

# English Main Course Book

*for*

**Class IX**

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**Punjab School Education Board**

Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar

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**Second Edition : 2013.....55,000 Copies**

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*Published By :* The Secretary, Punjab School Education Board, Vidya Bhawan Phase-8 Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar-160062 & *Printed By :* M/s Saharanpur Electric Press, Bomanji Road, Saharanpur

## FOREWORD

The Punjab School Education Board has continuously been engaged in the preparation and review of syllabi and text books. The main objective of preparing language textbooks is to provide the students with interesting and appropriate reading material. This aims to equip the students with the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing so as to enable them to use these in their day-to-day life.

The Government of Punjab introduced English as a subject from Class I in the year 1998 due to strong demand from the field. As a consequence, the Punjab School Education Board prepared new syllabi of English for Classes I to IX. New textbooks were prepared on the basis of these syllabi and new series of English Readers for Classes I to VIII were developed which are presently being used by all the schools in Punjab. This book is 9th in the series.

The language package for Class IX includes the Main Course Book, the Literature Book (Supplementary Reader) and Grammar in Use (A Practice Book of Grammar and Composition). The reading material in this Main Course book has been primarily designed to impart acquisition of communication skills. This textbook provides different genres of literature and a wide source of themes ranging from age-old problems of personality to discussion of contemporary

issues. These themes would motivate the learners to use English for purposes of communication and expression.

The book in hand has been prepared by Dr. D. V. Jindal, external faculty member, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad and vetted by Dr. Jatendra Sethi, former Head, Department of Phonetics, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad and edited by Sh. Manoj Kumar, Subject Expert.

We would gratefully welcome comments and suggestions from teachers, experts and students as well, to improve this book further.

*Chairperson*

## A Note to the Teachers

This text book, based on the new syllabus is a part of the package meant for class IX students. It comprises a Main Course Book for intensive study, a Literature Book (Supplementary Reader) for extensive study and development of a taste for reading and a functional grammar book for further developing different language skills. These books aim at making the teaching and learning of English an interesting exercise by presenting a variety of real-life situations. They also fulfil the communicative, cultural and literary needs of the learner. The main objectives of teaching English at this stage are:

1. To develop communicative skills to enable them to perform different language functions.
2. To help them develop their cognitive and affective faculties.
3. To promote the skill of reading a text intelligently and imaginatively.
4. To enrich the learner's vocabulary both active and passive.

The course is learner-centred. The learner is also encouraged to think creatively through questions given at the end of each lesson. There are different types of exercises: Comprehension, Vocabulary, Grammar & Usage and Composition.

1. The Comprehension exercises are for the teaching of factual comprehension which will deepen students' understanding of the lesson.
2. Vocabulary exercises are used for vocabulary enrichment and development of reference skills.

3. Grammar and Usage contain a wide variety of exercises on different areas of functional grammar.
4. Composition is used to help learners write well-knit pieces to help them comprehend non-prescribed material.
5. The exercises at the end of the poems aim at helping the learners appreciate the poem and enjoy reading it.

It is hoped that the textbook would meet the learners' needs and help them develop the important language skills and use English effectively and meaningfully for purposes of communication.

*Manoj Kumar*

**Subject Expert**

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## 1. Grooming of a Boy

*[Abraham Lincoln's son is at school. Lincoln writes a letter to his son's teacher requesting him to mould the boy in such a way that he grows up to be a good human being. What are the qualities which make one a good human being ?]*

### The Letter

HE will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, all men are not true. But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero ; that for every selfish politician, there is a dedicated leader. Teach him that for every enemy there is a friend. It will take time, I know ; but teach him, if you can, that a dollar earned is of far more value than five found. Teach him to learn to lose and also to enjoy winning.

Steer him away from envy ; if you can, teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Let him learn early that the bullies are the easiest to lick. Teach him, if you can, the wonder of books. But also give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a green hillside.

In school, teach him it is far more honourable to fail than to cheat.

Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong. Teach him to be gentle with the gentle, and tough with the tough.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the bandwagon. Teach him to listen to all men ; but teach him also to filter all that he hears on a screen of truth, and take only the good that comes through.

Teach him, if you can, how to laugh when he is sad. Teach him there is no shame in tears. Teach him to scoff at cynics and to beware of too much sweetness. Teach him to sell his brawn and brain to the highest bidders, but never to put a price tag on his heart and soul.

Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob and to stand and fight if he thinks he is right.



Treat him gently, but do not cuddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

Let him have the courage to be impatient ; let him have the patience to be brave. Teach him always to have sublime faith in himself, because then he will always have sublime faith in mankind.

This is a big order, but see what you can do. He is such a fine little fellow, my son !

### Glossary

*scoundrel* (adj) : unprincipled person

Some students are real *scoundrels*.

*dedicated* (adj) : committed

She is a *dedicated* teacher.

*bully* (n) : one who uses one's strength to hurt or frighten others

He was a *bully* ; he was asked to mend his ways or leave the school.

*lick* (v) : defeat, beat back

He was quite tough but we did *lick* him without much effort.

*ponder* (v) : to think about something carefully and for a long time

My father *pondered* over the problem but could not find a solution.

*eternal* (adj) : lasting forever

True love is something *eternal* ; it lives even after death.

*scoff at* : (V) laugh at something with scorn

He *scoffed at* our foolish answers.

*howl* (v) : to cry loudly

Wolves were *howling* in the forest.

*cuddle* (v) : to hold somebody close in a way of showing love

The child *cuddled* her doll to her chest.

*courage* (n) : the ability to control fear while facing danger

The soldiers showed great *courage* in the battlefield.

*sublime* (adj) : of the best kind

The food was absolutely *sublime*.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I. (i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. All men are not just and true. Why is the author still hopeful ?
2. What should Lincoln's son be steered away from ?
3. What should one never sell ?
4. Why does Lincoln want his son not be cuddled ?
5. How can one gain sublime faith in mankind ?
6. What should one ponder about ?
7. After listening to all the men, what should one do ?
8. What should one beware of ?

(ii) Answer the following questions in your own words:

1. List the qualities which make a good human being.
2. Make a list of the qualities you have in yourself.

(iii) Tick (  $\checkmark$  ) the correct statements as found in the lesson text :

1. Lincoln's son will learn that
  - a. all men are not just.
  - b. all men are not true.
2. He should be taught that
  - a. for every scoundrel there is a hero.
  - b. for every selfish politician there is a dedicated leader.
  - c. for every success there is a failure.
  - d. for every enemy there is a friend.
3. He should have faith in
  - a. everyone
  - b. himself
  - c. his own ideas
  - d. mankind

### B. Vocabulary Exercises

II(i) Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B :

A	B
selfish	one who believes that everyone is bad
dedicated	one who shows no moral conscience
scoundrel	one who performs his duty with devotion
honourable	one who has no patience
impatient	one who is reasonable and fair
cynic	one who is interested in self only
just	one who is respected by all

(ii) Fill in the blanks with adjective forms of the following words :

honour	courage	enjoy	wonder	faith	envy
--------	---------	-------	--------	-------	------

- Mr. Satish is an ..... man ; everyone in the town respects him.
- Do not be jealous ; be .....
- The dog is a ..... animal.
- Swimming through Palk-Straits was a challenge for Mihir Sen, but he was ..... enough to attempt it.
- The sunset in the sea presented a ..... sight.
- Our trip was really ..... ; we had a lot of fun.

(iii) Fill in the blanks with the words given :

education	educating	little	called	demand
requested	amount	buy	cost	

There lived a man who was very rich. He was always worried about the ..... of his son. He ..... philosopher and ..... him to take upon himself the task of educating his son. The philosopher ..... one hundred pieces of gold for this. The rich man was surprised at the ..... demanded and said he could ..... a slave for a far smaller amount. The philosopher replied he could get a slave free of ..... by not ..... his son, for a man without ..... is ..... better than a slave.

### C. Grammar Exercises

III.(i) Fill up blanks with a passive form of the verb to complete the following sentences :

1. There is a thief in the house ; the police \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(inform)
2. It is getting dark ; the light \_\_\_\_\_ . (switch on)
3. The patient is getting worse ; let the doctor \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(call)
4. We are already getting late ; this letter \_\_\_\_\_ today. (post)
5. He is in trouble ; he \_\_\_\_\_ to the doctor. (take)

(ii) Fill in the blanks with the articles *a, an, the* :

- a. .... small tear becomes .... big hole in .... same way as  
..... small illness grows into .... big disease. .... good  
mother does not allow .... tear that appears on her child's

shirt to grow big. She stitches it in time. Unnecessary labour is spared if it is done before it is too late.

- b. Most of us have read ..... story of ..... hare and ..... tortoise ..... steady worker makes his mark sooner than ..... one who works by fits and starts.
- c. .... apple ..... day keeps ..... doctor away. But if ..... doctor is smart, he keeps ..... apple away from you.

(iii) Put proper punctuation marks in the following passage and use capital letters wherever necessary :

after the midday meal it was suggested that we went for a picnic to another Maori village nearby called Whakarewarewa what a tongue twister I could not help saying oh we call it whaka for short said my host

(iv) Fill up the blanks with suitable prepositions :

1. Here is the book that you had asked .....
2. The emperor ruled ..... a vast empire.
3. The clock is lying ..... the table.
4. Act according ..... my instructions.
5. Don't loiter ..... the street.

