

# **JUNIOR INTER ENGLISH QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Section** \_\_\_\_\_

**Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Roll.No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**College** \_\_\_\_\_

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## MODULE - I

## UNIT - 1

## MY MOTHER



(Prose)

*[APJ Abdul Kalam - born at Rameswaram-father-Jainulabdeen-mother-Ashiamma-father-masjid Imam-mother-homemaker-down to earth, devoted, caring and concerning-Kalam's childhood days]*



— A P J Abdul Kalam

## ANNOTATIONS

(a) Such was the Indian concept of hospitality once upon a time.

**Answer :** Name of the Lesson: “My Mother”

Name of the Author: “APJ Abdul Kalam”

**Introduction :**

The above given line is taken from the narrative essay “My Mother,” written by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (1931 - 2015). He was the former president of India. He is popularly known as “Missile Man, People’s President and Vishwa Guru”. He authored a number of books. His famous books are “Wings of Fire”, “India 2020”, “Ignited Minds”, “My Journey,” etc. Kalam was honoured with ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1997.

**Context :**

The essay is an extract from his book “My Journey”. It portrays the devotion and love with which Kalam’s mother served the family. The lesson is Kalam’s moving account of his deep feelings about his loving mother.

**Explanation :**

Kalam grew up in a large middle class joint family in Rameswaram. His father was Jainulabdeen and mother was Ashiamma. His father was the imam of the mosque. He had coconut groves and a ferry business. His grand parents, uncles and their families too lived in the same house. Many guests dropped in everyday and had their meals. The money earned by Kalam’s father was just enough to take care of the basic needs. Kalam’s mother, however, never complained. Though she had to cook large quantities of food and serve several people, she

never expressed anger or irritation. She felt it was her duty to take care of the family and guests. Honouring guests was an accepted Indian custom in those days. And of course, it is an integral part of Indian culture even today also.

**Critical Comment :**

Kalam uses a simple yet impressive style to narrate his memorable experiences with his caring mother in a gripping narration. He shows his admiration, devotion and love towards his mother and respects the customs of his motherland, India. It is always inspiring and refreshing to read Kalam's works.

**(b). What a lesson that was for me to never forget the needs of those around me!**

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

The above given line is taken from the narrative essay "**My Mother,**" written by **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** (1931 - 2015). He was the former president of India. He is popularly known as "Missile Man, People's President and Vishwa Guru". He authored a number of books. His famous books are "Wings of Fire, India 2020, Ignited Minds," etc. Kalam was honoured with 'Bharat Ratna' in 1997.

**Context :**

The essay is an extract from his book "**My Journey**". It portrays the devotion and love with which Kalam's mother served the family. The lesson is Kalam's moving account of his deep feelings and his loving mother.

**Explanation :**

Kalam grew up in a large middle class joint family in Rameswaram. His father was Jainulabdeen and mother was Ashiamma. His grandparents, uncles and their families too lived in the same house. Many guests dropped in everyday and had their meals. The money earned by Kalam's father was just enough to take care of the basic needs. However, Kalam's was a happy and secure childhood.

During the World War- II years, food was being rationed and there was a general shortage of nearly everything. So, Kalam's mother and grandmother were very economical and they were doing their best to cut out any wastage. One day Kalam's mother made chapattis instead of rice. The young Kalam ate so many chapattis without observing the needs of others around him. As a result the two women slept hungrily that night. Later, when he was counselled by his elder brother, Kalam felt ashamed of his menial act. He said that he had learnt a good lesson from this incident. According to him, we shouldn't forget the needs of others who are around us.

(c). Her fingers ran tenderly through my hair, comforting, soothing and understanding.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

The above given line is taken from the narrative essay “**My Mother,**” written by **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** (1931 - 2015). He was the former president of India. He is popularly known as “Missile Man, People’s President and Vishwa Guru”. He authored a number of books. His famous books are “Wings of Fire, India 2020. Kalam was honoured with ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1997.

**Context :**

The essay is an extract from his book “**My Journey**”. It portrays the devotion and love with which Kalam’s mother served the family. The lesson is Kalam’s moving account of his deep feelings about his loving mother.

**Explanation :**

When Kalam was eight years old, he worked as a newspaper delivery boy to support his family. His day would begin well before the dawn. He had to go for his tuitions, koran class, do his newspaper rounds and go to school. In all these struggles, his mother stood by him like a rock.

One day the young Kalam fell asleep with his head in his mother’s lap. She sat quietly, her hands softly caressing his hair and cheeks. Kalam described her touch as the most precious balm for his tiredness. Unknowingly tears started rolling down his cheeks and seeped into his mother’s sari. But she did not stop her caresses. She knew exactly what was giving rise to those tears - the extreme tiredness of a boy suddenly trying to be a man. Her fingers ran delicately and affectionately through his hair. Her act was comforting, soothing and loving. She was a sensible and practical woman who understood the plight of her son.

(d). Now it is a sweet reminder of a beautiful childhood, of parents lost to time.....

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

The above given line is taken from the narrative essay “**My Mother,**” written by **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** (1931 - 2015). He was the former president of India. He is popularly known as “Missile Man, People’s President and Vishwa Guru”. He authored a number of books. His famous books are “Wings of Fire, India 2020 . Kalam was honoured with ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1997.

**Context :**

The essay is an extract from his book “**My Journey**”. It portrays the devotion and love with which Kalam’s mother served the family. The lesson is Kalam’s moving account of his deep feelings about his loving mother.

**Explanation :**

Kalam was born into a middle class family in Rameswaram. His father was Jainulabdeen and mother was Ashiamma. Kalam's father died at the age of 102. His mother also passed away soon after his father's death. Kalam opines that it was perhaps fitting that she would not live alone, without the man whose side she had never left for over eighty years.

Kalam went to Rameshwaram after receiving the news of his mother's death. Her memories assailed him. It was obvious that he had to live out the rest of his life without the guidance of his parents. His grief knew no bounds. When he had the azaan from the mosque, he thought about his childhood days when his parents would lead all the children in the prayers. He was left only with sweet memories of a beautiful childhood. He thought of living in their memory. He remembered that they played a key role in moulding his thoughts and personality. Kalam feels nostalgia as he thinks of his mother especially, who understood his deepest feelings.

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### **Paragraph Questions**

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- (a). Kalam says, "My mother was a gentle, down-to-earth, pious woman". Elaborate with the information provided in 'My Mother'.

**Answer :**

**About the author:** The narrative essay "My Mother" was written by APJ. Abdul Kalam (1931-2015). He was the former president of India. He is popularly known as "Missile Man, People's President and Vishwa Guru". He authored a number of books. His famous books are "Wings of Fire, Ignited minds and India 2020." Kalam was honoured with 'Bharat Ratna' in 1997. He died on 27 July, 2015.

**About the lesson:** The essay is an extract from his book "My Journey". It portrays the devotion and love with which Kalam's mother served the family. The lesson is Kalam's moving account of his deep feelings about his loving mother.

**Topic:** Kalam grew up in a large middle class joint family in Rameswaram. His father was Jainulabdeen and mother was Ashiamma. His father was the imam of the mosque and he had coconut groves and a ferry business. Kalam gives a touching account of the close relationship he shared with his mother. Kalam's mother **Ashiamma**, devoted her life to the service of the family. The money earned by Kalam's father was hardly enough to meet the needs of so many people. Kalam's mother cooked daily for the large extended family. She patiently served the numerous guests who came to their house. She never showed anger or irritation despite the long hours of work. She was a noble, selfless and simple lady. She was a loving person who served the family and God with total commitment.

**Critical Analysis:** Kalam uses a simple yet impressive style to narrate his memorable experiences with his caring mother in a gripping narration. It is always inspiring and refreshing to read Kalam's writings.

**(b) Narrate two memories of Kalam, related to eating.**

**About the author:** The narrative essay “My Mother” was written by APJ. Abdul Kalam (1931-2015). He was the former president of India. He is popularly known as “Missile Man, People’s President and Vishwa Guru”. He authored a number of books. His famous books are “Wings of Fire, India 2020. Kalam was honoured with ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1997.

**About the lesson:** The essay is an extract from his book “My Journey”. It portrays the devotion and love with which Kalam’s mother served the family. The lesson is Kalam’s moving account of his deep feelings about his loving mother.

**Topic :** Kalam was born into a middle class family. His mother was Ashiamma and father was Jainulabdeen. He used to eat with his mother, sitting on the kitchen floor. Rice, aromatic sambar, homemade pickles and coconut chutney were the staple foods. They ate off banana leaves.

During the World War - II years, food was being rationed and there was a general shortage of nearly everything. So, Kalam’s mother and grandmother were very economical and they were doing their best to cut out any wastage. One day the young Kalam ate so many chapattis without observing the needs of others around him. As a result the two women went to bed hungrily that night. Later, when he was counselled by his elder brother, Kalam felt ashamed of his menial act. He said that he had learnt a good lesson from this incident. According to him, we shouldn’t forget the needs of others who are around us.

**(c) As an eight year old boy Kalam took the job of a newspaper delivery boy. Explain the reasons in a paragraph.**

**Topic:** Kalam grew up in a large middle class joint family in Rameswaram. His father was Jainulabdeen and mother was Ashiamma. His father was the imam of the mosque and he had coconut groves and a ferry business. Young Kalam used to eat with his mother, sitting on the kitchen floor. Rice, aromatic sambar, homemade pickles and coconut chutney were the staple foods.

During the World War - II years, food was being rationed and there was a general shortage of nearly everything. So, Kalam’s mother and grandmother were very economical and they were doing their best to cut out any wastage. His father’s means of income became less due to the critical political situations. One day his mother made chapattis instead of rice. Young Kalam ate so many chapattis and as a result, the two ladies went to bed without eating anything. Later Kalam felt ashamed of his menial act. He realized the situation when he was counselled by his elder brother. He wanted to do his bit for the family. At the age of eight, he took the job of a news paper delivery boy.

(d). Show how Ashiamma was an ideal partner to Jainulabdeen, Kalam's father. (or)  
 '...the man whose side she had never left for eighty years.' Who was the man? Justify.

**Topic:** Kalam's father was Jainulabdeen and mother was Ashiamma. He grew up in a large middle class joint family in Rameswaram. His father was the imam of the mosque. He had coconut groves and a ferry business. His grand parents, uncles and their families too lived in the same house. Many guests dropped in everyday and had their meals. The money earned by Kalam's father was just enough to take care of the basic needs. Kalam's mother, however, never complained. Though she had to cook large quantities of food and serve several people, she never expressed anger or irritation. She was practical and understood frugality. She felt it was her duty to take care of the family and guests. She had never left her husband's side till his death. Kalam's father died at the age of 102. They were married for over eighty years. She also passed away soon after Jainulabdeen's death. So, Kalam opined that she was an ideal partner to Jainulabdeen.

### Single Answer for All the Annotations

**Introduction:** The above given lines are taken from the lesson 'My Mother', written by APJ Abdul Kalam. He was the former president of India. He is popularly known as People's President and Missile Man of India.

**Context:** The essay is an extract from his book "My Journey". It portrays the devotion and love with which Kalam's mother served the family. The lesson is Kalam's moving account of his deep feelings about his loving mother.

**Explanation:** Abdul Kalam was born in a middle class family in Rameswaram. His father was Jainulabdeen, a masjid Imam. His mother was Ashiamma, a pious and hardworking homemaker. She took great care of the family. She never got irritation or anger. During the Second World War, the family had a tough time. On one occasion, Kalam ate many chapattis. Later, he realized his mistake. He took the job of newspaper boy to help his family. He left his family very early to pursue his studies. When he came to his house in holidays, he used to take rest in his mother's lap. Kalam's father died at the age of 102. Soon after his mother also passed away. Kalam says that she was the ideal partner to his father.

### Single Answer for All Paragraph Questions

**About the author:** The lesson 'My Mother' was written by APJ Abdul Kalam. He was the former president of India. He is popularly known as people's President and Missile Man of India.

**About the lesson:** The essay is an extract from his book "My Journey". It portrays the devotion and love with which Kalam's mother served the family. The lesson is Kalam's moving account of his deep feelings about his loving mother.

**Topic:** Abdul Kalam was born in a middle class family in Rameswaram. His father was Jainulabdeen, a masjid Imam. His mother was Ashiamma, a pious and hardworking house wife. She took great care of the family. She never got irritation or anger. During the Second World War, the family had a tough time. On one occasion, Kalam ate many chapattis. Later, he realized his mistake. He took the job of newspaper boy to help his family. He left his family very early to pursue his studies. When he came to his house in holidays, he used to take rest in his mother's lap. Kalam's father died at the age of 102. Soon after his mother also passed away. Kalam says that she was the ideal partner to his father.

**"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."**

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## MODULE - I

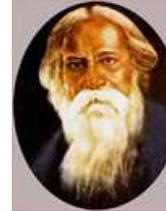
## UNIT - 2

## A LITTLE GRAIN OF GOLD

(Poetry)



*[The beggar-speaker-sees a rich king-excited-king asks him for something-beggar-shocked and surprised-gave a little grain of corn-later found a little grain of gold in his bag-realized his mistake]*



— Rabindranath Tagore

## ANNOTATIONS

- (a). Thy golden chariot appeared in the distance like a gorgeous dream”.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

These line are taken from the poem ‘A Little Grain of Gold’, written by Rabindranath Tagore. He was the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize. He is popularly known as ‘Vishwakavi’ (Universal Poet). Tagore was a writer, musician, painter and educationist. He is the composer of our National Anthem ‘Janaganamana.’

**Context :**

The poem ‘A Little Grain of Gold’ is from Tagore’s Gitanjali (song 50). It highlights the virtue of giving. The poem is about the strange ways in which God tests his devotees. The speaker of the poem is a beggar.

**Explanation :**

One day, as usual, the beggar goes from door to door in the village seeking alms. All of a sudden he sees a magnificent golden chariot coming close. He is dazzled by his splendour. He is elated and his joy has no bounds. He wonders whether the chariot is real or he is dreaming. He concludes that the owner of the chariot is a very rich king. He is sure that the king will notice him. The generous king would bestow wealth on him and all his woes would come to an end.

**Critical Comment :**

The poem is philosophical and has an indepth meaning. It sounds simple but conveys a valuable message. It effectively drives home the point that ‘giving’ should come before ‘taking’. Thus, it acquires a remarkable and universal appeal. The king can be compared to God and the beggar to man. The poet uses ‘Anti-climax’ in the end of the poem.

(b). “What last thou to give to me?”

