren't confused and were given an opportunity. Very soon they start again claiming of their bravery in their usual way while the Custard again prays for a safe cage. It is a lesson for us from the poem that instead of boasting, one should do something worth valuable like a heroic deed.

QUESTIONS:

Q1: Who are the characters in this poem? List them with their pet names?

Ans.: A part from Belinda, a girl, there are four other characters which are Belinda's little pets listed below along with their pet names:

- (a) A black kitten - Ink
- (b) A grey mouse - Blink
- (c) A yellow dog - Mustard
- (d) A dragon - Custard

Q2: Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage?

Ans.: Custard cried for a nice safe cage though it was very powerful and ferocious because it was thought to be a coward and fearful dragon.

Q3: Why is the dragon called cowardly dragon?

Ans.: The dragon is called the cowardly dragon though it was very powerful and ferocious because it behaves cowardly and in a childish manner and always cries for a nice safe cage for its safety and protection.

Q4: "Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful..." Why?

Ans.: Belinda tickled the dragon unmercifully because she thought him to be coward and lazy. She made fun of him in order to get enjoyment as Belinda too was thought to be a fun loving girl.

Q5: Do you find, "The Tale of Custard The Dragon" a serious or funny poem give reason.

Ans.: The poem 'The Tale of custard the Dragon' is undoubtedly a funny poem and its purpose here is only to create humour and amuse the reader. It is the behavior of Belinda's little pets that makes the poem funny and humourous.

GLOSSARY:

- ➔ **Wagon** : A vehicle with four wheels, pulled by horses or oxen.
- ➔ **Realio** : Rhyming words
- Trirlio**

- ➔ **Dagger** : A short pointed knife which is sharp on both sides
- ➔ **Tickle** : to touch lightly so as to cause uneasiness or laughter
- ➔ **Percival** : In Romantic tradition, a character who is supremely innocent, brave and succeeds in getting the Holy Grail.
- ➔ **Winda** : window or verandah
- ➔ **Yelp** : to make a sudden short high sound when in pain.
- ➔ **Trickle** : to move or go slowly
- ➔ **Snorting** : a loud sound made by forcing air through the nose when sleeping.
- ➔ **Clatter** : to make continuous loud noises by hitting hard objects together.
- ➔ **Clank** : to make a short loud sound like that of metal objects hitting each other.
- ➔ **Tangling** : The noise of metal hitting metal
- ➔ **Squirm** : To move from side to side in an awkward way because of nervousness, embarrassment or pain.
- ➔ **Pirate** : a person who sails in a ship and attacks other ships in order to steal from them
- ➔ **Gulp** : eat or drink quickly by swallowing.
- ➔ **Grog** : strong alcohol
- ➔ **Flagon** : a container especially for alcoholic drink.
- ➔ **Gobble** : to eat food too fast.
- ➔ **Gyrate** : to turn around and around on a fixed point.
- ➔ **Fluster** : upset and confused

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES

Q1: What is the rhyme scheme in the poem?

Ans.: The rhyme scheme of the poem is “aa” ‘bb” which means the first line of each quatrain / stanza rhymes with its second line, the third line of each quatrain stanza rhymes with its fourth line and so on.

Q2: Pick out the lines from the poem that contains similes.

Ans.: The lines containing similes are:

- a. And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard.
- b. Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears.
- c. Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage.
- d. Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose.
- e. But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine.
- f. Clashed his tail like iron in a dungeon.
- g. He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

Q3: Which line / stanza is used as refrain in the poem?

Ans.: The first and the fourth stanzas / quatrains are used as refrain in the poem with slight changes.

Q4: What images does the poet use in the poem?

Ans.: A few images used by the poet in the poem are:

- (a) Mouth like a fireplace.
- (b) Chimney for a nose.
- (c) Daggers on Custard's toes.
- (d) As brave as a barrel full of bears.
- (e) As brave as a tiger in a rage.
- (f) Snorting like an engine.
- (g) Clashing his tail like irons in a dungeon.
- (h) Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate.
- (i) He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

9. LAST LESSON OF THE AFTERNOON

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

QUESTIONS:

Q1: What is the tone in the opening line of the poem?

Ans.: In the opening line of poem, there is the tone of weariness and boredom. Here it, in other words, is the tone of bitter desperation and the thanklessness of the poet who in this poem happens to be a teacher. He has been doing something for a long time which he feels is all purposeless and it makes him sick at heart.

Q2: Who is the speaker in the poem?

Ans.: The teacher who is himself the poet, is the speaker of the poem.

Q3: What are the pupils regarded as? Why has teacher failed to 'haul them and urge them' anymore?

Ans: Pupils are regarded as unruly (uncontrolled) hounds (hunting dogs) who do not want to seek knowledge.

The teacher has failed to 'haul them and urge them' anymore because they are wild, rude and undisciplined who have no interest in learning. They keep tugging the leash and want to break away the chains of the classroom.

Q4: Which words and phrases in stanza 2 to convey the mood of the speaker?

Ans.: The words and phrases in stanza 2 that convey the mood of the speaker are:

Can I endure the brunt.

I am sick

I cannot see.

Q5: Why doesn't the speaker want to consume his fuel anymore?

Ans.: By the 'fuel' in the poem, the speaker means his energy. So, it is the speaker's energy which he does not want to consume anymore because he thinks that it is more wastage of time to impart knowledge to such

disinterested students. He wants to keep his energy for himself and use it the way he likes to.

Q6: What do you think 'take the toll of their insults in punishment' means?

Ans.: 'Take the toll of their insults in punishments' is a figurative language which means that the teacher puts his best efforts to teach the students. But when he does not get any positive response, he feels that he is being rewarded with punishment in the form of their insult. Here the teacher projects himself as a road on which the students used to insult the teacher.

Q7: Why does the teacher feel that his teaching and the pupils' learning are both purposeless? Pick out words and phrases which show that he shares his pupil's indifference to work?

Ans.: The teacher feels that his teaching and the pupils' learning are both purposeless because in spite of his best efforts to teach them, he has totally failed to get any positive response from them. He finds that they have no interest in learning so, he too loses his interest in teaching which becomes a purposeless job for him when the students are not willing to learn.

Words and phrases which show that the teacher shares his pupils' indifference to their work are as:

I will not waste my soul and my strength.

What is the point of their teaching of mine and of this learning of theirs.

It all goes down the same abyss.

I do not and will not, they won't and they don't.

Q8: Do you find any connection between the beginning and the ending of the poem?