### D. Pronunciation Practice

Note the different spellings for the same sound / i : / in the following words :

<u>seen</u>	<u>scene</u>	<u>seat</u>
	<u>these</u>	
<u>people</u>	<u>foetus</u>	<u>machine</u>
<u>receive</u>	<u>brief</u>	<u>key</u>
<u>quay</u> (pronounced ( ki : / )		

Thus one can notice that there is no one to one correspondence between sounds and spellings in English. Spellings (orthographic representation), therefore, are not a proper guide to correct pronunciation of words.

Now, say these words aloud :

conceive	knee	feel	each	keep
police	ski	piece	siege	beat

### E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

- (i) Have you read any of the letters written by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to his daughter Indira Gandhi ? Do read at least one such letter. What does Nehru want to convey in this letter ?
- (ii) What type of boy or girl would you like to become ? Write ten sentences in the light of your study of this lesson.
- (iii) As a citizen of the world, make a list of five things you would never do.

=====

## 2. Plants also Breathe and Feel

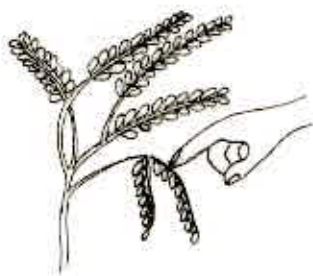
*[All of us know that plants have life, but how many of us know that they have hearts, can feel, and see ? This extract tells us something about the scientist who made this dramatic discovery.]*

It was an event that surprised the scientific world. It was an undreamt of thing. Here was a man who had built a unique instrument – an instrument that could measure the growth of plants. Here was a man who had proved with this wonderful machine that plants have hearts and can feel. The machine showed that plants have sight and a sense which tells them that a stranger is approaching.

“Your instrument is a wonderful thing,” said the great men who had come to the Paris Congress of Science, 1900. They were amazed as the inventor showed them how to use the machine.

“What do you call this instrument ?” they asked. “A crescograph,” replied Jagdish Chandra Bose, the great scientist, who had built this wonderful machine.

“And where was it made ?” the scientists asked.



“In India,” was the answer. The reply caused greater surprise. India in the nineteenth century was well known for its greatness in the fields of fine arts, literature and philosophy. But in the field of science it had not progressed much. Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose with his invention made a name for himself and his country in the scientific world.

Bose was born in 1858 in a village in Bengal. After studying physics at Calcutta University he went to England for further studies. He graduated from Cambridge, then returned to India and was appointed Professor of Physics Presidency College in Calcutta.

A three-year struggle began between Bose and the government, in which he was victorious. An Indian, in those days of British rule, usually received two-thirds of the salary paid to a European professor. Bose's appointment was a temporary one, so he was given only half the rate for a European. Bose was not the man to take this quietly. He felt that people who did the same amount and same kind of work should be paid the same salary whatever race or nation they belonged to. It is worth remembering that discoveries do not come from the faithful followers and the yes-men of science ; they come from the doubters and the rebels. Bose was, by nature, a rebel.

He refused to touch any part of his salary for three years. It was a question of his self-respect and he was not ready to give up his principles. In the end victory was his.

Bose now began the work which has made him famous all over the world. He had, from boyhood, been interested in animal and plant life, and now his work in physics led him back to his old love. He had noticed that his wireless receiver showed signs of 'tiredness' after it had been in use for some time, but in some strange way got back its power after being 'rested'. Here was food for thought, the kind of thought from which great discoveries come.

Until the end of the Middle Ages, the world was looked on as one beautiful unity, created by God. Man believed that everything in the world, from man to rocks and stones, had its place and purpose. The discoveries of Galileo and Newton changed the world-picture. Man began to study each branch of science separately with greater detail and there developed several different kinds of sciences. Bose, however, recognised a unity among all these different branches of science.



He realized that there was a similarity in the behaviour of lifeless and living things. It was, however, not easy to convince others. People hold on to their old beliefs and do not like to change them. Bose suggested that the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms were one and had a great deal in common. He said that plants and metals had a life of their own and could become 'tired', 'depressed' or 'happy'. People laughed at him. They did not take him seriously.

Bose knew he was right and he proved it. To begin with, he designed and built a machine which recorded his findings with maximum exactness. This was the 'crescograph', the amazing instrument which records the growth of plants. It magnifies the movement of plant tissues ten thousand times and can record the reaction of plants to manures, noise and other stimuli. The crescograph proved that Bose had not been wrong. It showed that plants have hearts and are capable of feeling. The crescograph indicated that plants have a keen sight and react to rays of light and wireless waves. The machine proved that plants have a special sense which tells them of the approach of a stranger.

The story of this great scientist will not be complete without some mention of his concern for India and her people. He had a deep faith in the intelligence of his countrymen. Bose was certain that they were as capable of doing great things today as their ancestors had done in the past. In an address at a convocation of the University of Mysore in November 1927, Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose spoke about India's glory in the past and declared that it was action and not idleness that was responsible for that glory. He believed that there could be no happiness for a single person unless it had been won for all. And this great scientist wanted his countrymen to have undying hope and faith in the future.

### Glossary

*unique* (adj) : matchless, which has no equal

The Principal has a *unique* way of getting work out of the teachers.

*approaching* (adj) : coming

Beware of the *approaching* danger.

*approaching* (v) : coming

The time is *approaching* when we will have to leave.

*amazed* (v) : surprised

I was *amazed* to see the jewellery she wore.

*victorious* (adj) : winner

The nation welcomed the *victorious* team home.

*temporary* (adj) : which does not last long

She moved into some *temporary* accommodation.

*rebel* (n) : one who goes against law

Young people are often *rebels*.

The *rebels* were dismissed from service.

*give up* : to stop efforts or fighting

In spite of several hardships, he did not *give up* ; he continued his struggle and reached the top.

*stimulus* (n) (pl. stimuli) : anything that causes reaction.

This machine is so sensitive that it reacts to the smallest *stimulus* immediately.

*capable* (adj) : having the ability or capacity to do something

Only human beings are *capable* of reason.

*glory* (n) : name or fame

The *glory* of great men lasts for ever.

*undying* (adj) : firm, everlasting

We have an *undying* faith in God.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I.(i) Answer the following questions in your own words:

1. What was the event that surprised the world ?
2. Name the instrument made by Jagdish Chandra Bose.
3. What could the instrument measure ?
4. What was India known for in the nineteenth century ?
5. Where did Bose go for higher studies ?
6. What did he have to struggle for ?
7. What can plants feel ?
8. How can one be glorious ?

(ii) Write short notes on the following :

1. Uses of crescograph
2. Jagdish Chandra Bose's contribution to science
3. Jagdish Chandra Bose's love for his country

### B. Vocabulary Exercises

II.(i) Match the persons listed in column A with their professions in column B :

A	B
inventor	a person who writes books on various subjects
professor	a person who fights against law
artist	a person who makes things that did not exist before
philosopher	a person who supports someone else's ideas and beliefs
scientist	a person who has a particular set of beliefs and ideas and is a lover of knowledge
discoverer	a person who is doing research in the field of science
follower	a person who makes things of art
rebel	a person who teaches in a college or a university
writer	a person who finds things that existed before

(ii) Fill in the blanks with the words given :

battle	cave	despair	struggle
succeeded	reach		defeated

Robert Bruce fought bravely but was ..... . He was hiding in a ..... and was lying in ..... . He had been defeated many times. He was thinking of giving up the ..... . On one of the walls of the cave he noticed a spider trying to ..... its web. Eight times it fell down but ..... in the ninth attempt. On seeing this, Bruce also took heart again. He fought another ..... with his enemy and freed his country.

(iii) Fill in the blanks with the words given :

pleased	job	lying	seek	threw
attention	disappointed	vacancy		visited

Once a smart-looking young man ..... a business firm to ..... employment. The manager, though pleased, said, "There is no ..... in the firm right now." As the man was ....., he turned to leave. At the doorway, he saw a pin ..... on the floor. He picked it up and ..... it into the dustbin. The manager was ..... with his habit of paying ..... to such small matters. He at once called him back and gave him a .....

### C. Grammar Exercises

III.(i) State whether the words in italics are *adjectives* or *nouns* :

- She possesses a *sound* health. ....
- I hear a low *sound* coming from *this* side. ....

2. This ball is *round* in shape. ....  
I finished my fourth *round* only half a minute ago. ....
3. This colour is *fast*. ....  
I observe a *fast* every Monday. ....
4. She is wearing a very *light* dress. ....  
Please switch on the *light* ....
5. He is a *poor* judge of people. ....  
Do not laugh at the *poor* and the needy. ....

(ii) Look at the following sentence :

There could be no happiness for a single person *unless* it had been won for all.

In this case, two sentences have been combined with the help of the conjunction *unless*.

Now fill in the blanks by using the following conjunctions :

unless	while	although	when
--------	-------	----------	------

1. We cannot get off the bus ..... it slows down.
2. Make hay ..... the sun shines.
3. Mice will play ..... the cat is away.
4. He didn't come to the party ..... we invited him.
5. .... he worked hard, he couldn't succeed.
6. You cannot succeed ..... you work hard.
7. Strike ..... the iron is hot.
8. The boat will sink ..... we bail out.
9. ....the sun was shining, it wasn't very warm.
10. The kidnappers told him that he would be killed ..... he cooperated.