(Or)

(c) “I slowly took out the least little grain of corn and gave it to thee”.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

These line are taken from the poem ‘A Little Grain of Gold’, written by **Rabindranath Tagore**. He was the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize. He is popularly known as ‘Vishwakavi’ (Universal Poet). Tagore was a writer, musician, painter and educationist. He is the composer of our National Anthem ‘Janaganamana.’

**Context :**

The poem ‘A Little Grain of Gold’ is from Tagore’s Gitanjali (song 50). It highlights the virtue of giving. The poem is about the strange ways in which God tests his devotees. The speaker of the poem is a beggar.

**Explanation :**

One day, the speaker, a beggar, was on his begging rounds. He saw the king of all kings coming his way in a gorgeous chariot. The beggar was elated and his joy had no bounds. He was excited thinking that he would get plenty as alms and all his woes would come to an end. But the king, to the beggar’s shock and surprise, asked him what he would give. The beggar thought it was a royal joke. He couldn’t understand how a king could beg from a beggar. But the king was serious. Then he slowly took out the least little grain of corn from his bag and gave it to the king.

**Critical Comment :**

The poem is philosophical and has an indepth meaning. It sounds simple but conveys a valuable message. It effectively drives home the point that ‘giving’ should come before ‘taking’. Thus, it acquires remarkable and universal appeal. The king can be compared to God and the beggar to man.

(d). “I bitterly wept and wished that I had had the heart to give thee my all”.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

These line are taken from the poem ‘A Little Grain of Gold’, written by **Rabindranath Tagore**. He was the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize. He is popularly known as

‘Vishwakavi’ (Universal Poet). Tagore was a writer, musician, painter and educationist. He is the composer of our National Anthem ‘Janaganamana..’.

**Context :**

The present poem is from Tagore’s **Gitanjali** (Song 50). It highlights the virtue of giving. The poem is about the strange ways in which God tests his devotees. The speaker of the poem is a beggar.

**Explanation :**

The speaker, a beggar, was on his begging rounds. He saw the king of all kings coming his way in a gorgeous chariot. The beggar was elated and his joy had no bounds. He was excited thinking that he would get plenty as alms and all his woes would come to an end. But the king, to the beggar’s shock and surprise, asked him what he would give. The beggar thought it was a royal joke. He slowly took out the least little grain of corn from his bag and gave it to the king.

At the end of the day, the beggar returned home and emptied his bag on the floor. To his great surprise the beggar found a least little grain of gold in his alms. Then he realised his mistake and foolishness and wept bitterly. He wished he had had the heart to give his all to the king who in fact was God.

**Critical Comment :**

The poem is philosophical and has an in-depth meaning. It sounds simple but conveys a valuable message. It effectively drives home the point that ‘giving’ should come before ‘taking’. Thus, it acquires remarkable and universal appeal. The king can be compared to God and the beggar to man.

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### **Paragraph Questions**

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- (a) ‘My hopes rose high..... whose hopes rose? Why did his hopes rise on seeing the king?’

**Answer :**

**About the poet:** The poem, “A Little Grain Of Gold” was written by Rabindranath Tagore. He was a famous writer, musician, painter and educationist. He is popularly known as ‘Vishwakavi’ [Universal Poet]. He is the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize.

**About the poem:** The poem “A Little Grain Of Gold” is from Tagore’s **Gitanjali** (song 50). It highlights the virtue of giving. The poem is about the strange ways in which God tests his devotees. The speaker of the poem is a beggar.

**Topic:** One day, as usual, the beggar goes from door to door in the village seeking alms. All of a sudden he sees a magnificent golden chariot coming close. He is dazzled by his splendour. He is elated and his joy has no bounds. He wonders whether the chariot is real or he is dreaming. He concludes that the owner of the chariot is a very rich king. He is sure that the king will notice him. The generous king will bestow wealth on him and all his woes will come to an end.

**“My hopes rose high and me thought my evil days were at an end.”**

**Critical Analysis:** The poem is philosophical and has an indepth meaning. It sounds simple but conveys a valuable message. It effectively drives home the point that ‘giving’ should come before ‘taking’. Thus, it acquires remarkable and universal appeal. The king can be compared to God and the beggar to man.

(b) “I bitterly wept .....” Why did the beggar weep bitterly that night?

**Answer :**

**About the poet:** The poem, “A Little Grain Of Gold” was written by Rabindranath Tagore. He was a famous writer, musician, painter and educationist. He is popularly known as ‘Vishwakavi’ [Universal Poet].

**About the poem:** The poem is from Tagore’s Gitanjali (song 50). It highlights the virtue of giving. The poem is about the strange ways in which God tests his devotees. The speaker of the poem is a beggar.

**Topic:** The speaker, a beggar, was on his begging rounds. He saw the king of all kings coming his way in a gorgeous chariot. The beggar was elated and his joy had no bounds. He was excited thinking that he would get plenty as alms and all his woes would come to an end. But the king, to the beggar’s shock and surprise, asked him what he would give. The beggar thought it was a royal joke. Later, he slowly took out the least little grain of corn from his bag and gave it to the king.

That evening, the beggar found a least little grain of gold in his alms. Then he realised his mistake and wept bitterly. He wished he had the heart to give his all to the king who in fact was God.

“I bitterly wept and wished that I had had the heart to give thee my all.”

(c) The wise say, “We reap what we sow”. Does the poem support the saying? Explain.

**Answer:**

**About the poet:** The poem, “A Little Grain Of Gold” was written by Rabindranath Tagore. He was a famous writer, musician, painter and educationist. He is popularly known as ‘Vishwakavi’ [Universal Poet]. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for the collection of the poems ‘Gitanjali’. He was the composer of our National Anthem.

**About the poem:** The poem is from Tagore’s Gitanjali (song 50). It highlights the virtue of giving. The poem is about the strange ways in which God tests his devotees. The speaker of the poem is a beggar.

**Topic:** “We reap what we sow” is a wise saying. It explains the law of Karma Siddhantha. It says that the fruits we get depend on the efforts we put in. The poem proves the saying. The beggar in the poem was very slow in giving but he was ready to take. One

day he was on his begging rounds. He saw the king coming in a golden chariot. He expected a lot from the king. But to his shock and surprise, the king asked the beggar for something. Then he gave a little grain of corn to him. That evening, after going home, he found a little grain of gold in his wallet. That was the fruit of what he had given that morning. He realized his folly. If he had given more, he could have got more. Thus, the poem proves that our gains depend on our pains. Good thoughts and good actions take us to the right place and bad thoughts and bad actions take us to the disaster.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL THE ANNOTATIONS

**Introduction:** These lines are taken from the poem ‘A Little Grain of Gold’, written by **Rabindranath Tagore**. He was a writer, musician, painter and educationist. He was the composer of our National Anthem.

**Context:** The present poem is taken from his book “Gitanjali”. It tells us about the importance of giving rather than taking.

**Explanation:** The speaker of the poem is a beggar. One day he saw the King of all kings coming his way in a golden chariot. He was excited thinking that he would get plenty of alms. But the king asked him what he would give. He slowly took out the least little grain of corn from his bag and gave it to the king. That evening, the beggar found a least little grain of gold in his alms. He wept bitterly. He wished he had had the heart to give his all to the king who in fact was God.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS

**About the author:** The poem ‘A Little Grain of Gold’, was written by **Rabindranath Tagore**. He was a writer, musician, painter and educationist.

**About the poem:** The present poem is taken from his book “Gitanjali”. It tells us about the importance of giving rather than taking.

**Topic:** The speaker of the poem is a beggar. One day he saw the King of all kings coming his way in a golden chariot. He was excited thinking that he would get plenty of alms. But the king asked him what he would give. He slowly took out the least little grain of corn from his bag and gave it to the king. That evening, the beggar found a least little grain of gold in his alms. He wept bitterly. He wished he had had the heart to give his all to the king who in fact was God.

**“God gives, gives and forgives; Man gets, gets and forgets.”**

\* \* \* \* \*

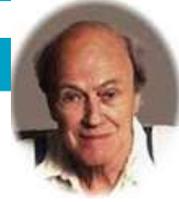
## MODULE - I

## UNIT - 3



## THE UMBRELLA MAN

(Short Story)



*[Narrator-girl of twelve-went to see a dentist-saw a little oldman-rainy day-sells umbrella for one pound-went to a pub-later picks up another silk umbrella]*

Roald Dahl

### Paragraph Questions

- (a) Narrate the events that led the little girl and her mother to wait in the rain for a taxi.

**Answer :**

**About the author:** The story, 'The Umbrella Man' was written by Roald Dahl (1916-1990). He was a popular children's author of the 20th century. His birthday September 13 is celebrated all over the world as Roald Dahl's Day. His work 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is the most widely read of his books.

**About the story:** 'The Umbrella Man' is a very interesting story. A 12 year old girl tells about a little old man's little game.

**Topic:** The narrator, a girl of twelve, had an appointment with the dentist in London one day. She was accompanied by her mother. After the treatment was over, both went to a cafe. While the mother had a cup of coffee, the girl enjoyed a banana split. They came out of the cafe at six. By then it had begun to rain. The mother realized that the rain would not stop soon. So they decided to take a taxi to get back home. Though many taxis passed by, all were occupied with passengers. The mother kept looking out for a vacant taxi. Meanwhile they both were thoroughly drenched in the rain.

**Critical Analysis:** The narration is free-flowing. The descriptions are full of interesting details and the diction helps highlight the desired effect. Gentle humour pervades all through the story.

- (b). **Sketch in a paragraph the character of the gentleman who approached the girl and her mother with a request for a favour.**

**About the author:** The story, 'The Umbrella Man' was written by Roald Dahl (1916-1990). He was a popular children's author of the 20th century. His birthday September 13 is celebrated all over the world as Roald Dahl's Day. His work 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is the most widely read of his books.

**About the story:** 'The Umbrella Man' is a very interesting story. A 12 year old girl tells about a little old man's little game.

**Topic:** The lead character, the umbrella man was small and old. The narrator, a 12 year old girl and her mother were waiting for a taxi on a London road. It was raining by cats and dogs. Then the little old man approached them requesting for a favour. He was looking like more than 70 years old. He was very polite and nice. He had a fine white moustache. His eyebrows were bushy and white, He wore nice brown shoes. He had a silk umbrella in his hand. Totally the old man looked like an elderly gentle man from his outward appearance. He requested the narrator's mother for a small favour. He wanted a pound in return he would hand over his umbrella to protect them from the rain.

**Critical Analysis:** The narration is free-flowing. The descriptions are full of interesting details and the diction helps highlight the desired effect. Gentle humour pervades all through the story.

- (c). **Describe the approach of the mother to the old man, who requested them to help him.**

**About the author:** The story, 'The Umbrella Man' was written by Roald Dahl (1916-1990). He was a popular children's author of the 20th century. His birthday September 13 is celebrated all over the world as Roald Dahl's Day. His work 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is the most widely read of his books.

**About the story:** 'The Umbrella Man' is a very interesting story. A 12 year old girl tells about a little old man's little game.

**Topic:** The lead character, the umbrella man was small and old. The narrator, a 12 year old girl and her mother were waiting for a taxi on a London road. It was raining by cats and dogs. Then the little old man approached them requesting for a favour. He asked them for one pound. He offered them his silk umbrella worth 20 pounds. He asked the money to go back to his house by taxi. But the narrator's mother was a suspicious lady. She was more suspicious of strangers and boiled eggs. She doubted the old man. So, she asked sharp questions and gave blunt replies. The narrator felt bad about her mother's approach. Eventually, she was convinced with the old man and decided to help him.

She believed him because he was well dressed and had beautiful brown shoes. But he refused to take the money for free. Finally the lady took the umbrella and gave him a pound. She felt that she had dealt with the old man cleverly.

**Critical Analysis:** The narration is free-flowing. The descriptions are full of interesting details and the diction helps highlight the desired effect. Gentle humour pervades all through the story.

**(d) : What did the girl and mother find out about the gentleman after he entered the pub?**

**Topic:** The lead character, the umbrella man was small and old. The narrator, a 12 year old girl and her mother were waiting for a taxi on a London road. It was raining by cats and dogs. Then the little old man approached them requesting for a favour. He asked them for one pound. He offered them his silk umbrella worth 20 pounds. He asked the money to go back to his house by taxi. But the narrator's mother was a suspicious lady. She was more suspicious of strangers and boiled eggs. She doubted the old man. So, she asked sharp questions and gave blunt replies. The narrator felt bad about her mother's approach. Finally the mother gave her one pound and took his umbrella. But after receiving the money the old man didn't hire a taxi. The narrator and her mother followed him. He entered **The Red Lion Pub** and drank whisky. While coming out he lifted from the coat-rack one of the many wet umbrellas hanging there, and off he went. He sold it to another gentleman. Later he went to a different pub. That was his game!

### Single Answer for All the Questions

**About the Author:** The story "The Umbrella Man" was written by Roald Dahl. He was a famous children story writer.

**About the Lesson:** 'The Umbrella Man' is a very interesting story. A 12 year old girl tells about a little old man's little game.

**Topic:** The narrator of the story was a twelve year old girl. One day she had an appointment with the dentist in London. She was accompanied by her mother. After the dental treatment was over, both went to a café. While the mother had a cup of coffee, the girl enjoyed a banana split. They came out of the cafe at six. By then it began to rain. So, they decided to take a taxi. But all the taxis were full of passengers. In the meantime a little old man approached them and requested them for a small favour. He said that he needed a pound to hire a taxi as he had left his wallet at home. He offered to give away his silk umbrella worth 20 pounds.

The narrator's mother was suspicious. She questioned him closely to make sure that he wasn't a trickster. On being satisfied, she gave him a pound and took the silk umbrella. After taking money, the old man was walking fast. The mother and daughter followed him. He entered a pub and drank whisky. While coming out of the bar he lifted someone's umbrella and sold it to another gentleman. That was his game !

**"Outward appearances are always deceptive."**

\* \* \* \* \*

## MODULE - II

## UNIT - 5

## AIM FOR THE STARS: SAINA NEHWAL

(Prose)



*[Saina Nehwal-born in Haryana-parents-Harvir singh and Usha Rani-mother's dream-came true in 2012 Olympics-worked very hard-parents supported-sacrifices-became No. 1 badminton player-many awards]*

.....An Article from the Internet

## ANNOTATIONS

- (a) Usha Rani dreamt of the day when her daughter would get an Olympic medal and she constantly motivated her daughter to work towards that goal.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

These lines are taken from the essay "Aim for the Stars: Saina Nehwal". It is an article taken from the internet.