Ans.: Yes, there is much connection between the beginning and the ending of the poem. In both cases, we find the teacher's weariness and boredom. In the beginning of the poem, the teacher has been shown as a pessimist who doesn't want to teach his disinterested students as they don't show any positive response at his teaching. But in the middle of the poem, he becomes optimistic and wants to utilize his full energy to teach them.

When he still gets negative response from them, he becomes pessimistic again at the end of the poem and to waits for the last bell to ring in order to get rid of such disinterested rude and in disciplined students.

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES

Q1: What is the metaphor used by the poet in stanza1?

Ans.: The metaphor used by the poet in stanza 1 is:

‘My pack of unruly hounds’: The teacher has been compared with a hunter and the students have been compared with hounds (hunting dogs) who refuse to read and learn and don’t follow the direction of the teacher.

Q2: Identify metaphor in stanza 3?

Ans.: The metaphor used in stanza 3 is:

‘My last dear fuel of life’ and ‘their dross of in difference’. The energy of the teacher has been compared with fuel and the indifference of the students has been compared with disinterest.

GLOSSARY:

- ➔ **Tugged** : Pulled
- ➔ **Leash** : Leather strap for holding or controlling hounds (hunting dogs).
- ➔ **Strained apart** : Made an intense effort to break away.
- ➔ **Hounds** : (Kind of) dogs used for hunting and racing.
- ➔ **Quarry** : Animal, bird, etc which is hunted.
- ➔ **Haul** : Pull (with effort or force).
- ➔ **Brunt** : (here) stress, strain caused by the sight of the pupils’ books.
- ➔ **Threescore** : Sixty
- ➔ **Dross** : Any-thing considered to be worthless mixed with something else.
- ➔ **Amiss** : Wrongly.
- ➔ **Abyss** : Hole so deep as to appear bottomless it is all my ant.
- ➔ **Beat our head against a wall** : Attempt to do something that is clearly impossible

10. FROM I EXPLAIN A FEW THING

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

QUESTIONS:

Q1: Why does the poet use the title, 'I Explain a Few things'?

Ans: The poet, "Pablo Neruda", used to compose poems about the beauties of nature and the sweet dreams of his homeland town, Madrid, but there broke out a civil war that destroyed everything. There was blood everywhere in the streets of Madrid, the blood of children that rented his heart. He was no longer able to write poems about beauties of nature and the dream of his homeland. So, he uses the title, 'I Explain a few things' for his poem in which he describes the terrible scene of bloodshed during the Spanish Civil war and explains the reason behind his change of mind.

Q2. What are the memories that the poet talks about in the poem?

Ans: The poet is actually a Chilean writer who had been sent to Spain on a diplomatic mission. In the poem, the poet talks about the memories of his homeland, the capital of Spain where he lived during his diplomatic mission. It was the town that symbolized prosperity, beauty and a promising future. The church bells, towers, the clocks and a large area of land covered with green trees were the main features of the capital. Life was very busy. He also talked about some noted Spanish poets, who were his fast friends. People hustling and bustling around could be seen all the time. The house where he lived came to be called, 'The House of flowers' because there were flowers everywhere. It was a beautiful house with dogs and little children and the town was surrounded with rich nature beauty.

Q3: What happened later and why?

Ans: Later, there was a terrible massacre that destroyed Madrid city completely. One morning, large fire leapt from the earth that engulfed everything-men, animals, crops, vegetables, flowers buildings etc. Millions

of innocent people were killed in the war. There was destruction all around and all works of art, beauties of nature and public and private property everything was damaged. Some of the poet's friends like Garcia Lorca and Rafael Albert were also killed mercilessly that left an intensive pain in the poet's heart. The damage was done with the support, blessings and approval of duchesses and friars.

Q4: Why doesn't the poet write the poetry of sweet dreams?

Ans: The poet doesn't write the poetry of sweet dreams as the dreams are no longer sweet because of terrible bloodshed during the Spanish Civil War in which about one million innocent people were killed including some of his friends like Garcia Lorca and Rafael Albert. There is blood everywhere that flows freely in the streets of Spain. It is the blood of children, the blood of Spain's coming generation which has left the poet in terrible shock and pain.

Q5: Explain the lines:

My house was named

The house of flowers..... little children.

Ans.: In these lines, the poet refers to his own in Madrid that was named the house of flowers because it was a beautiful house surrounded with natural beauty. There were flowery plants which looked very pleasant and attractive.

Q6: How has the civil war affected Spain?

Ans.: The civil war has completely destroyed Spain that symbolized prosperity, beauty and a promising future before the war. It has changed it (Spain) from a land of flowers to a land of dead bodies and broken houses. All work of art beauties of nature and public and private property has been destroyed. Spain's coming generation, the children have been killed mercilessly and also the noted Spanish poets have been assassinated. There is blood everywhere in the streets of Spain which is the blood of Spain's posterity.

Q7: Explain the journey of the poet from happiness to agony?

Ans.: The poet lived in a beautiful house in Madrid, the capital city of Spain when he was sent to Spain on a diplomatic mission. His life was full of enthusiasm as his home town was thickly covered with green trees and he became very popular among the Spanish people. There were many flowery plants in his house. The capital city was the symbol of beauty and prosperity and the people were hustling and bustling all the time with busy life.

Later when the civil war broke out in Spain (1936 – 1939), the poet's life full of happiness (happy life) vanished and appeared in the form of agony. It was seen that one morning, the large fires from earth that engulfed everything-men, animals, crops, vegetables, flowers. Buildings, etc. There was terrible bloodshed all around in the streets of Madrid. One could see only deaths and destruction in which millions of innocent people were killed including noted Spanish poets that filled the poet's heart with pain and shock. As a result of which, the poet was no longer able to compose poetry about the beauties of his homeland.

Q8: What is the mood of the poet in the poem? How do you feel after reading the poem?

Ans.: In the opening lines of the poem, the poet feels very happy and his life is full of enthusiasm because everything is looking pleasant and attractive. There isn't any sign of pain or sadness on his face and in his heart as well. But when the civil war breaks out in Spain, it changes it (Spain) from a land of flowers into a land of dead bodies and broken houses. All around there is destruction and devastation and his heart is filled with pain. He feels very sorry and regrets for the damage done by the wicked and treacherous. The poem is actually a lamentation (elegy) on Spanish civil war in which the poet expresses grief and sadness and regrets for the noted Spanish poets, Garcia Lorca and Rafael Albert being killed in the war.

After going through this poem, we have got the same sad and sorrow full feelings as that of the poet.