(iii) Fill in the blanks with the following determiners :

few	a few	the few	little	a little	the little
-----	-------	---------	--------	----------	------------

1. Asha said, "There is ..... milk at home, so I cannot make tea for you." Shiela said that she had ..... milk in her kitchen with which they could make tea for both of them. When she went to her kitchen she saw that her son had drunk ..... milk she had.
2. The teacher noticed ..... mistakes in Arjun's assignment. He was surprised because Arjun usually made .... mistakes. The teacher corrected ..... mistakes he had made.

### D. Pronunciation Practice

Note the mismatch between sounds and spellings in the following words and say them aloud :

/ e /

dead

jealous

leisure

leopard

any

said

lieutenant

bury

guess

/ æ /

gas

ass

plait

mass

/ e: /

almond

balm

dance

pass

sparsely

heart

clerk

hearth

### E. Extended Reading and Creative Writing

1. Make a list of the qualities of a gentleman. Discuss these with your classmates.
2. How, according to you, should a teacher develop the personality of a child ? Write your answer in 8-10 lines.

### 3. The Postmaster

The postmaster first took up his duties in the village of Ulapur. Though the village was a small one, there was an indigo factory nearby, and the proprietor, an Englishman, had managed to get a post office established.

Our postmaster belonged to Calcutta. He felt like a fish out of water in this remote village. His office and living-room were in a dark thatched shed, not far from a green slimy pond, surrounded on all sides by a dense growth.

The men employed in the indigo factory had no leisure ; moreover, they were hardly desirable companions for decent folk. Nor is a Calcutta boy an adept in the art of associating with others. Among strangers he appears either proud or ill at ease. At any rate, the postmaster had but little company ; nor had he much to do.

At times he tried his hand at writing a verse or two. That the movement of the leaves and the clouds of the sky were enough to fill life with joy – such were the sentiments to which he sought to give expression. But God knows that the poor fellow would have felt it as the gift of a new life, if some spirit of the Arabian Nights had in one night swept away the trees, leaves and all, and replaced them with a macadamized road, hiding the clouds from view with rows of tall houses.

The postmaster's salary was small. He had to cook his own meals, which he used to share with Ratan, an orphan girl of the village, who did odd jobs for him.

When in the evening the smoke began to curl up from the village cow-sheds, and the crickets chirped in every bush, the postmaster would light his little lamp, and call out "Ratan".

Ratan would sit outside waiting for this call, and, instead of coming in at once, would reply : "Did you call me, sir ?"

"What are you doing ?" the postmaster would ask.

"I must be going to light the kitchen fire," would be the answer.

And the postmaster would say : "Oh, let the kitchen fire wait for a while ; light me my pipe first."

At last Ratan would enter, with puffed-out cheeks, vigorously blowing into a flame a live coal to light the tobacco. This would give the postmaster an opportunity of conversing. "Well, Ratan," perhaps he would begin, "do you remember anything of your mother?" That was a fertile subject. Ratan partly remembered, and partly didn't. Her father had been fonder of her than her mother; him she recollected more vividly. He used to come home in the evening after his work, and one or two evenings stood out more clearly than others, like pictures in her memory. Ratan would squat on the floor near the postmaster's feet, as memories crowded in upon her. She called to mind a little brother that she had – and how on some bygone cloudy day she had played at fishing with him on the edge of the pond, with a twig for a make-believe fishing-rod. Such little incidents would drive out greater events from her mind. Thus, as they talked, it would often get very late, and the postmaster would feel too lazy to do any cooking at all. Ratan would then hastily light the fire, and toast some unleavened bread, which, with the cold remnants of the morning meal, was enough for their supper.

On some evenings, seated at his desk in the corner of the big empty shed, the postmaster too would call up memories of his own home, of his mother and his sister, of those for whom in his exile his heart was sad, memories which were always haunting him, but which he could not talk about with the men of the factory, though he found himself naturally recalling them aloud in the presence of the simple little girl. And so it came about that the girl would allude to his people as mother, brother, and sister, as if she had known them all her life. In fact, she had a complete picture of each one of them painted in her little heart.

One noon, during a break in the rains, there was a cool soft breeze blowing. The smell of the damp grass and leaves in the hot sun felt like the warm breathing of the tired earth on one's body. A persistent bird went on all the afternoon repeating the burden of its one complaint in Nature's audience chamber.

The postmaster sighed, and called out "Ratan". Ratan was then sprawling beneath the guava-tree busily engaged in



eating unripe guavas. At the voice of her master, she ran up breathlessly, saying : "Were you calling me, Dada ?" "I was thinking," said the postmaster, "of teaching you to read," and then for the rest of the afternoon he taught her the alphabet.

Thus, in a very short time, Ratan had got as far as the double consonants.

It seemed as though the showers of the season would never end. Canals, ditches, and hollows were all overflowing with water. Day and night the patter of rain was heard, and the croaking of frogs. The village roads became impassable, and marketing had to be done in small boats.

One heavily clouded morning, the postmaster's little pupil had been long waiting outside the door for her call, but, not hearing it as usual, she took up her dog-eared book, and slowly entered the room. She found her master stretched out on his bed, and, thinking he was resting, she was about to retire on tip-toe, when she suddenly heard her name—"Ratan !" She turned at once and asked : "Were you sleeping, Dada ?" The postmaster in a plaintive voice said : "I am not well. Feel my head : is it very hot ?"



In the loneliness of his exile, and in the gloom of the rains, his ailing body needed a little tender nursing. He longed to remember the touch on the forehead of soft hands with tinkling bracelets, to imagine the presence of loving womanhood, the nearness of mother and sister. And the exile was not disappointing. Ratan ceased to be a little girl. She at once stepped

into the post of mother, called in the village doctor, gave the patient his pills at the proper intervals, sat up at night by his pillow, cooked light food for him, and every now and then asked : "Are you feeling a little better, Dada ?"

It was some time before the postmaster, with weakened body, was able to leave his sick-bed. "No more of this," said he with decision. "I must get a transfer." He at once wrote off to Calcutta an application for a transfer, on the grounds of the unhealthiness of the place.

Relieved from her duties as nurse, Ratan again took up her old place outside the door. But she no longer heard the same old call. She would sometimes peep inside furtively to find the postmaster sitting in his chair, or stretched on his bed, and staring absent-mindedly into the air. While Ratan was awaiting her call, the postmaster was awaiting a reply to his application. The girl read her old lessons over and over again – her great fear was lost, when the call came, she might be found wanting in the double consonants. At last, after a week, the call did come one evening. With an overflowing heart Ratan rushed into the room with her "Were you calling me, Dada ?"

The postmaster said : "I am going away tomorrow, Ratan."

"Where are you going, Dada ?"

"I am going home."

"When will you come back ?"

"I am not coming back."

Ratan asked no other question. The postmaster, of his own accord, went on to tell her that his application for a transfer had been rejected, so he had resigned his post, and was going home.

For a long time neither of them spoke another word. The lamp went on dimly burning, and from a leak in one corner of the room water dripped steadily into an earthen vessel on the floor beneath it.

After a while Ratan rose, and went off to the kitchen to prepare the meal ; but she was not so quick about it as on other days. Many new things to think of had entered her little brain.

When the postmaster had finished his supper, the girl suddenly asked him : "Dada, will you take me to your home ?"

The postmaster laughed. "What an idea !" said he ; but he did not think it necessary to explain to the girl wherein lay the absurdity.

That whole night, in her waking and in her dreams, the postmaster's laughing reply haunted her. "What an idea !"

On getting up in the morning, the postmaster found his bath ready. He had stuck to this Calcutta habit of bathing in water drawn and kept in pitchers, instead of taking a plunge in the river as was the custom of the village. For some reason or other, the girl could not ask him about the time of his departure, so she had fetched the water from the river long before sunrise, that it should be ready as early as he might want it. After the bath came a call for Ratan. She entered noiselessly, and looked silently into her master's face for orders. The master said : "You need not be anxious about my going away, Ratan ; I shall tell my successor to look after you." These words were kindly meant, no doubt : but inscrutable are the ways of a woman's heart !

Ratan had borne many a scolding from her master without complaint, but these kind words she could not bear. She burst out weeping, and said : "No, no, you need not tell anybody anything at all about me ; I don't want to stay on here."

The postmaster was dumbfounded. He had never seen Ratan like this before.

The new incumbent duly arrived, and the postmaster, having given over charge, prepared to depart. Just before starting he called Ratan, and said : "Here is something for you ; I hope it will keep you for some little time." He brought out from his pocket the whole of his month's salary, retaining only a trifle for his travelling expenses. Then Ratan fell at his feet and cried : "Oh, Dada, I pray you, don't give me anything, don't in any way trouble about me," and then ran away out of sight.

The postmaster heaved a sigh, took up his carpet bag, put his umbrella over his shoulder, and, accompanied by a man carrying his many-coloured tin trunk, he slowly made for the boat.

When he got in and the boat was under way, and the rain-swollen river, like a stream of tears welling up from the earth, swirled and sobbed at her bows, he felt a sort of pain at heart ; the grief-stricken face of a village girl seemed to represent for him the great unspoken pervading grief of Mother Earth herself. At one time he had an impulse to go back, and bring away along with him that lonesome waif, forsaken of the world. But the wind had just filled the sails, the boat had got well into the middle of the turbulent current, and already the village was left behind, and its outlying burning-ground came in sight.

So the traveller, borne on the breast of the swift-flowing river, consoled himself with philosophical reflections on the numberless meetings and partings going on in the world – on death, the great parting, from which none returns.