**Context :**

The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina Nehwal, the badminton champion who has been ranked number one in the world. It describes how Saina achieved success through determination and hardwork.

**Explanation :**

Saina's mother, **Usha Rani**, was a reputed badminton player in her youth. So she wanted her daughter, too, to excel in the game. In fact, she hoped that Saina would win an Olympic medal some day. From the age of eight, therefore, Saina received rigorous training in badminton. She used to get up at 4am. Her father, Harvir Singh, would take her by bike to Lal Bahadur Stadium, a distance of 25Km from their house. In the evening, Usha Rani would coach her in the techniques of the sport. Saina was encouraged and motivated by her parents to aim for the stars. The dream came true years later. In 2012 Saina won the bronze medal at the London Olympics. Especially Usha Rani's constant motivation worked like magic in her formative years. Her endeavour didn't go in vain. Her talented daughter worked her way to make her mother's dream a reality. The loving parents instilled confidence and transformed Saina into a World Champion.

**Critical Comment :**

The essay is a great source of inspiration for the youth. It once again proves that if we aim for the stars, at least we can reach the tree tops. The author has used a lucid style with interesting anecdotes.

(b) Saina's meteoric rise to success was not without its share of compromises.

(OR)

(c) The strict regimen has to be maintained even outside the court.

**Answer :****Introduction :**

These lines are taken from the essay "Aim for the Stars'. Saina Nehwal". It is an article from the internet.

**Context :**

The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina Nehwal, the badminton champion who has been ranked number one in the world. It describes how Saina achieved success through determination and hardwork.

**Explanation :**

The author opines that Saina's meteoric rise to success was not without its share of compromises. Though a bright student, Saina was unable to complete Intermediate as the gruelling schedule left her with little time to attend classes. Moreover, she often played outside the country and, so, missed the exams. It is one of Sania's lasting regrets that she had to quit studies. In order to remain in form, she has to push herself to the very limits of physical and mental endurance. The strict regimen has to be maintained even outside the court. Though Saina loves to gorge on chocolates, ice creams and her mother's aloo parathas, she has to keep a strict check on her diet. Once on a visit to Malaysia, Saina put on 7 kg as she deviated from her diet. After that experience she had to take the permission of her coach before celebrating a victory with an ice cream!

That was the price she had to pay to sustain her position. Her passion for the game helped her to be single minded in her focus and compromise on such other things that did also matter to her.

**Critical Comment :**

The essay is a great source of inspiration for the youth. It once again proves that if we aim for the stars, at least we can reach the tree tops.

- (d) Just a year later, like the proverbial Phoenix, Saina rose from the ashes of dejection and defeat.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

These lines are taken from the essay “Aim for the Stars’. Saina Nehwal”. It is an article from the internet.

**Context :**

The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina Nehwal, the badminton champion who has been ranked number one in the world. It describes how Saina achieved success through determination and hardwork.

**Explanation :**

Saina has had her lean patches and there were times when she almost lost faith in herself. In 2013 Saina lost many matches. Her rankings plummeted and critics nearly wrote her off. Saina poignantly states, “That year was torture..... It was a very dark time in my career.” She confesses that she even considered quitting the game altogether. But she stubbornly persisted and devoted herself to the task of honing her skills. Just a year later, like the proverbial Phoenix, Saina rose from the ashes of dejection and defeat. She fought out of it and set herself on the road to a greater victory. (Phoenix is a mythical bird which burnt itself on the pyre. It is believed that it would be born again with renewed youth to live another cycle).

**Critical Comment :**

The essay is a great source of inspiration for the youth. It once again proves that if we aim for the stars, at least we can reach the tree tops. In the above given lines Saina’s comparison to Phoenix is very apt.

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### **Paragraph Questions**

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- (a) Why was the Philippines Tournament in 2006 a memorable one for Saina Nehwal?

**Answer :**

**About the Author:** The essay “Aim for the Stars, Saina Nehwal” is an article from the internet. It is written by an anonymous writer.

**About the Lesson:** The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina Nehwal, the badminton champion who has been ranked number one in the world. It describes how Saina achieved success through determination and hardwork.

**Topic:** Saina's first exposure to international badminton was at the Philippines tournament in 2006. It was a four star rated tournament and, thus a prestigious one. Saina was a relatively unknown player. She was only sixteen years old. She was seeded 86<sup>th</sup>, a low rank. But she surprised all by defeating her opponents. Her opponents were reputed players from Germany and Malaysia. Saina won the singles title. It was a sensational victory. Saina became the first Indian woman to win such a prestigious tournament. The victory gave her immense confidence to face top players of the world. Indeed it is a great breakthrough in Saina's career.

**Critical Analysis:** The essay is a great source of inspiration for the youth. It once again proves that if we aim for the stars, at least we can reach the tree tops.

- (b) 'Saina Nehwal might not have become a world player without the support and encouragement of her parents'. How far is this true?

**Answer :**

**About the Author:** The essay "Aim for the Stars, Saina Nehwal" is an article from the internet. It is written by an anonymous writer.

**About the Lesson:** The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina Nehwal, the badminton champion who has been ranked number one in the world. It describes how Saina achieved success through determination and hardwork.

**Topic:** Saina Nehwal is a badminton player who has been ranked number one in the world. She has won several prizes in tournaments including the bronze medal in the London Olympics in 2012. Saina Nehwal was born in Hisar, Haryana. Her father **Harvir Singh** was a scientist in Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in Hyderabad. It was actually her mother **Usha Rani's** dream to make Saina a world champion. Luckily for Saina, her parents doted on her to realize her goals. Harvir Singh had faith in her abilities therefore he withdrew the bulk of his provident fund savings when Saina was a child, to arrange the best training in badminton for her. He would take her by bike to LB Stadium a distance of over 25 km from their house. In the evening, her mother who was a badminton champion in her youth would coach her in the techniques of the sport. Their sacrifices did not go in vain. She was conferred with Arjuna award in 2009, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2010. She was also felicitated with the Padma Shri in 2010 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016. She has won many prestigious awards in the national badminton titles so far. On every occasion, she readily acknowledges that these accomplishments would have not been possible without the support and encouragement she received from her parents.

**Critical Analysis:** The essay is a great source of inspiration for the youth. It once again proves that if we aim for the stars, at least we can reach the tree tops.

- (c) What were some of the compromises that Saina Nehwal had to make in her journey to success as a badminton champion?

**Answer :**

**About the Author:** The essay "Aim for the Stars, Saina Nehwal" is an article from the internet. It is written by an anonymous writer.

**About the Lesson:** The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina Nehwal, the badminton champion who has been ranked number one in the world. It describes how Saina achieved success through determination and hardwork.

**Topic:** Saina's meteoric rise to success was not without its share of compromises. She gave up many other likings and made many compromises. Her father would take her by bike to LB Stadium a distance of over 25 km from their house. In the evening, her mother, Usha Rani, who was a badminton champion in her youth would coach her in the techniques of the sport. Though a bright student, Saina was unable to complete Intermediate as the gruelling schedule left her with little time to attend classes. Moreover she often played outside the country and so missed the exam. It is one of Saina's lasting regrets that she had to quit studies. In order to remain in form, she has to push herself to the very limits of physical and mental endurance. The strict regimen has to be maintained even outside the court. Though Saina loves to gorge on chocolates, ice creams and her mother's aloo parathas, she has to keep a strict check on her diet. Once on a visit to Malaysia, Saina put on 7 kg as she deviated from her diet. After that experience she had to take the permission of her coach before celebrating a victory with an ice cream!

**Critical Analysis:** The essay is a great source of inspiration for the youth. It once again proves that if we aim for the stars, at least we can reach the tree tops.

(d) Describe some of the major achievements of Saina Nehwal in badminton?

**Answer :**

**About the Author:** The essay "Aim for the Stars, Saina Nehwal" is an article from the internet. It is written by an anonymous writer.

**About the Lesson:** The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina Nehwal, the badminton champion who has been ranked number one in the world. It describes how Saina achieved success through determination and hardwork.

**Topic:** Saina Nehwal has not only gained world fame but has also been instrumental in raising the popularity of the game. In a country where cricket players are deified and the achievements of sportspersons in other fields are largely ignored, Saina has carved a niche for herself in badminton. Saina made a dramatic and sensational entry into the international badminton circuit in 2006. She is the first Indian to win the World Junior Badminton Championship (2008) and also the first Indian to win a Super Series Tournament (2009). She won the gold in the Commonwealth Games in 2010. She won the bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics. But the best was yet to come. In 2015 Saina was ranked No.1 in the world by the **World Badminton Federation**.

Saina has also received several awards. She received the Arjuna award in 2009 and the Rajeev Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2010. She was conferred with the **Padma Shri** in 2010. In 2016, she got the **Padma Bhushan**.

**Critical Analysis:** The essay is a great source of inspiration for the youth. It once again proves that if we aim for the stars, at least we can reach the tree tops.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL ANNOTATIONS

Ans: **Introduction:** These lines are taken from the essay “**Aim for the Stars: Saina Nehwal**”. It is taken from the internet.

**Context:** The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina, the badminton champion.

**Explanation:** Saina was born in 1990 at Hisar in Haryana. Her father is Harvir Singh and mother is Usha Rani. It was her mother’s dream to make Saina a champion. Both the parents worked hard and encouraged her to get success. Saina won the bronze medal at the London Olympics (2012). Saina sacrificed many things to reach the great heights. In 2013 she lost many matches. But just a year later she rose from the ashes of defeat like Phoenix bird and proved herself. She won many awards and rewards.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL QUESTIONS

Ans: **About the author:**The essay “**Aim for the Stars: Saina Nehwal**” is taken from the internet.

**About the lesson:** The essay contains a brief sketch of Saina, the badminton champion.

**Topic:** Saina was born in 1990 at Hisar in Haryana. Her father is Harvir Singh and mother is Usha Rani. It was her mother’s dream to make Saina a champion. Both the parents worked hard and encouraged her to get success. Saina won the bronze medal at the London Olympics (2012). Saina sacrificed many things to reach the great heights. In 2013 she lost many matches. But just a year later she rose from the ashes of defeat like Phoenix bird and proved herself.

**“Aim at a golden bird; atleast you can catch its feathers.”**

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## MODULE - II

## UNIT - 6

## THE ROYAL TOMBS OF GOLCONDA



(Poetry)

*[Seven Qutub Shahi Tombs-symbol of Royal Empire-Poet steps into the past-can hear warfare-merriment of young queens-golden era-rich pomegranate groves]*



Sarojini Naidu

## ANNOTATIONS

- (i) The glimmering music of your spears,  
The laughter of your royal brides.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

These lines are taken from the poem “The Royal Tombs of Golconda’ written by Sarojini Naidu. She was a child prodigy and started writing poetry at an early age. She was a great freedom fighter also. She is popularly known as the ‘Nightingale of India’. Her collection of poems include : “The Golden Threshold, The Bird of Time , Songs of Life, The Broken Wing...”

**Context :**

The poem deals with the tombs of the seven Qutub Shahi rulers, situated about two kilometres from Golconda Fort. She addresses the kings and the queens. She pictures the valour, gallantry and beauty of the kings and the queens of a bygone era which these monuments symbolize. The poem depicts the poet’s nostalgia.

**Explanation :**

The poet visits the **Qutub Shahi Tombs** in Hyderabad. As she looks around, she feels that she has stepped into the past. She can visualise the royal empire in all its glory. She can see the brave kings getting their weapons ready for war. Her dreaming spirit wanders to listen to the glimmering music of spears. The sunrays dance on the spears and they glitter in the sunshine. The poet can hear the laughter and merriment of the young queens. It is as though she is transported to another era. In this way she depicts the terrific scene on one side and the lighter side on the other side.

**Critical Comment :**

Sarojini Naidu’s poems depict Indian landscape and culture. In this poem she brings alive the grandeur and glory of an ancient empire. She succeeds in making the readers believe that the kings and the queens are alive even today. The imagery used in the poem clearly proves the creativity of Sarojini Naidu.

- (ii) In vain, O kings, doth time aspire  
To make your names oblivion's sport.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

These lines are taken from the poem "The Royal Tombs of Golconda" written by Sarojini Naidu. She was a famous Indian poet. She is popularly known as the 'Nightingale of India'. Her collection of poems include : The Golden Threshold, The Bird of Time , Songs of Life, The Broken Wing....

**Context :**

The poem deals with the tombs of the seven Qutub Shahi rulers, situated about two kilometres from Golconda Fort. These tombs are set amidst the beautifully laid out gardens of Ibrahim Bagh.

**Explanation :**

The poet visits the Qutub Shahi tombs in Hyderabad. As she looks around, she feels that she has stepped into the past. She can visualise the royal empire in all its glory and she expresses her musings. Centuries have gone by but legends about the valour of the kings still abound. Monuments like the Golconda Fort stand mute testimony to the nobility, tolerance, enlightenment and foresight of the kings. The reign of the Qutub Shahi rulers was synonymous with peace, culture and prosperity. In this way the poet feels that time has played a game with those kings to erase their names from history but it couldn't succeed. The hills located at a distance stand mute spectators to the ruined grandeur. They projected the ancient glory and reputation of Golconda rulers. They seem to be providing protection to these great monuments.

**Critical Comment :**

Sarojini Naidu's poems depict Indian landscape and culture. In this poem she brings alive the grandeur and glory of an ancient empire.

- (iii) Your beauty wakens with the spring  
To kindle these pomegranate groves.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

These lines are taken from the poem "The Royal Tombs of Golconda" written by Sarojini Naidu. She was a famous Indian poet. She is popularly known as the 'Nightingale of India'. Her collection of poems include : "The Golden Threshold, The Bird of Time , Songs of Life, The Broken Wing..."

**Context :**

The poem deals with the tombs of the seven Qutub Shahi rulers, situated about two kilometers from Golconda Fort.

**Explanation :**

Sarojini Naidu, a famous Indian poetess, visits the Qutub Shahi Tombs in Hyderabad. As she looks around, she feels that she has stepped into the past. She hears the laughter and merriment of the young queens. She says that the old Fate ordered their flower-like bodies to the tomb. She calls the death the vital seeds of the queen's everlasting bloom. She assures the dead queens that their loves will be remembered every year by the songs of bulbuls in spring season. She also praises the beauty of the dead queens saying that the beauty of pomegranate groves is enhanced by the beauty of the queens. The exotic orchards of pomegranates are rejuvenated in the spring season, kindled by the beauty and elegance of the queens.