LEARNING LITERARY DEVICES

Q1: Pick out at least two symbols used by the poet in the poem?

Ans.: Symbols used by the poet in the poem 'From I Explain A Few Things' are:

Jackals symbolizing bad / wicked people.

Vipers symbolizing the treacherous people.

Traitor symbolizing a person who is not loyal to his own country beliefs etc.

Q2: Pick out the images used by the poet to describe peace and war in the poem.

Ans.: The images used to describe peace by the poet in the poem are:

The house of flowers, church bells, trees, potatoes and tomatoes growing in abundance.

The images describing war are:

Bonfires leaping from the earth, vipers, jackals, traitors, Moors, slaughtered children and the blood in the streets.

SHORT **STORIES**

1. THE NECKLACE

Q1: Draw a character sketch of Matilda?

Ans.: Matilda was pretty and young lady who was born in a poor family. She was married to an economical clerk, working in the office of the board of education. She always longed to have things of luxury and wanted to be loved and admired. She was a blend of ambition adventures, they dreaming and visions.

As the story opens, we find her cursing her fate and was restless and impatient for not having things of dowry. She was not content with whatever life had given her. Being one of the members of a poor family she had no dowry, no hopes, and no means of becoming known loved and married by some rich man of dignity. She was not happy with her life because she suffered from poverty and over remained in distress. Neither she had any expensive furniture in her apartment nor any Jewells to wear and all those things troubled her the other side of her character is quite encouraging as she leaves a lesson behind her for all women to face he hardships of life. She is optimistic and is not disheartened when she finds herself caught in the trap of debt

Q2: The course of the Loisel's life changes due to the necklace. Comment.

Ans.: Matilda, wife of Mr Loisel lost Mme forester's necklace which she had borrowed from her to wear at the ball. She and her husband then brought a new necklace of diamond to replace the last one, for which they had to borrow a huge amount (18000 francs) at very high rate of interest. It changed the entire course of the Loisel's life they had to live a hot life of poverty for ten years after replacing the false necklace with a genuine one. They changed their lodging and rented some rooms in an attic. They had to send away the maid and Matilda had to do all the house hold work herself. On the other hand, Mr Loisel worked evenings and nights which continued for ten years. In short they had to work terribly hard

throughout day and night and in this way tremendous change came into their life.

Q3: What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? How could she have avoided it?

Ans.: Matilda was a pretty, attractive and young lady who belonged to a poor family but she always desired to have things of luxury and loved all delicacies. She had no dowry, no hopes and no means of becoming known. Moreover, she had borrowed a necklace. The ball it was the last of this necklace that was the cause of her ruin. She led the couple to live like a horrible life for ten years.

She could have easily avoided it if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost it. Moreover, she was day dreaming to be a rich and she was also envious that was the main reason of her happiness and discontentment.

Q4: What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace?

Ans.: It would have been altogether a different condition and course of Matilda's life if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace. She would have been saved from ruin and obviously she would not have been suffered so miserably. She would have enjoyed a good life by disclosing the lost to her friend. Since the lost necklace was worth only five hundred Francs. She could have easily brought another one to replace it.

Q5: If you caught in a situation like this, how will you deal with it?

Ans.: If I am caught like this I would not act blindly I would like to be very honest and straight forward and go straight to my friend and relate everything plainly that would have happened and then I would be able to save myself from the trouble.

WRITING WORK

Q1: What are the things that are important to you to make you happy in life?

Ans.: It is fact that happiness comes from the tranquility of mind and it lies in contentment. So, happiness is actually state of mind. It depends upon the

liking of a person and the presence of culture that makes one to decide for himself what kind of life he chooses. It is the fulfillment of the basic needs like food, clothing and shelter that can lead to happiness life should be lived well and happily even if there are miseries. It must be tackled and faced courageously and bravely. The attainment of the state of mind depends upon different things for different people. There are only weak people who run away from hardships, sorrows and it is the fact that it is not always sunshine for everyone. One has to be ready for sorrows and sufferings to face as these are the part and parcel of life. Some of the important things that can help us to live our lives happily are; truth, honesty, hardworking and discipline etc. But so far as my idea is concerned about happy life that one should limit one's desires rather than trying to fulfill or satisfy them as the wants / desired are limitless.

Q2: Write a short paragraph on we should be content with what life gives us you may write for or against the given topic.

Ans.: Contentment / Satisfaction of mind are very important if one wishes to live peacefully and happily. The contentment gives us joy and keeps ourselves away from selfishness and greed. It is the surest way to happiness which doesn't depend upon the material things we have, it depends upon our capacity to limit our desires. It is well known fact that unnecessary ambition leads to the frustration of a person. In this rat race competition everyone is running madly after wealth, money, land etc and the result is untold mental tension there is no peace of mind the more we have the more we want. We should have strong faith in Almighty God before whose will we have to surrender. If this surrender is true contentment naturally enters into the mind and then we feel happy and relaxed. It gives us eternal happiness and we become responsible. So, we must be content with whatever life gives us we should have to limit our desires because contented life is a happy life in real sense.

LANGUAGE WORK:

Make notes from the following news report.

In an unprecedented space tragedy, the US space shuttle Columbia, carrying an Indian born American astronaut Kalpana Chawla and six others broke apart in flames as it stroked over texas towards its landing strip on Saturday. 1 February 2002 killing all the seven on board..... this was Columbia 20th space Flight and the shuttle was said to be good for 100 flights.

Honourable space tragedy :

1 February, 2003 U. S. space shuttle Colombia	: Went up on 16 th Jan 2003 from Kennedy space center, Florida, Brooke apart in flames.
Staked over Texas	: Heading towards landing Sky conduct 80 experiments.
Last contact with NASA	: About 9:00 AM
Flying at an altitude speed	: Over 200,2000 feet.
Indian born Kalpana Chawla	: Died with 6 others
It was Columbia space	: Believed to be good shutters 20 th space flight for hundred more flights.

Following are the notes about the Bactrian camel found in Ladakh.

Develop a paragraph of about 100 -150 words from these notes

Zoological name	: Camclus Bactrianus.
Herbivore	: Prefers grass leaves and shrubs but will eat dry vegetation and slat bush that other mammals avoid.
Habitat	: Grassland, Valleys and mountainous areas.
Life span	: 40 Years.

DESCRIPTION:

Length	: 10 feet
Height	: 7 feet
Weight	: 1500 pounds

Appearance : Light to dark brown coat is shorter in summer with thin manes on chin, shoulder, kind legs and humps. Winter coat longer, thicker and darker

Adaptations : Snow shoe effect prevents sinkling in sand, long legs allow camel to travel long distances easily. Two humps contains 36 Kg of fat to be used when food is scare.