But Ratan had no philosophy. She was wandering about the post office in a flood of tears. It may be that she had still a lurking hope in some corner of her heart that her Dada would return, and that is why she could not tear herself away. Alas for the foolish human nature ! Its fond mistakes are persistent. The dictates of reason take a long time to assert their sway. The surest proofs meanwhile are disbelieved. One clings desperately to some vain hope, till a day comes when it has sucked the heart dry and then it breaks through its bonds and departs. After that comes the misery of awakening, and then once again the longing to get back into the maze of the same mistakes.

### Glossary

*indigo* : (n) a deep blue dye obtained from the leaves of indigo plant.

India is an *indigo* producing country.

*proprietor* : (n) the owner of a business etc.

Please address all complaints to the *proprietor*.

*remote* : (adj) aloof, distant

(n) a remote-control device

He worked in a *remote* village.

*leisure* : (n) free time

A life without *leisure* is a dull life.

*sentiment* : (n) tender feelings of pity, mercy, sympathy

There is no room for *sentiments* in business.

*macadamized* : (v) covered with small broken stones bound together by coal tar

It is difficult to walk barefooted on a *macadamized* road.

*shrill* : (adj) high-pitched and piercing

He sang in a *shrill* voice.

*vividly* : (adv) clearly

I *vividly* remember the day I first met him.

*remnants* : (n) part of something that remains

Kamla walked through the *remnants* of the old fort.

*haunt* : (v) to visit a place regularly

A spirit *haunts* the castle.

He is seen *haunting* about the place every third day.

*sprawling* : (v) sitting with arms and legs spread in a relaxed way

He was *sprawling* in an armchair.

*kindred* (n) a family relationship

Tolstoy and Gandhi are considered to be *kindred* spirits.

*tender* : (adj) kind

Children have a *tender* heart.

*furtively* : (adv) secretly, stealthily

She was seen peeping into the room *furtively*.

*absurdity* : (n) foolishness

His shabby dress denoted his *absurdity*.

*anxious* : (adj) nervous

Mothers are always *anxious* about the future of their children.

*incumbent* (adj) necessary as a part of somebody's duty.

It is *incumbent* upon all to know the rules of the road.

*trifle* : (n) of little importance

They quarrelled over a *trifle*.

*turbulent* : (adj) in a state of disturbance

The *turbulent* waves rose very high.

*lurking* : (adj) hidden

The boy had a *lurking* doubt about his success.

*maze* : (n) a set of complex windings

We got lost in the Jantar-Mantar *maze*.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I.(i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. How did the postmaster feel at Ulapur ? Why ?
2. Why could he not find any companions ?
3. What was the reason that he could not compose verse although he tried hard ?
4. Who was Ratan ?
5. What memories haunted the postmaster ?
6. What did Ratan learn from the postmaster ?
7. Why did he apply for transfer ?
8. What were the words that Ratan could not bear ?
9. What did the postmaster try to give her while going away?
10. What did Ratan actually want ?

(ii) Answer the following questions in 30-40 words :

1. Describe some of Ratan's childhood memories.
2. Write a short note on how Ratan served her master when he was ill.
3. While crossing the river, how did the postmaster console himself ?

(iii) Rewrite the following, making the necessary corrections in the statements given below :

1. The proprietor of the indigo factory was an Indian.
2. The postmaster belonged to Bombay.
3. The postmaster's salary was huge.
4. His application for a transfer had been accepted.
5. Ratan was wandering about the post office happily.

## B. Vocabulary Exercises

II(i) Look at the following words :

**timetable**

**playground**

In each of these words, two words have joined to form one word. **Timetable** and **playground** are compound words. There are many such words in this lesson. Match the words given in column A with the words given in column B to form some more compound words

A	B
cow	day
living	master
post	man
mid	shed
ill	minded
absent	stricken
dumb	room
swift	founded
grief	flowing
English	paid

(ii) Fill in the blanks using the phrases given below :

call out	fond of	look after
at any rate	ill at ease	sat up
at once	pour out	go away

The postmaster and Ratan had become quite ..... each other with the passage of time. He would ..... her name and she ..... responded. Whenever he talked about himself, his mother or sister, she would also ..... all the memories of her childhood.

Once the postmaster fell ill. She..... all night to ..... him. He asked her to go home but she would not leave him .....

At times he felt a bit ..... in her company and did not speak. But she would not ..... leaving the postmaster by himself.

### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions :

1. (a) We are all concerned ..... the mishap.  
 (b) Sheela feels concerned ..... your safety.  
 (c) All those concerned ..... the incident had to resign.  
 (*in, for, about*)
  
2. (a) The client complained ..... neglect shown towards him.  
 (b) We all complained ..... the boss.  
 (c) We complained ..... the canteen owner.  
 (*to, of, against*)
  
3. (a) Do not fall ..... with your friend over a small thing.  
 (b) Deepa fell ..... love with him at first sight.  
 (c) He fell ..... evil days.  
 (*in, out, on*)

(ii) Look at the following sentences :

I am going to light the kitchen fire.  
 I shall tell my successor to look after you.

Pick out the infinitives from the above sentences.

Now join each set of sentences into a single sentence, using an *infinitive* :

1. The headmaster said something to the girls. He wanted them to stay back.
2. Kirpal helped me. I could then carry the luggage.



3. We requested her. It was a request for a song.
4. The doctor gave me a piece of advice. He felt I should not feel anxious.
5. The teacher ordered the students. The students should not break the rules.

(iii) Put punctuation marks and capital letters wherever necessary in the conversation given below :

Ratan : were you calling me dada

Postmaster : no I was not calling you

Ratan : where are you going

Postmaster : i am going home

Ratan : when will you come back

Postmaster : I will never come back should I tell my successor to look after you

Ratan : no you need not tell anybody anything at all about me i don't want to stay on here

Postmaster : should i give you some money

Ratan : oh dada i pray you don't give me anything don't in any way trouble about me

(iv) Rewrite in the indirect form of narration :

1. She said to him, "Were you calling me, Dada ?"
2. The postmaster said to her, "I was thinking of teaching you to read."
3. He said to himself, "Oh ! If only some kindred soul were near !"
4. She asked, "Are you feeling a little better, Dada ?"
5. He said, "I must get a transfer."

## D. Pronunciation Practice

In lesson 1, we found that for the sound / i : /, we have several different spellings in English words. Same is the case with other sounds. Here are some words which have the sound i (as in hit, bit, sit) in them. Note the different spellings that represent this sound in the following words.

<u>hit</u>	carriage	cities	<u>pretty</u>
<u>lift</u>	marriage	<u>sieve</u>	<u>evoke</u>
monkey	symbol	<u>coffee</u>	<u>village</u>
<u>money</u>	<u>city</u>	<u>foreign</u>	<u>privacy</u>
<u>bargain</u>		<u>women</u>	<u>build</u>
<u>Sunday</u>	(also / /)	<u>busy</u>	<u>guilt</u>
<u>Monday</u>	( - do - )		

## E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. Read at least two more stories written by Rabindranath Tagore and compare them with 'The Postmaster'.
2. Write a brief account of the qualities and character of Ratan, the village girl, in your own words.
3. Imagine yourself to be the postmaster in the story. How would you have treated Ratan on the receipt of your orders for transfer ?
4. Construct an imaginary dialogue between Ratan and the postmaster just before the postmaster decides to apply for transfer. (10 lines only)

## (i) **Open Thy Eyes and See Thy God**

*(The poet says that God does not live in temples. Where is He to be found then ?)*

### **The Poem**

Leave this chanting and  
singing and telling of beads !  
Whom dost thou worship in this  
lonely dark corner of a temple  
with doors all shut ? Open thine  
eyes and see thy God is not  
before thee !

He is there where the tiller is  
tilling the hard ground and where  
the pathmaker is breaking stones.  
He is with them in sun and in  
shower, and His garment is covered  
with dust. Put off thy holy mantle  
and even like Him come  
down on the dusty soil !

Deliverance ? Where is this deliverance  
to be found ? Our master himself  
has joyfully taken upon him the bonds  
of creation ; He is bound with us all  
for ever.

Come out of thy meditations and  
leave aside thy flowers and incense !  
What harm is there if thy clothes  
become tattered and stained ? Meet  
him and stand by him in toil and in the  
sweat of thy brow.

**Rabindranath Tagore**  
*Gitanjali*

[*Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) symbolises all that is decent in Indian civilisation. He was a multifaceted personality. He was a poet, playwright, prose-writer, painter and a musician. His book 'Gitanjali' won for him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. Dr. Radhakrishnan said about Tagore : "His poetry is a light that fills the mind, a song that stirs the blood, and a hymn that moves the heart." Most of his works were initially written by him in Bengali and later he translated them into English.*]

### Glossary :

- Chant* (v) : to sing a religious song or prayer continuously  
*dost* : do  
*thou* : you  
*thine* : your  
*tiller* (n) : one who tills (cultivates) land  
*put off* (v) : remove  
*mantle* (n) : a cloak or covering worn by a priest  
*deliverance* (n) : freedom from birth and death  
*meditation* (n) : a serious thought or study  
*incense* (n) : an aromatic stick which produces a sweet  
smell when burnt  
*tattered* (adj) : torn

### Enjoying the Poem :

- 1 Write the central idea of the poem.
- 2 Why does the poet say that we should leave chanting, singing and telling of beads ?