**Critical Comment :**

Sarojini Naidu's poems depict Indian landscape and culture. In this poem she brings alive the grandeur and glory of an ancient empire.

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### **Paragraph Questions**

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- (i) How does the poet sing the glory of Golconda Kings?

**Answer:**

**About the Poet:** The poem 'The Royal Tombs of Golconda' was written by Sarojini Naidu. She is also called the Nightingale of India. She was a great freedom fighter also. Her collection of poems include : **The Golden Threshold, The Bird of Time , Songs of Life, The Broken Wing.**

**About the Poem:** The poem deals with the tombs of the Seven Qutub Shahi rulers, situated about two kilometers from Golconda Fort.

**Topic:** Sarojini Naidu expresses her musings when she visits the "Royal Tombs of Golconda." She is enchanted by the ancient glory and feels that she is transported into another era. The hoary plains around her reveal the great architecture of Qutub Shahi rulers. The valour of the kings is revealed in the glimmering music of the spears. The poet can recall the merriment of royal brides. She can visualize the glory of the royal empire and ruined grandeur of the fort. Centuries have passed by but the legends about the valour of kings still abounds. The reign of Qutub Shahi rulers reveal their nobility, tolerance, enlightenment and foresight. Their reign was synonymous with peace, culture and prosperity.

**"Though centuries falter and decline,  
Your proven strongholds shall remain."**

(ii) **How does the beauty of Golconda queens kindle the pomegranate groves?**

**About the Poet:** The poem 'The Royal Tombs of Golconda' was written by Sarojini Naidu. She is also called the Nightingale of India.

**About the Poem:** The poem deals with the tombs of the seven Qutub Shahi rulers, situated about two kilometers from Golconda Fort.

**Topic :** Sarojini Naidu, a famous Indian poetess, visits the Qutub Shahi tombs in Hyderabad. As she looks around, she feels that she has stepped into the past. The valour and gallantry of Qutub Shahi rulers is everlasting. The spears used by the kings glint in the sunshine as they get ready for war. The poetess also hears the laughter and merriment of the young queens. She says that the old Fate ordered their flower-like bodies to the tomb. She calls the death the vital seeds of the queen's everlasting bloom. She assures the queens that the bulbuls will sing the saga of the royal reign every year in spring season. Their loves will be remembered every year by the songs of bulbuls in this season. She praises the beauty of the dead queens saying that the beauty of pomegranate groves is enhanced by the beauty of the queens.

The poetess compares the royal splendour to the enchanting spring season. It kindles the pomegranate orchards and enhances the serenity and elegance of the scene.

**"Your beauty wakens with the spring; To kindle those pomegranate groves."**

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL ANNOTATIONS

Ans. **Introduction:** These lines are taken from the poem 'The Royal Tombs of Golconda' written by Sarojini Naidu. She was a famous Indian poet.

**Context:** The poem describes the tombs of the Seven Qutub Shahi Rulers.

**Explanation:** In this poem the poet brings alive the glory of an ancient empire. She can visualise the royal empire. She can see the brave kings getting their weapons ready for war. She can also hear the laughter of the young queens. She says that bulbuls sing their loves every year. The colour of the pomegranate groves is enhanced by the beauty of the queens.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL QUESTIONS

Ans. **About the poet:** The poem 'The Royal Tombs of Golconda' was written by Sarojini Naidu. She was a famous Indian poet.

**About the poem:** The poem describes the tombs of the Seven Qutub Shahi Rulers.

**Topic:** In this poem the poet brings alive the glory of an ancient empire. She can visualise the royal empire. She can see the brave kings getting their weapons ready for war. She can also hear the laughter of the young queens. She says that bulbuls sing their loves every year. The colour of the pomegranate groves is enhanced by the beauty of the queens.

**"A tyrant dies; his rule is over. A noble king dies; his rule begins."**

\* \* \* \* \*

## MODULE - II

## UNIT - 7

## HOW MUCH LAND DOES A MAN NEED?

(Short Story)



*[Pahom-greedy peasant-wanted more land-came under the control of devil-went to Bashkirs-to buy land cheaply-started running-exhausted-died and buried there only]*



— Leo Tolstoy

- (a) Describe how Pahom became more and more greedy as the story progresses.

**Answer :**

**About the writer:**

The story “How much Land Does a Man Need?” Was written by Leo Tolstoy. He was a famous Russian writer. He is considered to be one of the world’s greatest novelists. His best known novels are “War and Peace” and “Anna karenina.”

**About the story:**

The lesson is about the downfall of a man who is overcome by greed. His name is Pahom.

**Topic:**

**Pahom** was a peasant. He believed that if he had plenty of land he would be very happy. Soon after he bought 40 acres of land. He was overjoyed. But he soon became restless. He heard of a place beyond the Volga where peasants who joined the commune were granted 25 acres of fertile land each. He sold his land and went there. His family now owned 125 acres. Still he was not satisfied.

He then heard of a place very far away where land could be bought extremely cheap. Once again Pahom set off on a long journey and reached the land of the Bashkirs. He was keen to buy as much land as he could. On reaching there he lost all reason and understanding. The sight of the Steppes was too tempting for him. He agreed to the condition laid by the chief of the Bashkirs. He knew that he had miscalculated on the time factor as well as his endurance levels. Yet his greed overruled his discretion. He walked on mindlessly. His last deal ultimately killed him.

**Critical Comment :**

Leo Tolstoy's writings have profound moral values. He gained acclaim as a moral and religious teacher. The present story tells us that only wealth doesn't give us happiness and man should not be greedy about short living materialistic pleasures.

(b) How did Pahom's greed lead to his downfall?

(OR)

(c) Pahom boasted that if he had plenty of land, he need not fear even the Devil. Narrate how the Devil taught Pahom a lesson?

**Answer :**

**About the writer:**

The story "How much Land Does a Man Need?" Was written by Leo Tolstoy. He was a famous Russian writer. He is considered to be one of the world's greatest novelists. His best known novels are War and Peace and Anna Karenina.

**About the story:**

The lesson is about the downfall of a man who is overcome by greed.

**Topic:**

Pahom was a peasant. He felt that if he had plenty of land, he would be quite content with his life and would not fear even the Devil himself. He thought, "If I had plenty of land, I should not fear Devil himself!" The Devil heard these words and decided to teach him a lesson. It thought, "We will have a tussle. I will give you land enough; and by means of land I will get you into my power."

The Devil incited Pahom's greed for land. First it came in the form of a stranger and revealed that there was fertile land in the commune. Again it came in the guise of a traveller and talked about the wonderful tribe called the **Bashkirs** who owned vast tracks of land. In the end, the Devil in the form of the head of Bashkirs made a strange proposition. Thus the Devil laid foundation for the downfall of Pahom. Even in a dream, the Devil appeared before the dead body of Pahom. But Pahom ignored all this and went ahead to own the vast tracts of land by agreeing to the strange proposition of the Bashkirs. He died of exertion. Thus the Devil taught Pahom a lesson. Only greed is the main reason for his downfall.

**Critical Comment :**

Leo Tolstoy's writings have profound moral values. He gained acclaim as a moral and religious teacher.

**(d) Comment on the title of Tolstoy's story.**

**Answer :**

**Topic:**

**Pahom**, a peasant, feels that if only he had a lot of land, he would be quite content with his life as a peasant and, in fact, would not fear anyone. He thinks, "If I had plenty of land, I should not fear Devil himself!" The devil hears these words and decides to throw a challenge. It thinks, "We will have a tussle. I will give you land enough; and by means of land I will get you into my power."

Pahom buys 40 acres of land in the beginning. But his greed for land is not satisfied. He joins the commune and becomes the owner of 125 acres. Then he hears of the place of Bashkirs where land can be bought extremely cheap. He is keen to buy as much land as he can. He agrees to the condition laid by their chief. In his attempt to acquire a lot of land, he dies of exertion. Pahom's servant digs a grave long enough for Pahom to lie in, and buries him in it. Six feet from his head to his heels is all Pahom needs. Thus, Tolstoy answers the question in the title "How Much land Does a Man Need?" The answer is six feet to serve as a grave. The story proves that only wealth doesn't give us happiness and one shouldn't be greedy about short living materialistic pleasures.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL QUESTIONS

**About the Author:**

The story "How much Land Does a Man Need?" was written by **Leo Tolstoy**. He was a famous Russian writer.

**About the Lesson:**

The lesson is about the downfall of a man who is overcome by greed.

**Topic:**

The present story is about Pahom, a greedy peasant. He is overcome by greed and wants more and more land. Devil throws a challenge to him and plays a game with him. He buys 40 acres of land in the beginning. He joins the commune and becomes the owner of 125 acres. Pahom goes to Bashkirs to acquire more land. In his attempt, he dies out of exertion and is buried in a grave immediately by his servant. The author proves that a man needs only six feet land. Only wealth doesn't give us happiness and one shouldn't be greedy.

**"The earth has enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed."**

**"Greed is the root cause of all evils." --- Gandhiji**

\* \* \* \*

## MODULE - III

## UNIT - 9

## ON THE RULE OF THE ROAD

(Prose)



*[The lesson-about personal liberty and social liberty-take care of other's needs-rules are for our sake-follow them-otherwise-chaos everywhere-addresses a social problem-interesting]*



A.G. Gardiner

## ANNOTATIONS

- (a) Liberty is not a personal affair only, but a social contract.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

This sentence is taken from the essay 'On the Rule of the Road', written by A.G.Gardiner. He was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1865 in England. He wrote many articles under the pseudonym of **Alpha of the Plough** as a journalist and essayist. Some of his best known writings are "Pillars of Society, Pebbles on the shore, Many Furrows and Leaves in the Wind."

**Context :**

'On the Rule of the Road' is a short but interesting discussion on liberty. The author defines and explains the distinction between individual liberty and social liberty.

**Explanation :**

The essayist asserts that rights and responsibilities should go together. He presents his observations and thoughts on what liberty in reality is. He defines the distinction between individual liberty and social responsibility. He says that liberty is not a personal affair but the accommodation and tolerance of the interests of others. Personal liberty has to be sacrificed for the security and safety of society. Individual liberty should be controlled to protect social security. In many cases, individual liberty has to be restricted for a greater social order.

**Critical Comment :**

The essayist's uniqueness can be seen in his ability to teach the basic thoughts of life in an easy and amusing manner. He succeeds in convincing the reader that rights and responsibilities go together. Understanding this fact and following it makes life sweeter and failure to do so makes it bitter. A.G.Gardiner's essays are elegant, humorous and are of human interest.

(b) Individual liberty would have become social anarchy.

**Answer :**

**Explanation :**

The author gives the distinction between personal liberty and social responsibility. He tells about an old lady who was walking through the middle of the road with a basket on her head without minding the oncoming traffic. She said that she had got freedom and liberty to do so. Certainly we are not entitled to such liberties on the road. Such individual liberty should be restricted for the safety of the society, at least on the road. It is obvious that too much individual freedom will lead to social anarchy. The author feels that there is a danger of the world getting liberty drunk in these days like the old lady with the basket. The liberties of everybody must be curtailed to preserve the liberties of all.

(c) In all these and a thousand other details you and I please ourselves and ask no one's leave.

**Answer :**

**Explanation :**

A.G. Gardiner tells that personal liberty is always controlled by social responsibility.

The essayist opines that one certainly has the liberty to behave and conduct himself as he likes, in matters that do not affect anyone else. If a person dyes his hair, wears a tall hat, a frock-coat and sandals, or goes to bed late or get up early, who shall say "No". He does not seek permission from any one in these matters. No one asks him whether he may be a Protestant or Catholic. In all these things, and a thousand other things, we can do what we like. We have got freedom and liberty to do so. Nobody can question us as far as personal life is concerned because it doesn't afflict the society.

(d) We are all liable to forget this and unfortunately we are much more conscious of the imperfections of others in this respect than of our own.

**Answer :**

**Explanation :**

The writer creates awareness about the distinction between personal liberty and social responsibility. He says that personal liberty is always controlled by social responsibility.

The essayist opines that we have a whole kingdom in which we can rule alone. We can do what we choose. We can be wise or ridiculous, harsh or easy, conventional or

odd. Once we step out of this kingdom, our personal liberty should be qualified by other people's liberty. Personal liberty should be harmoniously fused with social liberty. For instance, we have no right to blow the trombone at odd hours as it interferes with the liberty of our neighbour to sleep in quiet.

Sometimes when our liberty is restricted, we get outraged. We forget to understand that we have to accommodate our liberty to the liberties of other people. Often, we find fault with others without realizing our mistakes. We are always conscious of our rights but often forget our duties and responsibilities. Liberty is an accommodation of interests. Sometimes, to have a better social order, we have to sacrifice our personal liberty.

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### **Paragraph Questions**

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- (a) Describe the incident about the stout lady who walked down the middle of a street. What do we learn from it?

**Answer :**

**About the Author:** The essay "On the Rule of the Road" was written by A.G. Gardiner. He was a famous British essayist and journalist. He was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1865 in England. He wrote many articles under the pseudonym of **Alpha of the Plough** as a journalist and essayist. Some of his best known writings are "Pillars of Society, Pebbles on the shore, Many Furrows and Leaves in the Wind."

**About the Lesson:** 'On the Rule of the Road' is a short but interesting discussion on liberty. The author defines and explains the distinction between individual liberty and social liberty.

**Topic:** The essay begins with the incident of a stout lady walking down the middle of a street instead of using the pavement. When pointed out the lady says that she has every liberty to walk where she likes. Taking this small incident, A.G. Gardiner emphasizes the importance of 'rules' for a safe and peaceful life. He points out that accidents and deaths would become more frequent and common if we don't follow the rules of the road. It is the social order that restricts the individual liberty. Freedom without responsibility leads to anarchy. Our liberty should not cause inconvenience to others. A traffic policeman should not be considered a nuisance. His services are necessary for the safety and security of civilians on the roads.

**Critical Analysis :**

The essayist's uniqueness can be seen in his ability to teach the basic thoughts of life in an easy and amusing manner. He succeeds in convincing the reader that rights and responsibilities go together. Understanding this fact and following it makes life sweeter and failure to do so makes it bitter. A.G. Gardiner's essays are elegant, humorous and are of human interest.

(b) Explain with examples what the rule of the road means.