Status : Endangered

→ The Bactrian camel, Zoological name Camelus Bactrian's is found in the grass lands valleys and mountainous areas of Ladakh it is herbivore. It likes to eat grass leaves and shrubs. It also prefers dry vegetation and salt bush which are avoided by other mammals. Its life span is 40 years. It is 10 feet long and 7 feet in height. It weighs about 1500 pounds. It is light to dark brown. There are thin manes on its chin, shoulder kind leg and humps. The summer coat is shatter than the winter coat but the latter is thicker and darker. Snow shoe effects helps the camel to walk comfortably without sinking in sand. Its long legs allow it to travel long distances easily. It has two humps contains 36 Kg of fat which is used by it. When there is a scarcity of food. It is an endangered species.

2. BHOLI

Q1: For what unusual reasons is Bholi sent to school?

Ans.: The unusual reasons for which Bholi is sent to school are that firstly, a primary school has recently been opened in her village and the Tehsildar insists her father Ramlala to do so because of being the government representative, the Tehsildar wants him to set an example before the villagers. Secondly Bholi has lack of sense and is not good looking and consequently there are less chances of her getting married.

Q2: How does Bholi find her teacher different from other people?

Ans.: Almost everyone at Bholi's home is quite indifferent to her as nobody cares her. They call her dumb and senseless and always discourage her. But Bholi finds her teacher different in every aspect. She is treated in an affectionate manner by her teacher and such kind of treatment she has never received. Her teacher uses soft and soothing language shows great love and sympathy towards her. Her teacher's words touch her very heart with a new hope and a new life. She makes her bold and tries her level best to eradicate the fear out of Bholi's mind and heart. She cares for her ones parents are for their children.

Q3: Why do Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal?

Ans.: Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal for the following reasons:

1. Bishamber is a well to do man and possess a big shop of his own and several thousand in the bank
2. He is not asking for any dowry.
3. He is from another village and doesn't know about Bholi's pockmarks and lack of sense. So, there is less chances of getting her married.

Q4: The ending of the story is very dramatic. Do you think Bholi's decision not to marry Bishamber makes her an outcast / rebellious or is it an assertion of her being an individual and a woman of substances?

Ans.: The ending of the story becomes dramatic because of the great confidence, courage and heroic role played by Bholi. Bholi was not a communicative girl and from her very childhood. She was neglected. She was not given proper care at home and even then, she didn't want to disgrace her parents. She was called dumb; driven cow. When she was to be married she was very violent because Bishamber Nath who was going to be her life partner demanded five Thousand rupees as dowry. He didn't listen her father's appeal even though Bholi's father placed his turban at Bishamber's feet because it was a matter of honour. So to keep his honour in village, Ramlal gave him Five Thousand Rupees and Bishamber was ready to garland the bride, Bholi. But Bholi refuses to marry a man who was so mean and greedy and her sudden decision of not marrying made her go against the wishes of her parents and this made her to some extent out cast / rebellious.

However, there is another optimistic and positive side of her character. Throwing of garland and veil showed that Bholi was a girl of great courage and confidence. She knew then her importance and the reality of things and she behaved accordingly. She was confident enough, well-educated and determined not to marry the contemptible and lame old man. Bishamber Nath. She categorically told her father to take back his money and decided to serve her parents in their old age earn her living as a teacher in the same school where she had learned so much.

Q5: Bholi's real name is Sulekha. We are told this right at the beginning, but only in the last one paragraph of the story is Bholi called Sulekha again. Why do you think she is called Sulekha at that point in the story?

Ans.: In the beginning we are told that Bholi's real name is Sulekha but right from her childhood every one used to called her Bholi, the simpleton. It was because when she ten months old she had fallen off the cot on her head some part of their brain was damaged which made her mentally backward. So, she came to be known as Bholi in the long run she was sent to school favoured by circumstance. In fact, then changed from dumb; driven cow, senseless to confident and courageous girl which was result of her teacher's love, affection, sympathy for her. The teacher filled her with new hope, courage and confidence. She was no longer a simpleton and stammering fool. It was at her marriage she took a very bold step against greed and spoke bravely and courageously against Bishember Nath who was going to her prospective husband. As a consequence of it her name is revealed at the end of the story and is called by her original name Sulekha insisted of her nick name Bholi.

WRITING WORK:

Q1: Bholi's story is different in the sense that pockmarks have made her ugly, but there are numerous instances when a beautiful girl's marriage proposal has been broken because of the dowry demand;

1: If you had been at that place how would have you reacted to the situation?

Ans.: If I were faced with the situation like this my reaction would have been the same as we find Bholi reacting. I would have reacted more violently and would not have bear insult and exploitations. I would have tried to make the people who demanded dowry realize that marriages are not done for material blessings but is pure bondage of two persons resulting in true and loving relationship. I would have advised them not to be greedy for money etc.

Q2: What role can you play in minimizing / eliminating the menace of dowry?

Ans.: Being students we have to become sensible and responsible citizens through the truth of education. We have proven ourselves really educated. Many people is / have, had and will traps in that menace especially the parents of the Brides into debt. Many homes are broken due to this evil in the form of divorces, domestic, violence's, suicides etc. So, it is our prior responsibility to stand up to go against dowry. We have to enlighten and made understand those who are ignorant and taking and giving dowry. If girls and boys are taught the right way, things can prove better to a great extent. Dowry is there but limits should not be crosses. There is a need of the hour to aware people about the social menace and moral education should be given in schools and colleges. I would pledge not to demand dowry and would pledge not to give or take dowry in their life.

Q3: Draw Character sketches of the following:

BHOLI:

Bholi, the simpleton appears to us as a blend of introvert and extrovert kind of a character. She has been describes a very shy cute, untidy kind of a small girl who has no courage to speak before others. Her real name is Sulekha who isn't a communicative girl her character symbolizes simplicity and innocence. She is to begin a retarded child who has fallen off a cot when she is ten months old and some part of her brain is damaged that makes her mentally backward and she begins to stammer. Since then everyone has been calling her Bholi even her parents call her with the same name. They neglect her completely and she is not given proper care when she is two years old, she is hit by small pox and her entire body is permanently disfigured. She is very simple by nature. Now clothes have

never been made for her but the old dresses of her sisters are passed on to her. She is reluctant to go to school because she doesn't know what exactly a school is like and what happens there but as we see her steeping into the school her life style changes. She is given new clothes, her matted hair is combed and she starts becomes stammering fool to a fluent speaking girl. Her teacher's changes her she has been sent to school rather to give her education. They wanted to get rid of her and tried their level best to have her match with Bishamber who was almost of the same age as her father. They don't seem her real parents as they treated her.