- 3 Where can God be found ?
- 4 What does the poet suggest regarding the presence of God ?
- 5 Write True or False against the following statements :
  - (a) God lives in temples.
  - (b) By chanting, singing and telling of beads we can reach God.
  - (c) God is there where the tiller is tilling the land.
  - (d) We should not work hard.
- 6 The words like *dost*, *thou*, *thine* belong to old English. Make a list of some other such words.
- 7 Rabindra Nath Tagore was awarded The Nobel Prize for his book 'Gitanjali'. Read some other poems of the poet and discuss the ideas contained with some of your class-fellows.
- 8 Do you agree with the poet's contention in this poem ? Why ? Say in 5-10 lines.

## 4. Budgeting your Time

Money, they say, is the most important thing in life. 'Money makes the mare go', is an age-old saying. The power of money, people believe, is great. But greater still is the power of TIME. Money once lost, can be regained ; time once lost is lost for ever. Time and tide wait for none. If you do not make the best use of time and do not take time by the forelock, you are destined to be doomed.

Shakespeare, the doyen of English literature, wrote :

There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune ;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

(Shakespeare : Julius Caesar)

During the tough course of the journey of life, rarely comes the time which can make or mar a person's whole future. Such a precious moment must not be allowed to go unnoticed. One must act in time before it is too late. This can be possible only if we are alive and alert to the importance of every single second in our lives. Those who waste time and let it pass unnoticed, have to repent and pine, only when there is no remedy.



Every second in life is important. Seconds add up to minutes, hours, days and months. Many a trickle makes a mickle. Why not then save every second to make the best use of time ? If you do not do that, a lot of time is squandered down the drain for nothing. Life is short and uncertain.

'Art is long and time is fleeting,' said a poet. We've a lot to do, a long road to traverse but time at our disposal is very short. Who knows when God Almighty may send a call ? In fact, every beat of our heart is taking us a step nearer to the grave. Therefore, it is imperative that one should make the best use of the time available.

One must learn to be punctual in all one's activities. Those who are behind time, lag behind in their life too. An opportunity missed is an opportunity lost for ever. By being late, you may miss an important train, a crucial flight, a career-making job or an admission to an excellent course. It is no use crying over spilt milk or blaming the stars when you are yourself responsible for your failure.

Yaksha, a god, asked Yudhishtira : "What is the best time for doing a thing ?" The wise son of Kunti said, "Now !" The work in hand is the most important work and the PRESENT is the most important time to do it. 'Now or Never' must be our guiding principle in life. Never put off till tomorrow, they say, what you can do today.

In this age of globalisation, super-computers and space travel, life is moving so fast that a slip of even a fraction of a second can spell doom and disaster. Every single second has, therefore, its own importance. That is why the concept of budgeting one's time is fast catching up. Every moment of life is precious and any careless attitude or apathy towards the importance of time can prove highly detrimental to any society. We can hope for a good tomorrow only if we know the value of today. We are duty-bound to bequeath a happy and prosperous future to the coming generations. This is possible only if we know the value of NOW in our lives today.

Dr. D.V. Jindal

(Dr. D.V. Jindal is an author of several books on English language and literature. He has been teaching English at various levels for more than 40 years. He has been working with academic bodies formed to decide the curriculum and courses of studies in English for different levels of students at both the state and the national level.)

### **Glossary :**

*money makes the mare go* : money is important and it can make things happen.

Saving money is very important as it *makes the mare go*.

*take time by the forelock* : make the best use of time

You must *take time by the forelock* if you want to reach the top.

*doyen* : (n) the senior member of a body, class or a profession.

William Shakespeare has been rightly labelled as the *doyen* of English literature.

*tide* : (n) high wave, a sudden good opportunity

You must make use of this *tide*, otherwise you'll repent.

*pine* (v) cry in grief, feel sad

It is no use *pinning* now ; you did not act in time.

*make or mar* : cause success or complete failure, construct or destroy

Some decisions are really important, they can *make or mar* our lives.

*squandered* : (v) wasted

John has *squandered* all the money left by his father.

*crucial* : (adj) very important

You must take your doctor's advice seriously ; it is crucial.

*prosperous* : (adj) having good fortune, success and money

She is the daughter of a *prosperous* bank officer.

*detrimental* (adj): harmful

Smoking is *detrimental* to health.



## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I(i) Answer the following questions in brief :

1. Why is money considered so important ?
2. What do people believe about the power of money ?
3. Does time wait for anyone ?
4. What type of precious moment should not be lost ?
5. What do we mean by saying : *Art is long and time is fleeting* ?
6. Which is the most important time for doing something ?
7. Why must one be punctual ?
8. Is it useful to cry over the spilt milk or blame our stars for our failures ?

ii. Answer the following questions in your own words:

1. What should be the guiding principle of our life, and why ?
2. Why is the budgeting of time important ?
3. Reproduce, in your own words, the dialogue between the Yaksha and Yudhishthira.

iii. Tick ( ✓ ) the correct choice :

1. The power of 'Time' is :
  - a little
  - nil
  - great
  - dangerous
2. Every moment is :
  - useless
  - good
  - precious
  - long

3. To get success :
- a time should be wasted
  - b we need not be punctual
  - c we should budget time
  - d we should postpone things.

### B Vocabulary Exercises

II(i) Match the words in column A with their synonyms given in column B :

A	B
wealth	lonely
significant	money
wasted	harmful
tough	precious
valuable	important
detrimental	squandered
single	hard

(ii) Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B :

A	B
believe	to remain behind
whole	very important
trickle	to postpone
lag	to have faith
crucial	law or rule
principle	complete
pine	to flow in drops
put off	to feel sad or distressed

(iii) Fill in the blanks with the words given below :

mare	regained	journey	future	admission
power	tough	mar	repent	excellent

1. The patient ..... consciousness after a few hours.
2. Success is a ..... , not a destination.
3. His ..... is not secure.
4. No ..... without permission.
5. He showed an ..... result.
6. The question paper was very .....
7. He has only one ..... in his stable.
8. You are not aware of his .....
9. Your bad habits will ..... your life.
10. You should ..... of what you have done.

### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Change the voice in the following sentences :

1. The boy ate the mango.
2. I do not know him.
3. Your conduct surprises me.
4. This pot contains milk.
5. Your action annoyed him.
6. We should help the poor.
7. The police have arrested the thief.
8. He has finished his work.

(ii) Fill in the following blanks with suitable Articles :

1. She has ..... beautiful look.
2. .... sun rises in ..... east.
3. I read ..... Tribune daily.
4. He is ..... honest person.
5. I need ..... new uniform.
6. Haridwar is ..... holy place.
7. Iron is ..... useful metal.
8. It is raining ; I need ..... umbrella.

(iii) Fill the following blanks with suitable Prepositions:

1. It is no use crying ..... spilt milk.
2. He died ..... cholera.
3. He looks ..... the child in the absence of his mother.
4. They went deep ..... the jungle.
5. John was made ..... steel.
6. He congratulated me ..... my success.
7. He is not aware ..... his shortcomings.
8. I have no faith ..... you.
9. It is very kind ..... you to help me.
10. Please remember me ..... your parents.

(iv) Give one word for each of the following :

1. One who never dies
2. One who believes in God
3. One who is present everywhere
4. Government by the people
5. One who makes gold ornaments.

### D. Pronunciation Practice

Say the following words aloud :

/ /

oil

boil

oyster

join

coin

/ /

zero

era

serious

idea

theory

period

/ /

area

air

scarce

care

stair

where

/ /

tour

moor

sure

poor

casual

### E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. Make a list of various virtues. Think and write how they are important for us.
2. How do you spend your leisure ? Write in ten lines.

## 5. Journey By Night

*['Journey by Night' tells the true-life adventure story of a twelve-year-old boy, Sher Singh. He overcomes a seemingly insurmountable obstacle of an 80-km stretch of muddy track through a dense jungle which is infested with tuskers, bears and tigers and is criss-crossed with streams. He takes his critically ill younger brother, slung across his young and raw shoulders, to the nearest hospital, where lies his hope of survival. Sher Singh, in the end, succeeds in the mission and earns the title of 'Bahadur', the Brave. (The author Norah Burke was a 20th century British adventurer who spent several years in the Himalayan forests.)]*

Sher Singh's little brother, Kunwar, lay in the hut with a pain in his stomach that was getting worse.

Sher Singh himself was only 12 years old, small and cheerful, a child of the jungle, and his brother was several years younger. There had been other children of course, but they were dead, carried off by cholera and influenza.

"I will wring out rags in boiling water and lay them on his stomach," said Mother. She did not weep. She had lived through everything.

The steaming clothes did nothing. After a while Sher Singh's mother said, "He must be carried to the hospital at Kalaghat."

Then Sher Singh knew that his brother was dying, for all jungle people know that the hospital is the last resort of the doomed.

"I will run for my father," he cried.

"It may be days before you find him."

Sher Singh's father was known far and wide as Sher Singh Bahadur – the Brave – a famous hunter, with the title 'Bahadur' added to his name like a medal because of all he had done. He lived his life here in Laldwani village, grazing his animals, cultivating his bit of land. But whenever an expedition entered the jungle in search of big game, they sent for Bahadur, the Brave. All along his skull and back and shoulder went a scar

where claws had opened his flesh to the bone when he was pulling a comrade away from a tiger.

Now he was away in the jungle with an expedition. All the men of Laldwani village too were away, as beaters.