*Answer :*

**Topic:** The author emphasizes the importance of rules for a safe and peaceful life. The essay begins with the incident of an old lady with a basket on her head walking through the middle of the road causing a great inconvenience to the road users. She said she had got freedom and liberty to do so. Most people consider the traffic policeman a big nuisance, checking their freedom to move. Had there been no rules on the road and no traffic police man, accidents and deaths would have become frequent and common. One should realize the fact that order on the road reflects the liberty in individual lives. It is the social order that restricts the individual liberty for the good of all.

(c) Liberty is an accommodation of interest. Elaborate with examples from the essay.

*Answer :*

**Topic:** The essayist feels that liberty is not a personal affair. It's a social contract. Because our actions can take liberty from other people we should have a social contract. It is an accommodation and tolerance of the interest of others. Personal liberty has to be sacrificed for the security and safety of society. Sacrifice doesn't mean losing one's liberty.

One certainly has the liberty to behave and conduct himself as he likes, in matters that do not affect anyone else. One doesn't seek other's permission to continue as a Catholic or a Protestant, or to marry a dark lady or a fair lady. However, one certainly has no right to play the trombone at odd hours which disturbs others. Others also have their liberty to sleep in peace. In matters regarding the rules on the road, if we use our personal liberty and walk in the middle of the road or drive on the pavement, it leads to confusion of traffic and cause accidents. To avoid this, we should restrict our personal liberty so as to preserve our social order. This assures a safe and secure society. Therefore we have to be conscious of not only our rights but also our social responsibilities.

(d) We have a whole kingdom in which we rule alone .... Mention the areas in which we rule alone.

*Answer :*

**Topic:** The essayist opines that one certainly has the liberty and freedom to behave and conduct him as he likes, in matters that do not affect anyone else.

The author says we have a whole kingdom where we rule alone. Within the boundaries of this personal sphere, we can have our preferences, choices, likes and dislikes as it doesn't interfere with the freedom of others. We have every right to wear a dress we like, eat what we want; we can maintain a haircut we like. We have the right to go to bed and get up at our convenient time. We need not seek anybody's permission. We can follow our fancy in the matters of following any religion or marrying any person of our choice. We are at liberty to drink our favourite champagne. Our fancies may seem odd and unconven-

tional or even ridiculous to others. But. it does not matter as long as it doesn't cause any inconvenience to them. Once we step out of this kingdom, our actions become qualified by other people's liberty. We have to accommodate our liberties to preserve our social order.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL ANNOTATIONS

Ans. **Introduction:** The above given lines are taken from the lesson ““On the Rule of the Road” written by **A.G.Gardiner**. He was a famous British essayist and journalist. His essays are elegant, humorous and of human interests.

**Context:** The lesson is a short but interesting discussion on liberty. The author defines and explains the distinction between individual liberty and social liberty.

**Explanation:** The essay begins with a stout old lady who was walking with her basket down the middle of a street. She said that she had liberty to do so. The author feels that our freedom and liberty should not lead to social anarchy. We have freedom in our private affairs. But when it comes to social life we should take care of other's needs also.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS

Ans. The essay ““On the Rule of the Road” was written by **A.G.Gardiner**. He was a famous British essayist and journalist. His writings are of human interests.

The lesson is a short but interesting discussion on liberty. The author defines and explains the distinction between individual liberty and social liberty.

The essay begins with a stout old lady who was walking with her basket down the middle of a street. She said that she had liberty to do so. The author feels that our freedom and liberty should not lead to social anarchy. We have freedom in our private affairs. But when it comes to social life we should take care of other's needs also.

“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.”--- Abraham Lincoln

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## MODULE - III

### UNIT - 10

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

(Poetry)



*[Poem-Lament on -destruction of Nature-earth planet is dying-many species-extinct-save them- protect our earth for future generations]*



--- Julia Melnikova

#### ANNOTATIONS

(a) I don't want my children to see the Earth die.

**Answer :**

**Introduction :**

The given line is taken from the thought-provoking poem "Climate Change", written by Julia Melnikova. She is an internationally reputed research analyst on climate change. Born in Russia, she studied in Germany and worked in Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. Her contribution to International Carbon Action Planning (ICAP) is commendable.

**Context :**

The poem is a lament on the destruction of Nature by man and also a plea for change. The poet explains the reasons, consequences and solutions to the dying nature in a simple manner.

**Explanation :**

The poet asserts that human activities are largely responsible for the gradual destruction of Nature. Man does not realize that his activities are slowly killing the Earth. In a few decades, there will be drastic changes in Nature. All fishes and birds will die. The air and the water will become polluted and unfit to be used. Land masses will get submerged. The poet says that it would be a pity if children had to grow up in such a world. We owe it to future generations to make the world a better place to live in.

This is not the legacy the poet wishes to leave for the future generations. We should protect our Mother Earth. It is the responsibility of every individual to save our planet.

**Critical Comment :**

The poem presents a complex problem in a simple language. It succeeds in making the reader aware of the problem which is the need of the hour.

**(b) To stop all this mess we should lend our hand!**

**Answer :**

**Explanation:**

The poet asserts that human activities are largely responsible for the gradual destruction of Nature.

Rapid industrialization causes many problems. The harmful emissions sent into the air by factories and vehicles bring about serious health problems. These harmful particles show a very bad impact on the ecosystems. Global temperatures are increasing. Heavy down pours are seen. As a result, low-lying areas are getting submerged. We have made our planet a big rubbish bin. Man is slowly killing the earth making it unfit for living. Unless we stop this, we all cease to exist. It is time we should lend our hand and preserve Nature from the danger. It is the responsibility of every individual to save our planet.

**(c) If it dies, we die as well!**

**Answer :**

**Explanation :**

The poet asserts that human activities are largely responsible for the gradual destruction of Nature.

It is found that global warming is the major threat to man's existence. Global temperatures are increasing day by day. As a result low lying places are submerging in water. Extreme wet conditions are also seen. If it continues for a longer time, both Nature and human beings will be dying soon. We have made our planet a big rubbish bin. Man is slowly killing the earth making it unfit for living. Unless the green cover is protected, we won't exist. Man, at once, should stop the meaningless destruction of Nature. He should realize the terrible consequences of his actions. We should never allow Nature from bidding farewell to us. It is the responsibility of every individual to save our planet.

**(d) Let's us firstly take part in the global debate!**

**Answer :**

**Explanation :**

The poet asserts that human activities are largely responsible for the gradual destruction of Nature. It is the responsibility of every individual to save our planet. Human activities have caused irreparable damage not only to mother earth but to all living beings in it. The need of the hour is to take remedial measures to prevent

earth from dying. The author suggests us to go green and plant trees. Another solution is to take part in global debate. We should actively participate and suggest the ways to curb the problem. We should make people aware of the gravity of the situation.

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### Paragraph Questions

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- (a) 'To stop all this mess...' What does the poet mean by 'all this mess'? Explain in a paragraph.

**Answer :**

**About the Poet:** The poem "Climate Change" is written by Julia Melnikova. She is an internationally reputed research analyst on climate change. Born in Russia, she studied in Germany and worked in Russia, Germany, the U.K. and the U.S.A. Her contribution to International Carbon Action Planning (ICAP) is commendable.

**About the Poem:** The poem is a lament on the destruction of Nature by man and also a plea for change. The poet explains the reasons, consequences and solutions to the dying nature in a simple manner.

**Topic:** Man does not realize that his activities are killing the Earth. Drastic changes are taking place. The air and the water are getting more and more polluted. Our lungs are getting affected by the emissions from factories and vehicles. Global temperatures are rising. As a result, low lying places are getting submerged. We are responsible for all these problems. We are making the earth a dust bin. We are killing the earth and slowly making it unfit for living. Eventually, we have to face the consequences of our reckless actions.

"I don't want my children to see the Earth die,  
Where fishes don't swim and birds don't fly."

**Critical Analysis :**

The poem presents a complex problem in a simple language. It succeeds in making the reader aware of the problem.

- (b) How can we all help (lend our hand) to prevent nature from saying farewell?

**Answer :**

**Topic:** We all should protect Nature in all the possible ways. The green cover must be retained. As man is solely responsible for the destruction of nature, he should take an oath to protect Nature hereafter.

All of us should realize the gravity of the situation. The air we breathe, the water we drink and the earth we live in... everything is polluted. If this situation persists for long, both Nature and man will die. So it is time we should initiate action. Regardless age and size, we all should take part in the preservation of Nature. "To show our children the beauty of life; To help polar bears and pandas survive; Let's take part in the global debate."

- (c) List the factors that result in climate change. Suggest steps to solve this serious problem.

**Answer :**

**Topic:** Man resorts to meaningless destruction of Nature. He doesn't realize the fact that his actions are slowly killing the Earth. Rapid industrialization, harmful emissions sent into the air by factories and vehicles and deforestation are some of the factors that bring climate change.

All of us should play our role in reducing global warming and stop climate change. This is the need of the hour. By using alternative energy sources, choosing fuel efficient cars and appliances and using solar energy where feasible we can prevent abnormal climatic changes. Nations should come together to make policies and strategies to save our planet. Every person should contribute to his might in making earth a habitable place for future generations.

**“To show our children the beauty of life;**

**To help polar bears and pandas survive;**

**Let's take part in the global debate.”**

**Critical Analysis :**

The poem presents a complex problem in a simple language. It succeeds in making the reader aware of the problem.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL ANNOTATIONS

Ans. The above given line is taken from the poem “**Climate Change**’. The poet is Julia Melnikova. It is a lament on the destruction of Nature by man. It is also a plea for change.

The poet clearly explains the seriousness of the problem. She talks about the reasons and consequences of dying nature. She also tells about the solutions to the problem. The poem makes the readers aware of the problem. The air and the water are getting more and more polluted. Global temperatures are rising and low lying places are getting submerged. We have to face the consequences of our reckless actions.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS

Ans. The poem “**Climate Change**’ is written by Julia Melnikova.

It is a lament on the destruction of Nature by man. It is also a plea for change.

The poet clearly explains the seriousness of the problem. She talks about the reasons and consequences of dying nature. She also tells about the solutions to the problem. The poem makes the readers aware of the problem. The air and the water are getting more and more polluted. Global temperatures are rising and low lying places are getting submerged. We have to face the consequences of our reckless actions.

**“The earth has enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed.**

--- Gandhiji

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## MODULE - III

## UNIT - 11

## THE MEDAL

(Short Story)



*[Suren-a school teacher- got a medal from Sudhir, a student-took it to his village -had strange experiences- came back -returned it- medal had a curse-thrilling story]*



Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay

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**Paragraph Questions**


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(a) What did Suren find in Sudhir's hands? Describe it in detail.

**Answer :**

**About the Author:**

The story 'The Medal' was written by Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay. He was a famous Bengali writer. He wrote many short stories, novels, travel diaries, etc, that won him national and international awards. Some of his novels were made into movies.

**About the Story:**

'The Medal' is a short story that fills the reader with a sense of fear and suspense. Its supernatural element is at once thrilling and chilling.

**Topic:**

Suren was a school teacher in a village. One day, as usual, he was teaching class four. Suddenly a scuffle took place. Kamakhya, a student, was trying to snatch something from his classmate, Sudhir's hands. The teacher took the object and had a close look. He was surprised to find that it was a big, old medal. Something had been carved intricately on both sides. On one side there was an imprint of Queen Victoria in her youth. On the other side were inscribed the words 'Sergeant S.B Parkins, Sixth Dragon Guards, 1854'.

**Critical Analysis:**

Bibhutibhushan's writings express the beauty of nature in and around villages, emotions of the common man and the hardships, poverty, hopes and dreams of rural Bengal. The simple style and gripping narration make the reader run through the lines till the end. The story haunts the reader for long.

- (b) Write in a paragraph Suren's experiences on his way to the village and at Vrindavan's house.

**Answer :**

**Topic:** Suren was a school teacher in a village. One day he went to his village to show a medal to his village elders.

Suren reached his village by 5:30 pm and walked two miles to reach his home. It was a deserted house. Suren learnt that his childhood friend, Vrindavan had also come there. He wanted to meet him.

As he walked along the bridge he noticed that the river was in flood. Seeing the surging waters Suren got an irresistible urge to jump down into it. He could not understand the reason. He had the medal with him.

At Vrindavan's house he got the same feeling again. He could not control himself. He wanted to jump off the terrace. He was on the verge and about to jump down. Luckily, his friend dashed off and dragged him away. At the end, Suren came to know that the medal which he was carrying was the reason for all his temptations.

- (c) How did Suren spend that night at his home in the village?

**Answer :**

**Topic:** Suren was a school teacher in a village. One day he went to his village to show the medal to the village elders. He met his old friend, Vrindavan. There he got some strange experiences. Suren returned home after taking leave of his friend, Vrindavan. As he entered the house he got the same feeling of fear which he had experienced at Vrindavan's house. It was back and once again, it was haunting him.

He switched off the light and went to bed. He was lying on his bed and watching through the window. He felt a strong, malevolent presence outside the room. It was like a spirit that was violent and restless, that compelled him to look at it. A strong unpleasant smell filled the room and it smelled like a combination of rotting flesh and ointment. Throughout that night, he had a feeling that he wasn't alone and that someone was watching him. It was a horrifying experience. He couldn't figure out the mystery behind his weird feelings.

- (d) What did Suren find out at Sudhir's home about the medal?

**Answer :**

**Topic:** Suren was a school teacher in a village. One day he went to his village to show a medal to his village elders. He took it from his student, Sudhir.

Suren experienced a strange fear gripping him when he had taken the medal to his village. He did not understand why he had these weird feelings. When he returned,

the first thing he did was to return the medal. When he met Sudhir's grandfather, the old man said he was glad to know that Suren was safe. He told Suren that the medal carried a curse with it. He even recalled an incident about his brother-in-law, who once took away the medal forcibly to show his family. That evening, he fell off the terrace and died mysteriously. He also told him that whoever took the medal returned it immediately as they felt a strange fear. None outside Sudhir's family could withstand that power of the medal.

### **SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS**

Answer:

#### **About the Author:**

The story 'The Medal' was written by **Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay**. He was a famous Bengali writer. He wrote in a simple language.

#### **About the Story:**

'The Medal' is a short story that fills the reader with a sense of fear and suspense. Its supernatural element is at once thrilling and chilling.