BISHAMBER:

Bishamber Nath a well-to-do grocer. He is almost the same age as Bholi's father. He is man of instability who wants to misuse the situation for money. He is greedy, insensitive; witless kind of a person. He is after profit but not after the respect. He is widower and had already children from his first wife. There is no love sympathy or respect in him for other. He also limps while walking when he comes to know that Bholi has got pock marks on her face, he thinks that it is the right occasion to black mail the situation and demands five thousand rupees in the form of dowry. But we must appreciate Bholi who acts there bravely and courageously like a woman of substance, refuses to marry mean and contemptible person and throws the garland into the fire, in this way she sets a lesson and an example for Bishamber as well as to the reader.

BHOLI'S PARENTS:

Bholi's parents had seven children. Three were sons and the rest were daughters among home Bholi was the youngest. But they were far from being called parents in real sense. They paid little attention to her and

were ignoring her. They were not interested in her and didn't give her proper care rather she was maltreated by them. They were not loving in true sense and often called her as dumb cow and fool. Their attitude was harsh, disrespectful and made her inferior and discouraged. They never thought to make new clothes for Bholi rather she was given old dresses of her sisters. Bholi could have been different if her parents would have loved, cared and encouraged her. In fact, they wanted to keep her away from their responsibilities that is why she has been sent to school rather to give her education. They wanted to get rid of her and tried their level best to have her match with Bishamber who was almost of the same age as her father. They don't seem her real parents as they rerated her.

3. ABHILEY

Q1: Do you think that Abhiley represents the simplicity of Ladakhi women. Cite two examples of her innocence and ignorance from the text

Ans.: Abhiley certainly is a lady full of simplicity and the innocence. She is very limited in her perception and she finds it very difficult to accept the dramatic changes brought by the modern science and technology. There are various examples from the text which can depict the utter innocence and ignorance of Abhiley, when Abhiley is told about the earthquake which destroy Turkey. She get panicked and worried because she feels that Ruksana would have become victim of the earthquake. This means that Abhiley would not able to have a difference between Turkey and Srinagar. When the authors uncle leave his gun in the Kitchen. Abhiley get worried and spends sleepless nights because of the fear that it would explode if touched. Abhiley guards the Kitchen strictly and don't allow children near the kitchen.

Q2: How will you estimate Abhiley's response to modern technology?

Ans.: Abhiley is more unknown to modern technology, scientific gadgets appeared fantasy to her. She is much ignorance makes her laughing stock. Even members of her own family, they can't stop themselves by laughing at her. For instance when she heard of a bus breaking a down on its way, she feels certain that none of the passengers would be alive, she has no concept of distance moreover, when she and other Abhiley went to see a film, they entertain less and complain more of nausea and headaches moving pictures appear to be a dream for them and they didn't understand main theme of the films until they have been told.

Q3: What are the major themes of the short story? "Abhiley".

Ans.: The major themes of Abhiley are as:-

I. Simplicity of elderly people

- II. Pessimistic outlook
- III. Excessive affection by elders towards their family member and sibling.
- IV. Innocent and illiterate elderly people remain confined to their homesick.
- V. Their negative impact –vision to modern technologies.
- VI. Criticism of simplicity of elders by younger generation.
- VII. Double super status and suspense of elderly folk or people
- VIII. Generation gap.

Q2: Why did Abhiley call Dolma a memsahib?

Ans.: Abhiley did not recognize Dolma and called her a memsahib because she did not look like a simple village girl rather she looked very modern. She was dressed entirely different from the way in which Abhiley found women in their simple dress in her village. So, it is Dolma's dress in particular that made Abhiley address her as a memsahib.

Q3: Abhiley was always worried about Rukhsana but why did she not opt to stay at Srinagar with her.

Ans.: Abhile was worried about Rukhsana but she didn't opt to stay at Srinagar with her because she was homesick elder lady comfortable only, she was family members. She was fell worry and oppression. She said that she had been missed daughter Jimila and her granddaughter Halima and especially her little Javeed.

- I. Language Work:
- II. Give the meaning of the following and use in your own sentences;

- Ans:
- 1. Sunkin checks: (expression of old age):- The old lady had Sunkin checks.
 - 2. Broken down: (Not working properly):- The bus has broken down on the road.
 - 3. Pursed her mouth (Stance):- Abhiley pursed her mouth and could not speak of word.
 - 4. Spewing venom: (Vomiting positon / talk roughly):- The mother in law was spewing venom on the poor daughter in law.
 - 5. Hall and Hearty: (Healthy):- My friend is quite hale and hearty.

GENERATION GAP:

Generation Gap means older and younger people do not understand each other. Because of their experiences opinions, habits and behavior. Generation gap is like a broken bridge on a river. An Adolescent is a period of stress, at this stage adolescents believe that they can act on their own. Time is changing fast, values are changing and moralities are breaking. Younger generation refuse to be treated as children. TV has been playing wrong role to some extent through its programs. Even small children are behaving the wrong way and refuse to listen or behave as their advisor is the adults. They think that adults are on the wrong track. To remove this communication barrier the parents have to be very careful in listening to the children and help them in various ways for instance sound, advice, sharing views, accepting their suggestions etc. The parents should neglect their children; they should impart moral and religious education. They should share their thoughts and should listen also their problems and try to solve them.

CHARACTER SKETCH OF ABHILEY:

The writer Abdul Gani Sheikh has beautiful portrayed simplicity and ignorance with modernity in his short story Abhiley. The character of Abhiley is worth contemplating and we come across many such Abhiley's in our day to day life.

A woman who has led her entire life in sheer ignorance and simplicity is suddenly exposed to the complicated and abstruse world of modernity; her reaction obviously would be sometimes humorous pathetic. The very beginning of a story shows the apprehension and fear that haunts in an old age – Abhiley is not ready to accept separation from her loved ones. She always misses Rukhsana – her grand-daughter keeps asking everyone

about her whereabouts Abhiley simple a heart. She knows nothing about modern technology and outside world. So, Srinagar is as distinct place as Turkey. She is truly innocence and ignorant if she hears of a mishap any-where she at ones becomes worried about her grand-daughter Rukhsana. She is talkie lady and loves to gossip with her friends and family. She is truly a loving and caring grany.