In this mud and grass hut, upon the floor of trodden earth, Kunwar lay crying sometimes, but mostly glazed and silent. Sher Singh saw death in his young brother's eyes.

"There are no men in the village," he said. "I will take him." His mother must stay behind to mind the cattle and work on the land without which they would all starve ; and he and she both understood this without saying so. She took one of her two *saris* and, making a sling for Sher Singh, lifted up Kunwar, and put him into it. Sher Singh could feel immediately the heat of the boy's body burning through the cotton cloth on his back. He felt the weight, too, and wondered how he was going to manage.

"He is too big for you," his mother whispered in despair.

"You will never get there."

Sher Singh said nothing. He set off into the jungle in the orange glow of evening.

Kalaghat was 80 kilometres away, but Sher Singh hoped that if he could get through the jungle and cross the two rivers in between, he might get a lift in a bullock cart or perhaps even a broken-down truck for the last part of his journey.

He was alone on the track that wound into the forest, into night. Not quite alone, though. Around him lay the forest in which the struggle of life continued as it had done since the beginning of the world. The deer were now so poached and decimated that the beasts of prey had to kill domestic animals for food. Sometimes even men.

Night fell. The sky blazed with stars. Presently, the moon rose. The sight of bear tracks in the dust – the square front paw and long back one, with the shaggy claws – made him glance round uneasily. He had once seen a man who had been mauled by a bear, all his face torn away. He quickened his step.

Soon, on a cliff above a river-bed, Sher Singh knew he could go no further without rest. He set Kunwar down gently. Suddenly all Sher Singh's muscles, shrinking back to their

natural positions, thrilled with piercing pain. He lay against a tree with his eyes shut, recovering.

It was then that he heard the jostle and squeal of elephants. Below him on each side of the shallow river-bed, the elephants travelled. He could see the cows and the babies, and one great old tusker. He was playing his trunk to and fro to learn whatever the breeze could tell him ; and suddenly he hesitated. The trunk came round towards the boys.

Sher Singh chilled with fright. With Kunwar to carry, he could neither climb nor run. Prayer after prayer fled up from his frightened spirit.

The tusker snorted, trumpeted, shook his head. Suddenly he hurried on angrily up the river-bed, and all the herd with him. They disappeared.

Sher Singh breathed another prayer, of thanks this time, and made ready to move with Kunwar on his back once again. He scrambled down into the river-bed. Though the water was only waist-deep, he had to go slowly because of slime on the stones. Thanks goodness there was a bridge at the second river, he thought. That bridge was an impermanent thing made of bamboo poles, stones and thick grass. But it was at least a bridge.

As Sher Singh washed up on to the shore, water twinkled in his footprints before sinking into the sand. Coming up out of the river were another set of prints – a tiger's, and there was glitter in them too. Even as he looked, they dried. He plodded steadily on, and his body panted and sobbed.

Towards midnight he heard the second river from far away, a steady roar of flood. When he came out on the shore, he saw it. A big head of snow must have melted yesterday, because from bank to bank, the river foamed. He looked for the bridge. It was not there. Only a fierce crest of water showed where it lay, submerged. He could hear the river grinding its teeth. Then a tree, churning over and over, crashed against the drowned bridge, which hreeled and broke, throwing up its bamboo ribs like a fan.

Sher Singh set Kunwar down and brought him water from the river in his hands.



“My brother –” the delirious little boy whispered, and drank.

Sher Singh gathered grass and, plaiting it into a rope, tied it round his brother and himself so they would keep together. Then he entered the water just above the bridge. The river seized them and flattened them against the wreck. Unable to move at first, he edged forward into the maelstrom, feeling for the split ends of bamboo.

The deluge deafened him, timber banged and bruised him. It was so cold he could hardly keep his hold. He could not get his breath in the spray, and he did not know if his brother lived or died. But he kept the child's head above water, and moved slowly. Gasping in mortal struggle, he was deaf, blinded, frozen, drowned.

Gradually, the river seemed to lose power. They were through.

After that, Sher Singh did not know what happened. He was wet and ice-cold but he stumbled on, his knees bent and trembling. They gave way. He was crawling. Then there was a road and the barking of the dogs, heralding a village.

Suddenly, somehow – people.

After that, the next he knew they were in a bullock cart, then a truck.

“Where have you come from, boy?”

“Laldwani.”

“You carried him alone? Across the river in flood?”

They were at the hospital.

Sher Singh felt shy of the big building. He did not go in. Much later, the doctor came out on the verandah.

“Sher Singh Bahadur, are you there?” he called out.

“My father is not here,” replied the boy, going up to the verandah. “But I am Sher Singh.”

“You are the boy who brought the child Kunwar in from Laldwani?”

“Yes.”

Then a smile broke all over the doctor's great gentle face.

"Then you are Sher Singh Bahadur – the Brave !" he said.

"Your brother will live. Come and see."

### Glossary :

*several* : (adj) quite a large number

There are *several* places of worship on the banks of the Holy Ganges.

*resort* : (n) recourse, way out

Gandhiji took to fasting as a last *resort*.

*doomed* : (v) consigned to ruin

She is *doomed* to die if she does not give up drinking.

*expedition* : (n) journey for a particular purpose

Armymen went on the Himalayan *expedition*.

*scar* : (n) mark left on skin by wound etc.

Even the *scar* on her face did not spoil her beauty.

*trodden* : (v) past participle of *tread*

Lady Diana fought for the cause of the *downtrodden*.

The child got *trodden* under the feet of the huge animal.

*glazed* : (adj) glossy, shining

The school compound had a border of *glazed* tiles.

*decimated* : (v) destroyed large proportion of

The hurricane *decimated* the national property.

*mauled* : (v) injured

The mountain bear *mauled* her face.

*cliff* : (n) steep rock face especially on the coast

We went on a picnic by the side of a *cliff*.

*jostle* : (v) knock against

The rowdy boys *jostled* in the crowd of ladies.

*squeal* : (n) prolonged shrill sound or cry

The children in the train got afraid of the *squeal* of the engine.

*snort* : (v) make a sound forcing breath violently through the nose

The lady *snorted* after listening to the lame excuse of her son.

*plod* : (v) walk or work laboriously

The man *plodded* along the hilly path.

*delirious* : (n) wildly excited, unable to think or speak in a rational way, usually because one is very ill and has a fever.

The drunkard ran into a *delirious* state of mind.

*maelstrom* (n) great whirlpool

All the fishermen along with their boats were caught in the *maelstrom*.

*deluge* : (n) flood, downpour of rain

People are still talking about the Mumbai *deluge*.

*stumble* : (v) have partial fall

He *stumbled* over a stone and fell down.

*poach* : (v) hunt illicitly

*Poaching* of animals is banned in this state.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I(i) Answer the following questions in brief :

1. Who was Sher Singh Bahadur ?
2. Where did he get the big scar from ?
3. Why were there no men in the village ?
4. What had happened to all the children ?
5. Why could Sher Singh's mother not take her son to the hospital ?
6. How did Sher Singh carry his brother ?
7. What happened at the first river ?
8. What was the condition of the second river ? What had happened to the bridge ?
9. How did he cross the second river ?
10. How did they reach the hospital after crossing the rivers?
11. What did the doctor say ?

ii. Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. Explain the circumstances in which Kunwar was carried to the hospital.

2. Write a few lines about the character-sketch of Sher Singh.
3. Describe Sher Singh's father in about 50 words.

### B Vocabulary Exercises

II(i) Match the animals under column **A** to the sound in column **B**:

A ANIMALS	B SOUNDS
bees birds cats cocks cows dogs donkeys frogs horses lions owls snakes wolves	howl hiss low or moo hoot roar neigh croak bray bark mew crow chirp buzz

(ii) Add the correct suffixes to the words given in the brackets choosing from the list given below :

..... dom      ..... ness      ..... hood

1. We salute the (wise) and (martyr) of those who fought for the (free) of our country.
2. His journey from (child) to (man) was full of struggle.

3. (Good) and (sweet) of behaviour are of no avail if one lacks in (bold) of character.
4. (Parent) brings responsibilities.
5. He lost his (king) to the enemy.
6. (Happy) is a state of mind.

(iii) Fill in the following blanks with the words given in the box :

cursed	remove	lazy	lesson	road
passed by	middle	attempted		stumbled
written	stone			

Once upon a time there lived a king who believed in hard work. But he was distressed because his people had become ..... One day, to teach them a ..... he put a big stone in the ..... of the road. One of his ministers ..... in his carriage. He did not even ask his servants to ..... the stone. Then some merchants came. They saw the stone and ..... the government for this and went away. Many people came and went but no one ..... to remove it. A child was going to school. He ..... and fell down. He got up and pushed the stone away from the ..... There lay a box full of gold under it, on which was ..... : "This gold is meant for the one who removes the ....."

### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms of the italicized words :

1. It is an old belief ; you may ..... it or not. (*belief*)
2. Why don't you ..... your dog properly ? (*food*)
3. Researches have shown that plants also ..... (*breath*)
4. Don't let the liquid ..... (*drop*)
5. The cattle ..... on these fields. (*grass*)
6. Pray to God to ..... all. (*bliss*)
7. You can ..... your dress. (*choice*)
8. .... and let live. (*life*)
9. The lawyer tried his best to ..... him guilty. (*proof*)
10. On every festival day he went to the village to ..... the poor. (*cloth*)

(ii) Correct the following sentences :

1. The football match ended to a draw.
2. Our Principal is a honest lady.
3. He is senior than me.
4. She is a M.A., B.Ed.
5. Mr. Sharma is a honourable man.
6. He is an European.
7. He is an one-eyed man.
8. I read Tribune every day.
9. This is an useful article.
10. A lion is the king of forest.