#### **Topic:**

**Suren**, the narrator, is a school teacher. One day he sees a medal in a class four student, Sudhir's hands. It is a big, old, intricately engraved one. Suren feels like showing it to his village elders. In his village, he goes to meet his friend, Vrindavan. As he is crossing the river, he strongly, and strangely too, feels like jumping into the river. He fails to understand the reason. At Vrindavan's house too he feels like jumping off the terrace. That night, at his own home in the village, he feels a pair of fierce eyes watching him all through the night. He feels a strange, unpleasant smell filling the room. The following morning a village elder asks Suren some puzzling questions. On his way back to the railway station, Suren is terribly frightened by the branchless trunk of a tree. On Monday, Sudhir's grandfather tells Suren that the medal carries a curse with it and only Sudhir's family can withstand that power.

**"If you have fear of God, you won't be afraid of anyone; if you don't fear God, you'll be afraid of everyone".**

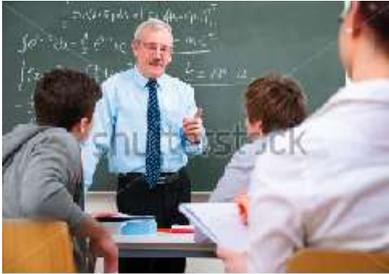
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## MODULE - IV

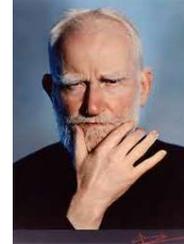
## UNIT - 13

## SPOKEN ENGLISH AND BROKEN ENGLISH

(Prose)



*[G.B. Shaw's speech-varieties of English-no two Englishmen speak the same-'Correct' English-can't be defined-depends on the occasions-varies from person to person]*



George Bernard Shaw

## ANNOTATIONS

a) "No two British subjects speak exactly alike".

**Introduction:**

This line is taken from the lesson 'Spoken English and Broken English', written by **George Bernard Shaw**. It is actually a speech recording of the famous dramatist in 1927. Shaw was known as a powerful public speaker, essayist, critic, commentator and dramatist.

**Context:**

In the speech, Shaw reflects on the problem of defining what exactly 'correct' English speech is. It discusses at length- with apt examples- how English is spoken in different ways by different native speakers and also by the same speaker.

**Explanation:**

There are wide variations in intonation and pronunciation even among native speakers of the language. They differ according to the country in which they were born. It may be used in different accents and ways even within a language's of native home. There are many people having a desire to speak 'correct' English. Some are foreign students coming on a visit to the British Common Wealth or America. Others may be native English speakers and they want to make their speech more refined. However, Shaw cautions, there is no fixed criterion for perfect spoken English. The reason is that no two Britishers speak English exactly alike. Even educated people and trained speakers do not pronounce some of the simplest and commonest words. So it is impossible to identify the ideally correct English.

**General Relevance:**

In all his writings Shaw showed an unconventional turn of mind and distrust of accepted institutions. His writings are marked by wit, humour and a lucid style. The style is simple but it sparkles with rhetoric. The ideas are original and thought-provoking.

- b) **“The two simplest and commonest words in any language are ‘yes’ and ‘no.’”**

**Explanation:**

Shaw being a member of a committee established by BBC, was given a position to decide how the utterances of speakers should be to make it as a model of correct speak for the British Islands. Though the committee knows everything about the English speech and yet its members do not agree as to the pronunciation of some of the simplest and commonest words in English language. The words are ‘yes’ and ‘no’. It is made clear that no two members of the committee pronounce them in the same way. Every member pronounce them distinctly. They are Irish members, Scottish members, Welsh members, Oxford University members and American members. They are all recognizable by their differences in speech. They differ according to the country in which they are born. Since, they all speak in a distinct style, it is nonsense to say that they all speak correctly. So there is no fixed criterion for standard English.

- c) **“If I were to speak to my wife at home as carefully as I am speaking to you, she would think that I was going mad.”**

**Explanation:**

Bernard Shaw confesses that there are wide variations in intonation and pronunciation even among native speakers of the language. He says that as a public speaker he has to take care that every word he says is understood by his hearers. But at home when he speaks to his wife he takes very little pains with his speech. He shows that in familiar surroundings and in one’s exchanges with close friends or relatives, one is quite careless, both in one’s articulation and in framing full-bodied, grammatical sentences. This is because they are confident of being understood in these circumstances without seeming rude or uncivilized. In the public sphere however, there is no such assurance. So we are much more careful with our speech while speaking with strangers or on formal occasions.

- d) **“If you are learning English because you intend to travel in England and wish to be understood there, do not try to speak English perfectly, because, if you do, no one will understand you”**

**Explanation:**

In the last section of his speech

George Bernard Shaw advises the foreign students not to try to speak English perfectly because native speakers of English won’t understand it. He reiterates that though there is no such thing as perfectly correct English, there is presentable English which

is called “Good English.” In London nine hundred and ninety nine out of thousand people not only speak bad English but speak even that very badly. No foreigner can even stress the syllables and make the voice rise and fall in question and answer, assertion and denial in refusal and consent, in enquiry or information exactly as a native does. Therefore the first thing they have to do is to speak with a strong foreign accent and speak broken English. Bernard Shaw criticizes that it is an insult to the native speakers of English who cannot understand his own language when it is too well spoken.

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### **Paragraph Questions**

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- a) **Why does Shaw assert that it is nonsense to say that all native speakers of English speak correctly?**

**About the author:** The lesson ‘Spoken English and Broken English’ was written by **George Bernard Shaw**. It is actually a speech recording of the famous dramatist in 1927. Shaw was known as a powerful public speaker, essayist, critic, commentator and dramatist.

**About the lesson:** In the speech, Shaw reflects on the problem of defining what exactly ‘correct’ English speech is. It discusses at length- with apt examples- how English is spoken in different ways by different native speakers and also by the same speaker.

**Topic:** There are wide variations in intonation and pronunciation even among native speakers of the language. Shaw being a member of a committee established by BBC, was given a position to decide how the utterances of speakers should be to make it as a model of correct speech for the British Islands. All the members of the committee are the educated persons and they speak in a polished or refined manner. But even the simplest words in English language like ‘yes’ and ‘no’ are pronounced differently by the members themselves. There are Scottish, Irish, Welsh and American members, each speaking in a distinct style. It is foolish to say, therefore, that all native speakers of English speak correctly as there is no fixed criterion for standard English.

- b). **What are the precautions that the writer wants you to take while addressing the natives?** (OR)
- c). **What does the writer say about the uses of pronunciation, the use of stress on syllables, accent, and so on by the native speakers of English?**

**Answer:**

**Topic :** Shaw argues that in London, nine hundred and ninety nine out of every thousand people not only speak bad English but they speak even badly. Even if they do not speak English well, they themselves can’t understand it when it is well spoken. But when the speaker is a foreigner, the better he speaks, the harder it is to understand him. In addition to this, he argues that no foreigner can even stress the syllables and make the voice rise and fall in question and answer, in assertion and denial, in

refusal and consent. Therefore what you have to do is to speak with foreign accent and speak broken English without any grammar. Then every English person to whom you speak will at once know that you are a foreigner. If you say. “Will you have the goodness to direct me to the railway terminus at Charing Cross”, pronouncing all the vowels and consonant beautifully he won’t understand you and will suspect you of being a beggar or confidence trickster. But if you shout ‘Please’! Charing Cross! Which way?” you will have no difficulty. Half a dozen people will immediately overwhelm you with directions. Shaw advocates that even in private intercourse with cultivated people, you must not speak too well. You must apply this method to learn foreign languages and never try to speak them too well. Even among English people to speak too well is a pedantic affectation. Eventually he argues that it is an insult to the native speakers of English who can’t understand his own language when it is too well spoken.

d). **What are the suggestions offered by the writer to foreign students and visitors to England ?**

Answer:

**Topic:** Shaw ends his speech with some practical advice to foreign users of English. George Bernard Shaw advises the foreign students not to try to speak English perfectly because native speakers of English won’t understand it. Shaw argues that, In London nine hundred and ninety nine out of thousand people speak bad English. No foreigner can even stress the syllables and make the voice rise and fall in question and answer, assertion and denial in refusal and consent, in enquiry or information exactly as a native does. Therefore the first thing they have to do is to speak with a strong foreign accent and speak broken English. Bernard Shaw criticizes that it is an insult to the native speakers of English who cannot understand his own language when it is too well spoken. Though there is no such thing as perfectly ‘correct’ English, there is no ‘presentable’ English - ‘Good English’.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL ANNOTATIONS / QUESTIONS

The lesson ‘**Spoken English and Broken English**’ was written by **George Bernard Shaw**. He was known as a powerful public speaker, essayist, critic, commentator and dramatist.

The present lesson is actually a speech recording of the famous dramatist in 1927. In the speech, Shaw reflects on the problem of defining what exactly ‘correct’ English speech is.

The lesson discusses at length- with apt examples- how English is spoken in different ways by different native speakers and also by the same speaker. Shaw argues that no two Britishers speak English in the same way. Even scholars were also unable to pronounce the simplest words in a same way. There are many variations in spoken English. So there is no point in asking for ‘Correct or standard English.’

*“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” ---- Nelson Mandela*

\* \* \* \*

## MODULE - IV

## UNIT - 14

## STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

(Poetry)



*[Poem-conflict between duty and beauty-poet on a journey-stops in the woods-carried away-horse cautions-poet becomes alert-resumes journey-duty is more important]*



Robert Frost

## ANNOTATIONS

- a) He will not see me stopping here; To watch his woods fill up with snow.

## Introduction:

This line is taken from the poem ‘Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening’. It was composed by the famous American poet, Robert Frost. He is called ‘The voice of America.’ He won four Pulitzer Prizes for his works: *New Hampshire* (1924), *Collected Poems* (1931), *A Further Range* (1937) and *A Witness Tree* (1943). He passed away in 1963.

## Context:

The present poem deals with man’s contemplation of nature. It presents a conflict between man’s sense of beauty and sense of duty.

## Explanation:

Once the poet was riding a horse to some place when he came across a stretch of woods. The pull of the woods filled with snow was irresistible. The lure of freedom from responsibilities and the sight of the snowfall made him forget the world for a while. He wondered whether the owner of the woods might object to his stopping there. However, he assures himself that the owner of the woods would not see him stopping there.

## Critical Comment:

The poem is a perfect example of a ‘calm and serene’ setting. It is one of the best known poems of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Robert Frost’s poems are laced with lucid descriptions of the beauty of nature and also convey profound moral messages about life. The central focus of the present poem is one has to find beauty in duty.

- b) **My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near**

**Answer:**

**Explanation:**

One evening, the poet was passing along a country road in his horse driven carriage. The woods were covered with snow. They looked lovely and enchanting. It was quiet and dark evening and no one was there nearby. The poet was just carried away by the beauties of nature. He lingered there for a while. Then, he thought that his little horse must think it queer to stop there without a farm house near. The poet knew that animals concentrate on their duty rather than the beauty of nature.

- c) **He gave his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake**

**Answer:**

**Explanation:**

One evening, the poet was passing through a wood in his horse driven carriage. The woods surrounding him looked beautiful and enchanting. They were covered with thick snow. The poet stayed there for a while. He was just carried away by the beauties of Nature. Then he thought that his little horse must think it queer to stop there without a farmhouse near. By shaking its harness bells it would ask him if there was any mistake. It was a gentle reminder for the poet of his duties. Animals caution humans with their sounds or actions to find out their mistakes. They also send strange signals to question his intentions.

- d) **But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.**

**Explanation:**

One evening, the poet was passing along a country road in his horse driven carriage. The woods surrounding him looked beautiful and enchanting. He was captivated by the loveliness of the view. He stayed there for some time. He was gazing into the soft and silent whiteness. He forgot the world for a while. His horse shook his harness bells questioning the pause; perhaps this place was not on their usual route or he was curious that there did not appear to be a farmhouse nearby. Then the poet realized that he had promises and obligations to be fulfilled before he could rest for the night. Eventually he decided to resume his journey.

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## Paragraph Questions

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a) 'My little horse must think it queer.' What does 'it' refer to?

**Answer:**

**About the Poet:** The poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' was written by Robert Frost. He was a famous American poet.

**About the Poem:** The present poem deals with man's contemplation of nature. It presents a conflict between man's sense of beauty and sense of duty.

**Topic:** One winter evening the poet was passing through the woods on horseback. The trees and the ground were covered with snow. It was quiet and there was no one else nearby. The poet was struck by the beauty of the landscape. He lingered there for a while. He contemplated on the beauty of the scene. His horse, however, was puzzled by the behaviour of the master. It wondered why they had stopped there as there was no farmhouse nearby. Animals concentrate on duties rather than the beauties of Nature.

**Critical Analysis :**

The poem is a perfect example of a 'calm and serene' setting. It is one of the best known poems of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Robert Frost's poems are laced with lucid descriptions of the beauty of nature and also convey profound moral messages about life. The central focus of the poem is not on the woods but on the duties to be performed.

"My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year."

b) 'Why does the 'horse' give its harness bells a shake?

**Answer:**

**About the Poet:** The poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' was written by Robert Frost. He was a famous American poet.

**About the Poem:** The present poem deals with man's contemplation of nature. It presents a conflict between man's sense of beauty and sense of duty.

**Topic:** Once the poet was riding his horse through the woods which were covered with deep snow. The woods looked lovely, dark and deep. He sat in his horse driven carriage gazing into the soft, silent whiteness. He thought that the owner of the woods might object to his stopping there. However, he assured himself that the owner who lived in the nearby village would not see him stopping there.

Then he thought that his little horse must think it queer to stop there without a farmhouse near. it might shake its harness bells to ask if anything went wrong.

**“He gives his harness bells a shake**

**To ask if there is some mistake.”**

**c) Why does the poet stop in the middle of his journey?**

Answer:

**About the Poet:** The poem ‘**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**’ was written by Robert Frost. He was a famous American poet.

**About the poem:**The present poem deals with man’s contemplation of nature. It presents a conflict between man’s sense of beauty and sense of duty.

**Topic:** Once the poet was riding his horse through the woods which were covered with deep snow. The poet was struck by the beauties of nature. He sat in his horse driven carriage gazing into the soft, silent whiteness. He was tempted to stay on and on, allowing his mind to lose itself in the charming woods. His consciousness seemed freeing itself from ordinary life. Thus the poet was fallen into a kind of hypnotic state, induced by woods and falling snow. He forgot the world for a while. These influences seemed benignant.

**“Whose woods these are I think I know**

**His house is in the village though”**

**Critical Comment:**

The poem is a perfect example of a ‘calm and serene’ setting. It is one of the best known poems of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Robert Frost’s poems are laced with lucid descriptions of the beauty of nature and also convey profound moral messages about life.