4. OUT OF BUSINESS

Q1: Character Sketch of Rama Roa?

Ans.: Rama Roa in the story 'Out of business' Suddenly found himself on the streets when the gramophone company collapsed in which he was working. His family adopted various measures to be economical. They sacrificed all their luxuries which they had enjoyed once upon a time he sent out dozen of applications a day and wore his feet out looking for employment. Rama Roa lay in bed and spends sleepless nights. His only source of income was the rent they were receiving from their house. He came across the journal 'capital' and decided to solve crossword puzzle week after week but it proved futile in despair, one day he realized that there is no going to better. So, he decided to end his life because all his losses, frustrations and disappointments of his life came down on him with renewed force. He felt that life is not worth living wife, children... nothing mattered to him, he lay, across the railway lines but to his dismay not a single train passed that way. He went back to his wife, children and realized that ups and downs are part of life and one should never give up hope as hope sustains life.

Q2: What was Rama Roa's business? How did it collapse?

Ans.: Rama Roa was the Malgudi agent of gramophone, company, which had its factory somewhere in Northern India. It collapsed due to a bank in Lahore crushed and its financier's death in Mumbai.

Q3: What effect did it have on him and his family?

Ans.: Rama Roa in the story 'out of business' suddenly found himself on the streets, he was working in the gramophone company which collapsed. His family adopted various measures to be economical; they sacrificed their luxuries which they had enjoyed once upon a time. He sends out dozen applications a day for employment. Rama Roa spends sleepless nights and his wife sent away the cook and the servant withdrew children from

private school and sent them in a Govt. School. They themselves move behind the market and let out their bungalow.

Q4: What is the 'stock' referred in the line Thirteen (13)?

Ans.: The 'stock' referred in the line 13 some unsold goods that he had, the stock moved out slowly and the prices of these stocks went down. So, it was impossible for him and his family to make both their ends meet.

Q5: Why did Rama Rao worry less about his family after he came across the captain?

Ans.: After coming across the capital Rama Rao's whole attention was diverted to the cross - word puzzle of the magazine to earn more money in less time. He thought moreover solving the puzzle in the magazine than the happiness of the family. He was often asking money from his wife and became insensitive and feeling less about the needs of his family. He preferred to solve puzzle rather than thinking about the other means of live hood, whether it should be Tallow, or fallow, bad or Mad or sad.

Q6: Why did Rama Rao decided to send in at least four entries for the "special offer" cross world competition?"

Ans.: Rama Roa decided to send at least four entries for the special offer cross-word competitions. Because he had become desperate to earn a good sum i. e, Eight thousand rupees in a very easy and shortcut way. He borrowed money from his wife for four different entries so that he could get reward of his solved puzzle in an easy way.

Q7: Why did Rama Rao plan to go to Madras?

Ans.: When the Rama Roa was without work / job due to the gramophone company collapse, he planned to go to Madras to find profitable work there.

Q8: What made Rama Roa believe that God had shown him mercy?

Ans:- Rama Roa came to the conclusion that life is worth living, he decided to end is life. He lay across the railway line but to his, dismay train didn't come, it was derailed and the way was blocked. He believed God had

shown mercy on him, he was lucky got a chance to amend his errors and to restore a new life afresh with his family.

Q9: How did Rama Roa alternate between hope and despair?

Ans.: Rama Roa's life has become a pendulum which oscillates between hope and despair; dis-alternation had been brought Rama Rao to his own Follies and Flaws. He was driven by the greed of gaining more and more money easily by shortcut method. He lost his self-respect and thinking capacity because of his hopes and despair transmission. He thought that by solving these useless puzzles he could earn huge amount of money. Every time he failed in solving them but he gain over confidence with desires and disappointments, then after resolving from hopeless he put his eyes on next week puzzle this alternation hope and despair winned his life.

WRITING WORK:

➔ **Keeping in view the theme of the story do you think that shortcut method should be followed in life? Why?**

Ans.:- Rama Rao, the protagonist of the story hops that shortcut method of solving crossword puzzles will smooth and comfort his short comings in the life. God has created a man not for entertaining or enjoying life. He has entrusted responsibilities upon him. So a man must have dedication in his work. He must be accountable and should have believed that word is worship and rest is rust. There is no substitute to hard-work Rama Rao also learnt it at the end and forgets making castles in the air. He decided he will work and he has to work to overcome his financial problem. No, doubt, shortcut method is a quick method of doing something but always remember this method is futile. So, dream for a minutes and work for the rest of time.

5. THE SERVANT

Q1: Why did Gerasim been going about in vain in the village?

Ans.: Gerasim had been without work because he had called back to his village for military duty, but had not been employed.

Q2: Where had Gerasim been working? Why did he return to his village?

Ans.: Gerasim had been working in bravery as bottle washer and later as a lower servant in a house. He returned to his village for military duty.

Q3: What did the coachman tell Gerasim when he narrated his story?

Ans.: The coachman told Gerasim whether he asked his old employer to take him back and also advised him for that one should serve his master employer in such a way so that the master will think a lot about his servant and the master will not refuse to give him employment rather he will dismiss / terminate the person who might have taken his place or position.

Q4: How did the coachman persuade his master to employee Gerasim?

Ans.: The coachman said to his master that there is a young man from his village who is without job. The coachman persuaded his master that he should remove his old servant – “Polikarpich and his wife”. According to him, they are poor servant and they don’t work on time.

Q5: Why was the master reluctant to disengage the old servant?

Ans.: The master had seen loyalty and trust worthiness in Polikarpich, who had served a lot for fifteen long years. The old servant had dedicated his precious, energetic & youthful period of his life in the service of his master. So, the master was reluctant to disengage them. He felt injustice and sin to dismiss them in their old age when they should paid for their long service. But the coachman poisoned his master’s ears and provoked him to disengage the poor old couple.

Q6: What did Gerasim heard while crossing the yard?

Ans.: While crossing the yard the old servant “Polikarpich” and his wife whom, he was supposed to replace the position were complaining against the

coachman and about their future life. They seemed to be pained at the thanklessness of their master. They talked treacherous and deceptive nature of the coachman. They were worried about their survival in future without a job / work.

Q7: What did the old couple think about the master?

Ans.: The old couple were annoyed and dis-hearted by their master's decision. The old servants wife considered her master mean and thankless, she believed that their master exploited them when they were young but when they became weak their master preferred them to remove them rather than supporting them in their old age. However the old servant Polikarpich was of the opinion that his master was not at fault but his ears where being poisoned by the coachman.