(iii) Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions :

1. All mothers look ..... their children.
2. Do not look ..... upon the poor.
3. My teacher asked me to look ..... the word in the dictionary.

4. The officer promised to look ..... the matter.
5. Shiela looks ..... him as her son.
6. Prices are looking .....

### D. Pronunciation Practice

Say the following words aloud :

/ɒ /	/ə:/	/ʊ /
<u>o</u> x	<u>c</u> ourt	<u>pu</u> t
<u>po</u> t	<u>ca</u> ught	<u>sug</u> ar
<u>co</u> ugh	<u>to</u> rtoise	<u>bo</u> som
<u>trou</u> gh	<u>bo</u> ard	<u>bo</u> ok
<u>wha</u> t	<u>do</u> or	<u>soo</u> t
<u>beca</u> use	<u>sw</u> ord	<u>wo</u> ol
<u>Au</u> stralia	<u>fl</u> oor	<u>w</u> oman
<u>sa</u> usage	<u>co</u> rd	<u>bu</u> tcher
<u>know</u> ledge	<u>bo</u> ught	<u>co</u> urier

### E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. Read some book on the stories of brave children who receive awards for bravery on the Republic Day. Discuss these with your friends.
2. Imagine that you are Sher Singh. What would you do in a similar situation ?
3. Write a paragraph on : A Village without a Hospital.
4. Have you ever performed any great act of social service in your life ? Describe it in a few lines.

## (ii) No Men are Foreign

*[The poet says that all men are equal. One should love and respect others as one's equals. There is no real distinction between man and man. All distinctions are only man-made and futile. We should make this earth a heaven of peace, joy and equality based on mutual love, faith and prosperity. How can we do that ?]*

Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign  
Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes  
Like ours ; the land our brothers walk upon  
Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie.  
They, too, aware of sun and air and water,  
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter  
starv'd.

Their hands are ours, and in their lines we read  
A labour not different from our own.  
Remember they have eyes like ours that wake  
Or sleep, and strength that can be won  
By love. In every land is common life  
That all can recognize and understand.  
Let us remember, whenever we are told  
To hate our brothers, it is ourselves  
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.  
Remember, we who take up arms against each other.  
It is the human earth that we defile,  
Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence  
Of air that is everywhere our own.  
Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries  
strange.

*James Kirkup*

*[James Kirkup was born in 1923. He won the Atlantic Award for Literature in 1950. He wrote some plays too. He worked as Professor of English at Stockholm and at Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan. He was a versatile writer.]*



**Glossary :**

*Starve(v)* – die of hunger because of non-availability of food.

*dispossess(v)* – to put one out of possession

*betray(v)* – to cheat, to be disloyal

*condemn(v)* – to express strong disapproval

*outrage(v)* – any gross violation of law or decency

*defile(v)* – to make foul or dirty

**Enjoying the Poem :**

- 1 What is the theme or the central idea of the poem ?
- 2 Write the summary of the poem in your own words.
- 3 What inspiration do we derive from this poem ?
- 4 What will happen if we hate our fellow beings ?
- 5 How are all men similar to one another ?
- 6 Write True or False against the following sentences :
  - a) No men are strange and no countries are foreign.
  - b) People are different from one another.
  - c) We should hate our brothers.
  - d) We should not defile our earth.
- 7 This poem is an attempt to create 'brotherhood' amongst people. Share your views on the subject with your teachers.
- 8 Read any other poem that has a similar message. Discuss it with your classmates.

## 6. The Bishop's Candlesticks - I

*[Norman Mckinnell was an actor and a dramatist. As a playwright, he is known for the play, 'The Bishop's Candlesticks'. The play is an adaptation of a section of Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables". The play is based on the theme that love and kindness can change a man better than violence can. The play is about a convict. He breaks into the Bishop's house. He is clothed and warmed. The benevolence of the Bishop somewhat softens the convict. When he sees the silver candlesticks, he gets tempted and he steals them. He is captured and brought back. He expects to go back to jail, but the Bishop informs the police that these are a gift. The act of the Bishop reforms the convict. He develops a belief in the spirit of God that dwells in the heart of every human being.]*

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*SCENE : The kitchen of the Bishop's cottage. It is plainly but substantially furnished. Doors R, and L and L.C. Window R.C. Fireplace with heavy mantelpiece down R. Oak settee with cushions behind door L.C. Table near window R.C. with writing materials and crucifix (wood). Eight-day clock R. of window. Winter wood scene outside. On the mantel piece are two very handsome candlesticks which look strangely out of place with their surroundings.*

### CHARACTERS :

- The Bishop
- The Convict
- Persome : the Bishop's sister
- Marie
- Sergeant of Gendarmes

*[Marie and Persome discovered. Marie stirring some soup on the fire. Persome laying the cloth, etc.]*

*Persome.* Marie, isn't the soup boiling yet ?

*Marie.* Not yet, madam.

*Persome.* Well, it ought to be. You haven't tended the fire properly, child.

*Marie.* But, madam, you yourself made the fire up.

*Persome.* Don't answer me back like that. It is rude.

*Marie.* Yes, madam.

*Persome.* Then don't let me have to rebuke you again.

*Marie.* No, madam.

*Persome.* I wonder where my brother can be. (*Looking at the clock.*) It is after eleven o'clock and no sign of him. Marie !

*Marie.* Yes, madam.

*Persome.* Did *Monseigneur*, the Bishop, leave any message for me ?

*Marie.* No, madam.

*Persome.* Did he tell you where he was going ?

*Marie.* Yes, madam.

*Persome* (*imitating*). 'Yes, madam'. Then why haven't you told me, stupid !

*Marie.* Madam didn't ask me.

*Persome.* But that is no reason for your not telling me, is it ?

*Marie.* Madam said only this morning I was not to chatter, so I thought -

*Persome.* Ah, mon Dieu ? You thought ! Ah ! It is hopeless.

*Marie.* Yes, madam.

*Persome.* Don't keep saying 'Yes, Madam,' like a parrot, nincompoop.

*Marie.* No, madam.

*Persome.* Well. Where did monseigneur say he was going ?

*Marie.* To my mother's, madam.

*Persome.* To your mother's indeed ! And why, pray ?

*Marie.* Monseigneur asked me how she was, and I told him she was feeling poorly.

*Persome.* You told him she was feeling poorly, did you ? And so my brother is to be kept out of his bed, and go without his supper because you told him she was feeling poorly. There's gratitude for you !

*Marie.* Madam, the soup is boiling !

*Persome.* Then pour it out, fool, and don't chatter. (*Marie about to do so.*) No, no ; not like that. Here, let me do it, and put the salt-cellar on the table—the silver ones.

*Marie.* The silver ones, madam ?

*Persome.* Yes, the silver ones. Are you deaf as well as stupid ?

*Marie.* They are sold, madam.

*Persome.* Sold ! (*with horror*) Sold ! Are you mad ? Who sold them ? Why were they sold ?

*Marie.* Monseigneur the Bishop told me this afternoon while you were out to take them to Monseigneur Gervais, who has often admired them, and sell them for as much as I could.

*Persome.* But you had no right to do so without asking me.

*Marie (with awe).* But, madam, Monseigneur the Bishop told me.

*Persome.* Monseigneur the Bishop is a — ahem ! But — but what can he have wanted with the money !

*Marie.* Pardon, madam, but I think it was for *Mere Gringoire*.

*Persome.* *Mere Gringoire* indeed ! *Mere Gringoire* ! What, the old witch who lives at the top of the hill, and who says she is bedridden because she is too lazy to do any work ? And what did *Mere Gringoire* want with the money, pray ?

*Marie.* Madam, it was for the rent. They threatened to turn her out today if it were not paid, so she sent little Jean to Monseigneur to ask for help, and —

*Persome.* Oh, mon Dieu ! It is hopeless, hopeless. We shall have nothing left. His estate is sold, his savings have gone. His furniture, everything. Were it not for my little *dot* we should starve ! And now my beautiful — beautiful (*sob*) salt-cellar. Ah, it is too much, too much. (*She breaks down crying.*)

*Marie.* Madam, I am sorry, if I had known —

*Persome.* Sorry, and why, pray ? If Monseigneur the Bishop chooses to sell his salt-cellar he may do so, I suppose. Go and wash your hands, they are disgracefully dirty.

*Marie.* Yes, madam. (*going towards R.*)

[*Enter the Bishop, C.*]

*Bishop.* Ah ! how nice and warm it is in here ! It is worth going out in the cold for the sake of the comfort of coming in.

[*Persome has hastened to help him off with his coat etc.*]

*Bishop.* Thank you, dear. (*looking at her.*) Why, what is the matter ? You have been crying. Has Marie been troublesome, eh ? (*shaking his finger at her*) Ah !

*Persome.* No, it wasn't Marie—but—but—

*Bishop.* Well, well, you shall tell me presently ! Marie, my child, run home now ; your mother is better. I have prayed with her, and the doctor has been. Run home ! (*Marie putting on cloak and going.*)

[*She goes to door C. ; as it opens, the snow drives in.*]

*Bishop.* Here, Marie, take my comforter, it will keep you warm. It is very cold to-night.