**d) What do you understand by the lines ‘but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep.’**

**About the Poet:** The poem ‘**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**’ was written by Robert Frost. He was a famous American poet.

**About the poem:**The present poem deals with man’s contemplation of nature. It presents a conflict between man’s sense of beauty and sense of duty.

**Topic:** Once the poet was passing along a country road on his horse back. He was gazing into the woods which looked lovely. He lingered there for long. Indeed, he was made spell bound by the beauties of nature. The horse shook his harness bells and

sent the poet some strange signals. Suddenly he remembered that he had promises and obligations to be fulfilled before he could rest for the night. Thus, the lines have a great significance and deeper meaning.

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

**Critical Comment:**

The poem is a perfect example of a ‘calm and serene’ setting. It is one of the best known poems of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Robert Frost’s poems are laced with lucid descriptions of the beauty of nature and also convey profound moral messages about life.

### SINGLE ANSWER FOR ALL ANNOTATIONS / QUESTIONS

Ans. The poem ‘**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**’ was written by **Robert Frost**. He was a famous American poet. He is also called “The Voice of America.”

The poem presents a conflict between sense of duty and sense of beauty.

Once the poet rides a horse through the forest which is covered with snow. He sits in his horse driven carriage gazing into the soft, silent whiteness. He is tempted to stay on and on, allowing his mind to lose itself in the charming woods. However, he remembers that his journey has a purpose. As typical of Frost’s poems, this poem also presents the conflict, which everyone has undergone in his life. The conflict is the demands and obligations of practical life on one side and the self-indulgence in the beauties of nature on the other side. In other words, it is a conflict between the sense of duty and the sense of beauty. At last, the poet makes up his mind to continue his journey, concluding with the most famous lines of the poem. The central focus of the poem is not on the woods but on the duties to be performed.

“Duty is Divine; work is worship.”

\* \* \* \* \*

## MODULE - IV

## UNIT - 15

## THE ANTIDOTE

(Short Story)



*[Gopal-actor-superstitious-49<sup>th</sup> birthday-consulted astrologers-avoid unpleasant things-director asked to enact a dying scene-wanted to avoid-director, producer and writer first opposed- later agreed-assistant interrupts Gopal's plan- resigned to his fate]*



R. K. Narayan

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**Paragraph Questions**


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- a) Why was Gopal upset on being told by the director that he had to enact a dying scene?

**Ans:** **About the Author:** The story 'The Antidote' was written by R.K.Narayan(1906-2001). He was one of the most popular Indian writers in English. He was awarded the prestigious Sahitya Academy Award for the novel 'The Guide' in 1958. Most of his works are set in 'Malgudi', an imaginary town in South India. He also received the Padma Bhushan award in 1964.

**About the Story:** 'The Antidote' is a gentle satire on the superstitious nature of people in India. It is taken from his book "Lawley Road and Other Stories (1956)".

**Topic:** Gopal was a film Hero. One day, as usual, he reported on the sets for a film shoot. The director informed him that he had to enact a dying scene. Gopal was upset and shocked. He revealed the reason. He said that he was celebrating his forty ninth birthday that day. Astrologers had told him that if he reached that age, his life would be smooth thereafter. He had come to the sets after propitiating the gods. He felt it would be inauspicious to enact a dying scene on his birthday.

**Critical Comment:**

R.K. Narayan's stories depict the day-to-day lives, hopes and troubles of ordinary people. They are marked by gentle irony and satire.

b) **How did Gopal try to get the ending of the scene changed?**

**About the Author:** The story 'The Antidote' was written by R.K.Narayan(1906-2001). He was one of the most popular Indian writers in English. He was awarded the prestigious Sahitya Academy Award for the novel 'Guide' in 1958. Most of his works are set in 'Malgudi', an imaginary town in South India.

**About the Story:** 'The Antidote' is a gentle satire on the superstitious nature of people in India. It is taken from his book "Lawley Road and Other Stories (1956)".

**Topic: Gopal,** the central character of the story, was a film hero. One day, he was at work on the sets. The director informed him that he had to enact a death scene that day. Gopal was deeply worried. He told the director that he was celebrating his forty ninth birthday that day. The astrologers told him that if he survived the day he would live the rest of life happily and peacefully. Saying so, he appealed to the director to change the scene. Although the director nodded his head in agreement, the story writer raised an objection. He said that it was impossible to change the scene. He suggested that they should speak to his boss. Gopal tried hard to convince the boss but all his efforts were in vain.

c) **Gopal was initially agitated but was finally resigned to his fate. Do you agree?**

**About the Author:** The story 'The Antidote' was written by R.K.Narayan(1906-2001). He was one of the most popular Indian writers in English. He was awarded the prestigious Sahitya Academy Award for the novel 'The Guide' in 1958. Most of his works are set in 'Malgudi', an imaginary town in South India.

**About the Story:** 'The Antidote' is a gentle satire on the superstitious nature of people in India. It is taken from his book "Lawley Road and Other Stories (1956)".

**Topic: Gopal,** the central character of the story, was a film hero. One day, the director informed Gopal that he had to enact a death scene. Gopal felt shocked. He was quite reluctant to perform the death scene. For that he had very strong reasons. He was celebrating his forty ninth birthday that day. The astrologers told him that if he survived the day he would live the rest of life happily and peacefully. He requested the director, the story writer and the boss to change this scene. In spite of his repeated requests, they went on shooting the death scene. He felt miserable. He was resigned to his fate unable to do anything. Gopal realized that one could not escape from the clutches of death and destiny.

d) **The Antidote' is a gentle satire on man's blind beliefs and superstitions. Comment.**

**About the Author:** The story 'The Antidote' was written by R.K.Narayan(1906-2001). He was one of the most popular Indian writers in English. He was awarded the prestigious Sahitya Academy Award for the novel 'The Guide' in 1958. Most of his works are set in 'Malgudi', an imaginary town in South India.

**About the Story:** 'The Antidote' is a gentle satire on the superstitious nature of people in India. It is taken from his book "Lawley Road and Other Stories (1956)".

**Topic:**

Gopal, the protagonist of the story, was a film hero. One day, on the sets, the director informed him that he had to enact a dying scene. Gopal was upset and shocked. He implored the director to change the story. When the director asked him what the matter was, he revealed that he was celebrating his forty ninth birthday that day. Astrologers had told him that if he reached that age, his life would be smooth thereafter. They advised him not to do anything unpleasant that day. He came to the sets after he had propitiated the planets. He tried his best to change the story but his attempts were in vain. When he failed in his attempts, he thought about an antidote for that scene. Gopal did something which he hoped would not be noticed by anyone. He looked at the camera and winked hard at it. It was an antidote to the ill omen that might befall him for doing an inauspicious thing on his birthday.

It is an accepted truth that most of the Indians blindly follow superstitions and false beliefs. Although we live in the age of computer and internet these practices show no signs of abating. They are much more strengthened with the passage of time.

### SINGLE ANSWER

Ans. **About the Author:** The story 'The Antidote' was written by R.K. Narayan. He was one of the most famous Indian writers in English.

**About the Story:** 'The Antidote' is a gentle satire on the superstitious nature of people in India. It is taken from his book "Lawley Road and Other Stories (1956)".

**Topic:** Gopal was a film hero. He believed in superstitions. On his forty -ninth birthday he had to enact a death scene. Astrologers had told him to avoid any unpleasant thing that day. So, Gopal wanted to avoid it. But the director and the producer didn't consider his request. Finally they agreed to change the scene but the assistant told them that they had do the scene that day only as they were vacating the set soon after. So, Gopal finally resigned to his fate and enacted the scene. His fear gave life to the scene. The director was convinced. But nobody noticed that Gopal looked at the camera and winked hard at it.

*" Superstition is the religion of feeble minds." ----- Edmund Burke*

\* \* \* \*

## MODULE - V

## UNIT - 17

## IF I WERE YOU

(Prose)



*[The lesson-one act play-humorous-Gerrard-stage actor-one day an intruder broke into the house-look alike- threatened to kill him-Gerrard-calm and smart-cleverly diverted the intruder's plan-showed a great presence of mind]*



Douglas James

## ANNOTATIONS

- a) Listen, this gun's no toy. I can hurt you without killing you, and get my answers.

**Introduction:**

This line is taken from the one act play "If I were You" written by **Douglas James (1928-2002)**. He was an Irish playwright. He has also written a number of plays including "The Savages, The Ice Goddess and North City Traffic Straight Ahead."

**Context:**

The present episode is a humorous play in which there are only two characters. It is about an intruder who plans to kill a man (Gerrard) who resembles him and assumes his identity. His plan, however, is foiled. The above words were spoken by the intruder to Gerrard.

**Explanation:**

Gerrard, the protagonist of the play, was a stage actor. One day he was talking on the phone. When he put down the phone he saw a stranger in the room. The intruder had a revolver in his hand. He threatened Gerrard and asked some questions. Gerrard did not show any fear. In fact, he treated the intruder like a guest and tried to put him at ease. He answered all the questions. He was asked if he had a car. He replied in the negative. The intruder got angry and said that he knew that Gerrard was lying. He also knew that Gerrard had a fancy car. He shouted that the gun was real. He would use it to force Gerrard to reveal the truth.

**Critical Analysis:**

The play is a delightful comedy, bordering on farce. The playwright uses typical ingredients of melodrama but deliberately subverts them, thus setting the ground for humour.

**b) You're planning a gratuitous double, so to speak.**

**Explanation:**

Gerrard, the protagonist of the play, was a stage actor. One day he was talking on the phone. When he put down the phone he saw a stranger in the room. He typically resembled him in height, build and appearance. The intruder had a revolver in his hand. He threatened Gerrard and asked some questions. The intruder was talking to Gerrard. He threatened that he would soon stop being smart. He would make Gerrard crawl. He told Gerrard that he had already murdered one man, and that he would not shy away from murdering him too. This was because the police could not hang him twice for two murders. Gerrard told the intruder that his action would definitely prove wrong. He told the intruder that he had been planning an unjustified act. By killing him, he would gain nothing. Gerrard cleverly distracted the intruder's attention from his task.

**c) If you shoot, you'll hang for sure. If not as yourself, then as Vincent Charles Gerrard.**

**Explanation:**

Gerrard, the protagonist of the play, was a stage actor. One day he was talking on the phone. When he put down the phone he saw a stranger in the room. The intruder had a revolver in his hand. He typically resembled Gerrard in height, build and appearance. He threatened Gerrard and asked some questions.

The intruder had been talking to Gerrard. He said he had already murdered one man, and he would not shy away from murdering him too. Gerrard said that it was a foolish act to shoot him. Gerrard revealed that if the intruder killed him and took on his identity, he would be hanged as Gerrard. He told the intruder that he himself was a criminal. The police had caught one of his men and they would reach him any moment. In this way, Gerrard cleverly distracted the intruder's attention from his task.

**d) You are a crook. Do you think that I am a Sunday-School teacher?**

**Explanation:**

Gerrard, the protagonist of the play, was a stage actor. One day he was talking on the phone. When he put down the phone he saw a stranger in the room. The intruder had a revolver in his hand. He typically resembled Gerrard in appearance. He threatened Gerrard and asked some questions.

The intruder threatened Gerrard saying that he had already murdered one man, and he would not hesitate to commit another murder. Gerrard told the intruder that he would gain nothing by killing him. He himself was a criminal like the intruder. He asked the intruder why he would not meet any trades people and remain to be a mystery man. He had committed a murder and got away. The police were running after him. Gerrard told the intruder that he was not a priest, but a crook. Gerrard cleverly tried to distract the intruder from his task.

## Paragraph Questions

- a) **What was the intruder's plan? Why was he confident that he would succeed?**

**Answer:**

**About the Author:** The one-act play 'If I Were You' was written by **Douglas James**. He was an Irish playwright.

**About the Lesson:** The present episode is a humorous play in which there are only two characters. It is about an intruder who plans to kill a man (Gerrard) who resembles him and assumes his identity. His plan, however, is foiled.

**Topic:** The intruder was a criminal who was wanted by the police. He knew he would be hanged if caught. He happened to see Gerrard, a stage actor somewhere and was shocked to find that they both looked exactly alike. Further, he came to know that Gerrard did not socialize much and rarely had visitors. Only the milk man, the baker and the green-grocer were his regular visitors. The intruder formed a plan. He decided to kill Gerrard and assume his identity. He was sure no-one would miss Gerrard. The crime would remain undetected and he would be safe forever.

**Critical Analysis:**

The play is a delightful comedy, bordering on farce. The playwright uses typical ingredients of melodrama but deliberately subverts them, thus setting the ground for humour.

- b) **Describe how Gerrard succeeds in outwitting the intruder.**

**Topic:**

Gerrard, the protagonist of the play, was a stage actor. Oneday he was talking on the phone. When he put down the phone he saw a stranger in the room. The intruder had a revolver in his hand. He was similar in build to Gerrard. He threatened Gerrard and asked some questions. Gerrard at once understood everything. With his great presence of mind, Gerrard told the intruder that he himself was a criminal wanted by the police. He further explained to the intruder that he was in a hurry to run away as one of his men had been caught by the police. He was not meeting any tradesman as a sign of his mysterious character. Further he showed the intruder false moustaches and disguise-outfit.

Gerrard asked the intruder to escape in his car. When he saw that the intruder was ready to come with him in his car, he opened the door of the cupboard that looked like an exit door. As the intruder stepped into the cupboard, Gerrard gave him a push and locked the door from outside. Thus, he made up a story to dodge the intruder and save his own life.

- c) **Who do you think was more clever- the intruder or Gerrard? Give reason.**

**Answer:**

**Topic:** Gerrard, the protagonist of the play, was a stage actor. He lived in a small cottage. One day, he was seen packing things for a journey. He was about to go somewhere. Suddenly an intruder broke into his house with a well-laid plan to kill him and thereafter steal his identity. He was similar in build to Gerrard. He answered all

his questions with wit, irony and humour. With the great presence of mind, Gerrard told the intruder an instantly made story that he himself was a criminal wanted by the police. He was expecting some trouble that night, and therefore, his bag was packed and he was about to escape.

The intruder checked the bag and found a gun, some strange clothes, false moustaches and other odd things. The intruder foolishly believed when Gerrard tricked the intruder well by narrating a quickly made-up story. He cleverly managed to outwit the intruder. His experience as a stage actor and a great presence of mind helped him save his life. However, his cool composure and nonchalant attitude helped him come out of the problem. The odd things which he showed the intruder also came to his rescue.