Q8: What was the effect of the old couple's conversation Gerasim?

Ans.: The old couple's conversation staffed him like a dagger. Gerasim realized what misfortune and misery he would be bringing to the old couple. Their complaints made him sick at heart. So, he refused to take the place of old couple and felt happy and light hearted.

Q9: How does the story reflect the humility of Gerasim?

Ans.: The story reflects Gerasim as a man of kind hearted, he comes to Moscow to find a job or work for himself and with the influenced of his country man, coachman he gets the job / work. But when he also heard the complaints of an old man. He felt pity for the old couple and left the position or work which he needs and which was pleased to him so much. He thought he would be bringing misfortune to the old couple that made him sick at heart and heart sore. So, he left his work and felt happy and light hearted.

WRITING WORK:

➔ **Compare and contrast the characters of Gerasim and the coachman.**

Ans.: Gerasim, the protagonist peasant had comes to Moscow to find a work place with the influence / help of his countryman – a coachman. The coachman persuaded his master to send away the old servant and by Gerasim in his place when the Gerasim comes to start his work he heard in the yard. The couple's complaint, what they will do now, they have to beg for survival. Gerasim realized he brings misery to the old couple. So, he became sick at heart and heart sore. He was kind hearted full of sympathy. Coachman was hard hearted didn't understand the compulsions of old couple. He was cunning and was flatterer. He poisoned the ears of his master in removing the old couple. Gerasim was selfless fellow. Who sacrificed his needs? Whereas, coachman was greed and hypocrite

6. DUSK

Q1: What was the atmosphere at Hyde park?

Ans.: It was 6:30 Pm, an early March evening. Norman Goats by was sat on a bench at Hyde park, dusk had almost wrapped over the scene there was wide emptiness over road and side walk some were moving silently through the half-light, shadowed gloomy (Dusk).

Q2: Do the atmosphere and the mood at the park justify the title of the story?

Ans.: Yes, the atmosphere and the mood at the part justify the title of the story 'Dusk'. Because According to narrator of the story Norman Goatsby 'Dusk' is the hour of defeat. The person who had fought, struggled by lost in life tries to hide himself from the recognition / identification. So, they come out in the dusk, so that they may be unrecognized / unidentified.

Q3: Draw a profile of the person who first sat near Goatsby?

Ans.: The first person who sat near Goatsby on the bench was an elderly gentleman. Who seemed to have lost interest in life? He looked defeated but refused to admit it his clothes were Shabby and worm out. He seemed hopeless and despair of his life and family. He also vanished slowly into shadow of dusk.

Q4: What according to Goats by, was the weak point of the young man's story?

Ans.: According to the Boats by, the weak point of the young man's story was 'A cake of soap. The young man who sat beside the Goat by was well dresses and seems more cheerful than the predecessor. Elderly gentleman. He said to the Goats by that he had lost his way to hotel where he stayed. He was trying to convince and impress Norman Goatsby so that, he could lend him some money. By the (Ghostby) asked him where the cake of soap he bought was. The young man hardly muttered and started searching in his

pockets of his over-coat, here and there. He left the place and couldn't produce a cake of soap.

Q5: While walking back to his seat in the park, what did Goats by see?

Ans.: When Goats didn't believe on the story of young man. Norman Goats by rise to go as he did to escape himself. Suddenly, he saw a small oval shaped packet, wrapped and sealed lying on the ground by the side of the bench. He at once understands that it must be a cake of soap and had fallen out of youths over coat pocket.

Q6: How did Norman Goats by feel when he realized he had been fooled?

Ans.: When the young man befooled Goats by with his witty story that he had lost his way to hotel where he was staying. Norman Goats by felt ashamed on his wisdom, because he was judging others by their outlook / appearance clothes. He has been learnt a lesson for himself that one should never be too genius and proud in one's ability / wisdom in judging others by circumstances.

Q7: What did Goats by imagine about the people who visited Hyde park?

Ans.: Norman Goats by imagined the people who visited Hyde park as defeated, hopeless, deserted in the struggle of life. He was in the mood to count himself also, among the defeated. So, the tried to hide him in this gloom (Dusk).

Q8: What is irony? Bring out the elements of irony in the story?

Ans.: Irony is a figure of speech which consists of a statement that appears to be praise but is really condemnation.

Irony is a sarcastic mode of speech in which the speaker intends to speak as the opposite meaning of what he / she says. It is literally technique which has been used by Saki is his story (Dusk). When the young man speaks impressively. "I suppose you think I have spin you rather an impossible yarn latter on the same false story becomes possible by the circumstances which is any Irony one more Irony in the story is that

Goatsby convinced himself that it is lesson to him not to be too clever in Judging by circumstances and ultimately false prey to his own statement.

Q9: What is juxtaposition? How Saki been able to Juxtapose humour and pathos in 'Dusk'?

Ans.: Juxtaposition means putting opposite things together for contrast. Saki has beautifully brings out flaws/ weak points of the Norman Goatsby. Yes, the author has been able to juxtapose humour and pathos on Dusk. We felt sympathetic for an old man, who was heart sore, dejected desperate seemed to have lost hope and interest in the life. We also burst into laughter when the young man decided or befooled Norman Goatsby by his witty story.

WRITING WORK

➔ **Do you approve of the behavior and approach of Goatsby in the story. explain?**

Ans.: Goatsby's behavior and approach in the story are quite unnatural. All his actions and reactions are also unnatural. He tries to prove himself intelligent and nice person. He judges others by circumstances, but he could not judge human character – youngman. He proves himself fool and couldn't save himself if being cheated. So we must say he fails a victim of the iron of events.

CHARACTER SKETCH OF NORMAN GOATSBY:

➔ Norman Goats a pivotal figures in the story dusk was assessing other by circumstances. Dusk to his mind was the hour of defeated. Men

and women who had struggled in life but failed comes to this wee hours in the evening. But, the young man taught a lesson to Norman Goatsby by his creative story first Goatsby didn't believe on the young man's story but later on the same unbelievable story became credulous, Goatsby helped him with some money and his card with address. As Goatsby retraced his steps towards the bench, he saw an elderly gentleman searching on and under the bench poking and passing Goatsby asked him if he had lost anything. The gentleman replied "a cake of soap".

SHORT **STORIES**

1. THE NECKLACE

Q1: Draw a character sketch of Matilda?

Ans.: Matilda was pretty and young lady who was born in a poor family. She was married to an economical clerk, working in the office of the board of education. She always longed to have things of luxury and wanted to be loved and admired. She was a blend of ambition adventures, they dreaming and visions.

As the story opens, we find her cursing her fate and was restless and impatient for not having things of dowry. She was not content with whatever life had given her. Being one of the members of a poor family she had no dowry, no hopes, and no means of becoming known loved and married by some rich man of dignity. She was not happy with her life because she suffered from poverty and over remained in distress. Neither she had any expensive furniture in her apartment nor any Jewells to wear and all those things troubled her the other side of her character is quite encouraging as she leaves a lesson behind her for all women to face he hardships of life. She is optimistic and is not disheartened when she finds herself caught in the trap of debt

Q2: The course of the Loisel's life changes due to the necklace. Comment.

Ans.: Matilda, wife of Mr Loisel lost Mme forester's necklace which she had borrowed from her to wear at the ball. She and her husband then brought a new necklace of diamond to replace the last one, for which they had to borrow a huge amount (18000 francs) at very high rate of interest. It changed the entire course of the Loisel's life they had to live a hot life of poverty for ten years after replacing the false necklace with a genuine one. They changed their lodging and rented some rooms in an attic. They had to send away the maid and Matilda had to do all the house hold work herself. On the other hand, Mr Loisel worked evenings and nights which continued for ten years. In short they had to work terribly hard

throughout day and night and in this way tremendous change came into their life.

Q3: What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? How could she have avoided it?

Ans.: Matilda was a pretty, attractive and young lady who belonged to a poor family but she always desired to have things of luxury and loved all delicacies. She had no dowry, no hopes and no means of becoming known. Moreover, she had borrowed a necklace. The ball it was the last of this necklace that was the cause of her ruin. She led the couple to live like a horrible life for ten years.

She could have easily avoided it if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost it. Moreover, she was day dreaming to be a rich and she was also envious that was the main reason of her happiness and discontentment.

Q4: What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace?

Ans.: It would have been altogether a different condition and course of Matilda's life if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace. She would have been saved from ruin and obviously she would not have been suffered so miserably. She would have enjoyed a good life by disclosing the lost to her friend. Since the lost necklace was worth only five hundred Francs. She could have easily brought another one to replace it.

Q5: If you caught in a situation like this, how will you deal with it?

Ans.: If I am caught like this I would not act blindly I would like to be very honest and straight forward and go straight to my friend and relate everything plainly that would have happened and then I would be able to save myself from the trouble.

WRITING WORK

Q1: What are the things that are important to you to make you happy in life?

Ans.: It is fact that happiness comes from the tranquility of mind and it lies in contentment. So, happiness is actually state of mind. It depends upon the

liking of a person and the presence of culture that makes one to decide for himself what kind of life he chooses. It is the fulfillment of the basic needs like food, clothing and shelter that can lead to happiness life should be lived well and happily even if there are miseries. It must be tackled and faced courageously and bravely. The attainment of the state of mind depends upon different things for different people. There are only weak people who run away from hardships, sorrows and it is the fact that it is not always sunshine for everyone. One has to be ready for sorrows and sufferings to face as these are the part and parcel of life. Some of the important things that can help us to live our lives happily are; truth, honesty, hardworking and discipline etc. But so far as my idea is concerned about happy life that one should limit one's desires rather than trying to fulfill or satisfy them as the wants / desired are limitless.

Q2: Write a short paragraph on we should be content with what life gives us you may write for or against the given topic.

Ans.: Contentment / Satisfaction of mind are very important if one wishes to live peacefully and happily. The contentment gives us joy and keeps ourselves away from selfishness and greed. It is the surest way to happiness which doesn't depend upon the material things we have, it depends upon our capacity to limit our desires. It is well known fact that unnecessary ambition leads to the frustration of a person. In this rat race competition everyone is running madly after wealth, money, land etc and the result is untold mental tension there is no peace of mind the more we have the more we want. We should have strong faith in Almighty God before whose will we have to surrender. If this surrender is true contentment naturally enters into the mind and then we feel happy and relaxed. It gives us eternal happiness and we become responsible. So, we must be content with whatever life gives us we should have to limit our desires because contented life is a happy life in real sense.

LANGUAGE WORK:

Make notes from the following news report.

In an unprecedented space tragedy, the US space shuttle Columbia, carrying an Indian born American astronaut Kalpana Chawla and six others broke apart in flames as it stroked over texas towards its landing strip on Saturday. 1 February 2002 killing all the seven on board..... this was Columbia 20th space Flight and the shuttle was said to be good for 100 flights.

Honourable space tragedy :

1 February, 2003 U. S. space shuttle Colombia	: Went up on 16 th Jan 2003 from Kennedy space center, Florida, Broke apart in flames.
Struck over Texas	: Heading towards landing Sky conduct 80 experiments.
Last contact with NASA	: About 9:00 AM
Flying at an altitude speed	: Over 200,000 feet.
Indian born Kalpana Chawla	: Died with 6 others
It was Columbia space	: Believed to be good shutters 20 th space flight for hundred more flights.

Following are the notes about the Bactrian camel found in Ladakh.

Develop a paragraph of about 100 -150 words from these notes

Zoological name	: Camelus Bactrianus.
Herbivore	: Prefers grass leaves and shrubs but will eat dry vegetation and salt bush that other mammals avoid.
Habitat	: Grassland, Valleys and mountainous areas.
Life span	: 40 Years.

DESCRIPTION:

Length	: 10 feet
Height	: 7 feet
Weight	: 1500 pounds

Appearance : Light to dark brown coat is shorter in summer with thin manes on chin, shoulder, kind legs and humps. Winter coat longer, thicker and darker

Adaptations : Snow shoe effect prevents sinkling in sand, long legs allow camel to travel long distances easily. Two humps contains 36 Kg of fat to be used when food is scare.

Status : Endangered

➔ The Bactrian camel, Zoological name Camelus Bactrian's is found in the grass lands valleys and mountainous areas of Ladakh it is herbivore. It likes to eat grass leaves and shrubs. It also prefers dry vegetation and salt bush which are avoided by other mammals. Its life span is 40 years. It is 10 feet long and 7 feet in height. It weighs about 1500 pounds. It is light to dark brown. There are thin manes on its chin, shoulder kind leg and humps. The summer coat is shatter than the winter coat but the latter is thicker and darker. Snow shoe effects helps the camel to walk comfortably without sinking in sand. Its long legs allow it to travel long distances easily. It has two humps contains 36 Kg of fat which is used by it. When there is a scarcity of food. It is an endangered species.