So, it is clear that Gerrard was far cleverer than the intruder.

d) **How does Gerrard's experience as a stage actor help him save his life?**

**Answer:**

**Topic:** Gerrard, the protagonist of the play, was a stage actor. He lived in a small cottage. One day, he was seen packing things for a journey. He was about to go. Suddenly an intruder broke into his house with a well-laid plan to kill him and thereafter steal his identity. He was similar in build to Gerrard. He answered all his questions with wit, irony and humour. With the great presence of mind, Gerrard told the intruder an instantly made story that he himself was a criminal wanted by the police. He was expecting some trouble that night, and therefore, his bag was packed and he was about to escape.

The intruder checked the bag and found a gun, some strange clothes, false moustaches and other odd things. The intruder foolishly believed when Gerrard tricked the intruder well by narrating a quickly made-up story. He cleverly managed to outwit the intruder. In this way, his experience as a stage actor and a great presence of mind helped him save his life. However, his cool composure, nonchalant attitude and the odd things which he showed the intruder came to his rescue.

## SINGLE ANSWER

The one-act play "If I were you" was written by "Douglas James". He was an Irish playwright (Play writer).

The present episode is a humorous play in which there are only two characters. It is about an intruder who plans to kill a stage actor, Gerrard.

Gerrard was a stage actor. One day, when he was on the phone an intruder broke into the house. Both looked alike. He threatened Gerrard. He wanted to take his identity by killing him. Gerrard was very smart. He was not panic. He cleverly told him that he was also a criminal and showed the false moustache and a gun. Finally Gerrard outwitted the intruder. His wit and experience as a stage actor helped him come out of the tricky situation.

*"To be troubled in the times of trouble is to double the trouble."*

\* \* \* \*

## MODULE - V

## UNIT - 18

## SELF - DEPENDENCE

(Poetry)



*[Philosophical poem-speaker-worried at the outset-seeks guidance from nature-fearless - not jealous-march towards progress-nature portrayed as teacher]*



Mathew Arnold

## ANNOTATIONS

a) What I am, and What I ought to be.

## Introduction:

This line is taken from the poem “Self - Dependence” written by Mathew Arnold. He was a famous British writer. He was born in 1822 at Laleham, England. He became Professor of Poetry at Oxford in 1857. He is equally famous as a literary critic.

## Context:

The poem is about a troubled man who seeks comfort and guidance from Nature which is portrayed as a teacher.

## Explanation:

At the beginning of the poem, the speaker is dejected and confused. He feels that he is drifting in life aimlessly. He has lost sight of his goals. He had lost his self-confidence. At times he wonders who he is and what he should be. His mind is in a state of turmoil. Questions keep rising in his mind but he does not know where to get the answers from. He seeks comfort and guidance from Nature. He says that Nature has always been a source of his strength.

## Critical Comment:

‘Self- Dependence’ is a poem of great merit in terms of both form and content. Rich imagery and dialogue mode add to its appeal. It is simple but symbolic conveying profound thought in a lucid poetic expression. Nature represents wisdom of ages while the voyager signifies man’s progress.

- b) “Ah, once more,” I cried, “ye stars, ye waters,  
On my heart your might charm renew.

**Answer:**

**Explanation:**

The poet feels wearied in his heart. Standing on the forepart of the ship of life, he starts watching the sea. The poet asks the stars and the waters to lend their mighty charms to his heart. He wishes to gaze at them. He also wishes his soul to be as vast as they. He believes that Nature will exercise a salutary and magical influence upon his life like the stars and the sea.

- c) “Wouldst thou be as these are? Live as they”.

**Answer:**

**Explanation:**

Arnold glorifies Nature and says that Nature is self-dependent. The poet feels wearied in his heart. He prays to Nature to exercise benevolent influence on his restless and tired spirit. True to the poet’s faith in Nature, the rustling night air brings the answer. Nature asks the poet to live a free life and be as happy as the stars and the waters. If he wants to be like nature, he should live like Nature. The voice advises him to follow nature’s example, “Live as yourself. Do your duty with joy. Be unafraid of the surroundings. Let the journey be continued.”

- d) — — — — — he,  
Who finds himself, loses his misery!

**Answer:**

**Explanation:**

Nature offers the poet the great advice of self - reliance. Nature does not depend on outer objects. She lives her own life. The poet listens to the voice of God distinctly. This is the cry like that of Nature. It tells the poet to be self-dependent. One, who knows himself, loses all one’s miseries. Only by being so, the poet can overcome his sense of disappointment.

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### **Paragraph Questions**

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- a) What are the speaker’s questions?

**About the poet:** The poem “Self-Dependence” was written by Mathew Arnold. He was a famous British writer.

**About the Poem:** The poem is about a troubled man who seeks comfort and guidance from Nature.

**Topic:** The poet wonders who he is and what he should be. He turns to the stars and to the sea for answers. He seeks comfort and guidance from Nature. He says that nature has always been a source of strength.

It is significant that in the darkest moments of his life the speaker turns to Nature for solace. He shares a profound bond with Nature.

**Critical Analysis:**

'Self- dependence' is a poem of great merit in terms of both form and content. Rich imagery and dialogue mode add to its appeal.

**b) Write Nature's response to the Speaker's passionate appeal.**

Answer:

**Topic:** The poet has lost the peace of mind. He seeks solace in Nature. Now he hears Nature's response to his request.

Nature asks the poet that if he wants to be like Nature, he should live like Nature. He should live free and happy as the stars and the sea. He should live in this world without expecting love, amusement and sympathy. Nature does not care for outer things. The stars enjoy their shining. The waters of the sea feel happy as they roar. They love to live alone. They do not pay any attention to the cares or worries of life. Wisdom dawns on the poet with these comforting words.

**c) How does the speaker feel on listening to Nature's voice? Discuss the change in his mood?**

Answer:

**Topic:** Wisdom dawns on the poet on listening to Nature's voice. He learns that Nature is self-dependent. The objects of Nature are satisfied within themselves. They do not bother to observe other creations of God. They use all their powers in their own tasks. Thus they attain their mighty existence.

Now the poet listens to the voice of God distinctly. This is the cry like that of Nature. It tells the poet to be self-dependent. The poet resolves to be his own self. He says that one who knows himself, loses all one's miseries.

### SINGLE ANSWER

The poem 'Self Dependence' was written by **Mathew Arnold**. He was a famous British writer.

The poem is about a troubled man who seeks comfort and guidance from Nature.

At the outset, the poet is a worried man. He wants nature to guide him and give him solace. He has lost his self-confidence. He wants guidance from the stars and the sky. Like a sailor, he wants to progress against all odds. He learns good lessons from Nature. He understands that one should be virtuous, free from all evil thoughts and need not be afraid of anyone. Finally he regains his confidence and gets ready to march forward.

The poem is philosophical in its nature. A lot of symbolism has been used in the poem and it brings beauty to its appearance as well as meaning.

*"Nature is the first and best teacher of Man".*

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## MODULE - V

## UNIT - 19

## A SERVICE OF LOVE

(Short Story)



*[Humorous story-surprise ending-Joe and Delia-came to New York to learn art-fell in love and got married-both pretended as if they were earning money-praised the clients-after two weeks the secret was out-laughed heartily]*



- O Henry

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**Paragraph Questions**


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- a) Describe the events that led to the marriage of Joe and Delia?

Answer:

**About the Author:** The story “A Service of Love” was written by O Henry. His actual name was William Sidney Porter. He was a famous American Short Story writer. He wrote about 600 stories. They are known for their wit, wordplay, warm characterization and surprise endings. Some of his famous stories are ‘The Last Leaf’, ‘The Gift of the Magi’, ‘The Cop and the Anthem’, ‘After Twenty Years’, etc.

**About the Story:** ‘A Service of Love’ is a moving story of two young lovers. Their profound love for each other finds an excellent expression in the story.

**Topic:** Joe Larrabee and Delia Caruthers were both struggling artists. Joe, a young man of twenty, belonged to the Middle West. He was fond of painting. He came all the way to New York to attend classes in painting. Delia, a girl from a southern state, had a flair for singing. She came to New York to attend music classes. Joe and Delia met in a studio where a number of art and music students had come together to discuss their art. They both fell in love in a short time and soon after they got married. Both lacked money but were full of passion for Art.

**Critical Comment:** Gripping narration makes the readers race through the line till the end. The present episode is also a typical O. Henry story with an unusual climax.

b) What did Delia say she was doing to earn money?

Answer:

**About the Author:** The story “A Service of Love” was written by **O Henry**. His actual name was **William Sidney Porter**. He was a famous American Short Story writer. His stories are known for surprise endings.

**About the Story:** ‘A Service of Love’ is a moving story of two young lovers.

**Topic:** **Joe Larrabee** and **Delia Caruthers** were both struggling artists. Joe, a young man of twenty, belonged to the Middle West. He was fond of painting. He came all the way to New York to attend classes in painting. Delia, a girl from a southern state, had a flair for singing. She came to New York to attend music classes. Joe and Delia met in a studio where a number of art and music students had come together to discuss their art. They both fell in love in a short time and soon after they got married. They live happily in a flat.

Time passess by. After a while ‘Art’ becomes weak. The two artists struggle hard to make both ends meet. Their means are meagre and expenses are more. Delia thinks of giving music lessons to earn some money. She excitedly declares one evening that she has found a student - clementia general pinkney’s daughter. Joes tells his wife that he can’t let his wife work for wages. Delia assures him that he continue his art. She alone will do the job to earn money. She also assures him that she has not left music. While she teaches music she learns it. Delia says “When one loves one’s art no service seems too hard”. But the truth is that Delia works in a laundry out of love for her husband.

**Critical Analysis :**

Gripping narration makes the readers race through the line till the end.

c) Who was the man from Peoria? How did he help Joe make some money.

Answer :

**About the Author:** The story “A Service of Love” was written by **O Henry**. His actual name was William Sidney Porter. He was a famous American Short Story writer. His stories are known for surprise endings.

**About the Story:** ‘A Service of Love’ is a moving story of two young lovers.

**Topic:** **Joe Larrabee** and **Delia Caruthers** were both struggling artists. Joe, a young man of twenty, belonged to the Middle West. He was fond of painting. He came all the way to New York to attend classes in painting. Delia, a girl from a southern state, had a flair for singing. She came to New York to attend music classes. Joe and Delia met

in a studio where a number of art and music students had come together to discuss their art. They both fell in love in a short time and soon after they got married. They lived happily in a flat.

Time passes by. After a while 'Art' becomes weak. The two artists struggle hard to make both ends meet. Delia thinks of giving music lessons and earning money. One evening she excitedly declares that she has found a student, Clementina, General Pinkney's daughter. Delia always speaks high of her student. After few days, Joe also informs her that he has found a buyer for his paintings, a man from Peoria.

Joe praises the man in high sounding words. He is a fat man with a woolen muffler and a bald head. He is a great admirer of Joe's paintings. He buys the sketch in Tinkle's window and orders another - oil sketch of the Lackawanna goods yard. Joe is very proud of his new customer.

**Critical Comment:**

Gripping narration makes the readers race through the line till the end.

- d) **How did Joe come to know the truth about the burning of Delia's hand? What was his reaction to it?**

**Answer :**

**About the Author:** The story "A Service of Love" was written by **O Henry**. His actual name was William Sidney Porter. He was a famous American Short Story writer. His stories are known for surprise endings.

**About the Story:** 'A Service of Love' is a moving story of two young lovers.

**Topic:** **Joe Larrabee** and **Delia Caruthers** were both struggling artists. Joe, a young man of twenty, belonged to the Middle West. He was fond of painting. He came all the way to New York to attend classes in painting. Delia, a girl from a southern state, had a flair for singing. She came to New York to attend music classes. Joe and Delia met in a studio where a number of art and music students had come together to discuss their art. They both fell in love in a short time and soon after they got married. They live happily in a flat.

One evening, Delia returns home with wrapped hand that has burned. She tells her husband that Clementina has spilt welsh rabbit on her. Joe becomes suspicious and asks her what she has really been doing. Then the secret is out. Delia confesses that she has been working in the big Twenty-fourth Street laundry. Joe also reveals that he has been working in the engine room of the same laundry for two weeks. He is the one who has sent up that cotton waste and oil from the engine room. Clementina and the man from Peoria are creations of their imagination. Yet they laugh heartily.

Joe begins: "When one loves one's Art no service seems ...." But Delia stops him with her hand on his lips, 'No', she said - just "when one loves."

**Critical Analysis:**

Gripping narration makes the readers race through the line till the end. The present episode is also a typical O. Henry story with an unusual climax.

**SINGLE ANSWER**

The short story “A Service of Love” was written by O. Henry. He was a famous American writer. His stories are known for surprise endings.

Joe and Delia came to New York to learn art. They joined the same school, fell in love and got married. As long as they had money, all was well with them. But when the money exhausted, their art also became weak. Both pretended that they were earning a good amount. They were praising their clients. Delia said that she was giving tuitions to Clementina, a rich girl. Joe told her that he was selling his paintings to a rich man from Peoria. He also convinced her that he had many more orders in hand. Finally, the secret was out one day. Both working in the same laundry. They laughed each other heartily.

The present lesson is a typical O. Henry story. The narration is very gripping.

“Life is short but ‘Art’ is long.”

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION****THE ROYAL TOMBS OF GOLCONDA**

-Sarojini Naidu

**ANNOTATION**

**Q.** Though centuries falter and decline,  
your proven strongholds shall remain

**Explanation:**

The poet visits the Qutub Shahi tombs in Hyderabad. As she looks around, she feels that she has retreated into the past. She can visualise the royal empire in all its glory. Monuments like the Golconda Fort stand mute testimony to the nobility, tolerance, enlightenment and foresight of the kings. Time has played a game with these kings yet they are invincible. Centuries have gone but legends about the valour of the kings still abound.

**PARAGRAPH QUESTION**

**Q.** Describe the feelings of the poet when she sees the Royal Tombs of Golconda.

**Ans. Topic:**

The poet visits the Qutub Shahi tombs in Hyderabad. As she looks around, she feels that she has retreated into the past. She can visualise the royal empire in all its glory. Monuments like the Golconda Fort stand mute testimony to the nobility, tolerance, enlightenment and foresight of the kings. She feels that the kings and queens of ancient times have come to life and the brave kings getting ready for battle. She hears the laughter of the queens. She gets emotional and addresses the beautiful queens. The poet is so excited that she completely detaches herself from reality and steps into the past.

“All The Best”

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