*Marie.* (*shamefacedly*) Oh, no Monseigneur !

*Persome.* What nonsense, brother, she is young, she won't hurt.

*Bishop.* Ah, Persome, you have not been out, you don't know how cold it has become. Here, Marie, let me put it on for you. (*Does so*) There ! Run along, little one. [*Exit Marie, C.*]



*Persome.* Brother, I have no patience with you. There, sit down and take your soup, it has been waiting ever so long. And if it is spoilt, it serves you right.

*Bishop.* It smells delicious.

*Persome.* I'm sure Marie's mother is not so ill that you need have stayed out on such a night as this. I believe those people pretend

to be ill just to have the Bishop call on them. They have no thought of the Bishop !

*Bishop.* It is kind of them to want to see me.

*Persome.* Well, for my part, I believe that charity begins at home.

*Bishop.* And so you make me this delicious soup. You are very good to me, sister.

*Persome.* Good to you, yes ! I should think so. I should like to know where you would be without me to look after you. Everybody deceives you here so easily.

*Bishop.* If people lie to me they are poorer, not I.

*Persome.* But it is ridiculous ; you will soon have nothing left. You give away everything, everything !!!

*Bishop.* My dear, there is so much suffering in the world, and I can do so little (*sighs*), so very little.

*Persome.* Suffering, yes ; but you never think of the suffering you cause to those who love you best, the suffering you cause to me.

*Bishop (rising).* You, sister dear ? Have I hurt you ? Ah, I remember you had been crying. Was it my fault ? I didn't mean to hurt you. I am sorry.

*Persome.* Sorry. Yes. *Sorry* won't mend it. Humph ! Oh, do go on eating your soup before it gets cold.

*Bishop.* Very well, dear. (*sits*) But tell me –

*Persome.* You are like a child. I can't trust you out of my sight. No sooner is my back turned than you get that little minx Marie to sell the silver salt-cellar.

*Bishop.* Ah, yes, the salt-cellar. It is a pity. You – you were proud of them ?

*Persome.* Proud of them. Why, they have been in our family for years.

*Bishop.* Yes, it is a pity. They were beautiful ; but still, dear, one can eat salt out of china just as well.

*Persome.* Yes or meat off the floor, I suppose. Oh, it's coming to that. And as for that old wretch, Mere Gringoire, I wonder she had the audacity to send her again. The last time I saw her I gave her such a talking to that it ought to have had some effect.

*Bishop.* Yes ! I offered to take her in here for a day or two, but she seemed to think it might distress you.

*Persome.* Distress me !!!

*Bishop.* And they would not wait longer for the rent, so – so – you see I *had* to pay it.

*Persome.* You *had* to pay it. (*gesture of comic despair*)

*Bishop.* Yes, and you see I had no money so I had to dispose of the salt-cellars. It was fortunate I had them, wasn't it ? (*Smiling*)  
But I'm sorry I have grieved you.

*Persome.* Oh, go on ! Go on ! You are incorrigible. You'll sell your candlesticks next.

*Bishop (with real concern).* No, no, sister, not my candlesticks.

*Persome.* Oh ! Why not ? They would pay somebody's rent, I suppose.

*Bishop.* Ah, you are good, sister, to think of that ; but – but I don't want to sell them. You see, dear, my mother gave them to me on – on her death-bed just after you were born, and-and she asked me to keep them in remembrance of her, so I would like to keep them ; but perhaps it is a sin to set such store by them ?

*Persome.* Brother, brother, you will break my heart (*with tears in her voice*). There ! don't say anything more. Kiss me and give me your blessing. I'm going to bed (*They kiss.*)

[*Bishop makes the sign of the Cross and murmurs a blessing.*

*Persome locks cupboard door and goes R.*]

*Persome.* Don't sit up too long and tire your eyes.

*Bishop.* No, dear ! Good night !

## 7. The Bishop's Candlesticks -II

Bishop (comes to table and opens a book, then looks up at the candlesticks). They would pay somebody's rent. It was kind of her to think of that.

[He stirs the fire, trims the lamp, arranges some books and papers, sits down, is restless, shivers slightly ; clock outside strikes twelve and he settles to read. Music during this. Enter the Convict stealthily ; he has a long knife and seizes the Bishop from behind]



*Convict.* If you call out you are a dead man !

*Bishop.* But, my friend, as you see, I am reading. Why should I call out ? Can I help you in any way ?

*Convict (hoarsely).* I want food. I'm starving, I haven't eaten anything for three days. Give me food quickly, quickly, curse you.

*Bishop (eagerly).* But certainly, my son, you shall have food. I will ask my sister for the keys of the cupboard.

*Convict.* Sit down ! ! ! (*The Bishop sits smiling.*) None of that, my friend ! Come, where is the food ? I want no keys. Quick, tell me where the food is.



*Convict* (aside). I wish Persome would not lock the cupboard.  
*Bishop* Come, my friend, you have nothing to fear. My sister and I  
 are alone here.  
*Convict* How do I know that ?  
*Bishop* Why, I have just told you.

[*Convict looks long at the Bishop.*]

*Convict* Humph ! I'll risk it. (*Bishop, going to door R.*) But  
 don't play me false and as sure as there are devils in hell I'll  
 run my knife through your heart. I have nothing to lose.  
*Bishop* You have your soul to lose, my son ; it is of more value  
 than my heart. (*at door R., calling.*) Persome ! Persome !

[*Convict stands behind him, with his knife ready.*]  
*Persome* (*within*). Yes, brother.  
*Bishop* Here is a poor traveller who is hungry. If you are not  
 opposed will you come and open the cupboard and I will give  
 you some supper.  
*Persome* (*within*). What, at this time of night ? A pretty business  
 this. Are we to have no sleep now, but to be at the beck and call  
 of every ne'er-do-well who happens to pass ?  
*Bishop* But, Persome, the traveller is hungry.  
*Persome* Oh, very well. I am coming. (*Persome enters R. She  
 puts the knife in the Convict's hand.*) (*frightened*) Brother, what  
 are you doing with that knife ?  
*Bishop* The knife – oh, well, you see, dear, perhaps he may have  
 thought that I – I had sold ours.  
*Persome* Brother, I am frightened. He glares at us like a wild  
 beast (*aside to him*).  
*Convict* Hurry, I tell you. Give me food or I'll stick my knife in  
 you both and help myself.  
*Bishop* Give me the keys, Persome (*she gives them to him*).  
*Convict* Good now, dear, you may go to bed.

[Persome going. *The Convict springs in front of her.*]

*Convict.* Stop ! Neither of you leave this room till I do.

[*She looks at the Bishop.*]

*Bishop.* Persome, will you favour this gentleman with your company at supper ? He evidently desires it.

*Persome.* Very well, brother.

[*She sits down at table staring at the two.*]

*Bishop.* Here is some cold pie and a bottle of wine and some bread.

*Convict.* Put them on the table, and stand below it so that I can see you.

[*Bishop does so and opens drawer in table, taking out knife and fork, looking at the knife in Convict's hand.*]

*Convict.* My knife is sharp. (*He runs his finger along the edge and looks at them meaningfully.*) And as for forks, we don't use forks in prison.

*Persome.* Prison ?

*Convict* (*Cutting off an enormous slice, which he tears with his fingers like an animal. Then starts.*) What was that ? (*He looks at the door.*) Why the devil do you leave the window unshuttered and the door unbarred so that anyone can come in ? (*shutting them.*)

*Bishop.* That is why they are left open.

*Convict.* Well, they are shut now !

*Bishop* (*sighs*). For the first time in thirty years.

[*Convict eats voraciously and throws a bone on the floor.*]

*Persome.* Oh, my nice clean floor !

[*Bishop picks up the bone and puts it on plate.*]

*Convict.* You're not afraid of thieves ?

*Bishop.* I am sorry for them.

*Convict.* Sorry for them. Ha ! ha ! ha !

(*Drinks from bottle.*) That's a good one. Sorry for them. Ha ! ha !

ha ! (*Drinks*) (*suddenly*) What the devil are you ?

*Bishop.* I am a bishop.

*Convict.* Ha ! ha ! ha ! A bishop. Holy Virgin, a bishop.

*Bishop.* I hope you may escape that, my son. Persome, you may leave us ; this gentleman will excuse you.

*Persome.* Leave you with –

*Bishop.* Please ! My friend and I can talk more freely then.

[*By this time, owing to his starving condition, the wine has affected the Convict.*]

*Convict.* What's that ? Leave us. Yes, yes, leave us. Good night. I want to talk to the Bishop. The bishop. Ha ! ha !

[*Laughs as he drinks, and coughs.*]

*Bishop.* Good night, Persome.

[*He holds the door open and she goes out R., holding in her skirts as she passes the Convict.*]

*Convict (chuckling to himself).* The Bishop. Ha ! ha ! Well I'm – (*Suddenly very loudly*) D'you know what I am ?

*Bishop.* I think one who has suffered much.

*Convict.* Suffered ? (*puzzled*) suffered ? My God, yes. (*Drinks*) But that's a long time ago. Ha ! ha ! That was when I was a man. Now I'm not a man ; now I'm a number ; number 15729, and I've lived in Hell for ten years.

*Bishop.* Tell me about it – about Hell.

*Convict.* Why ? (*suspiciously*) Do you want to tell the police – to set them on my track ?

*Bishop.* No ! I will not tell the police.

*Convict (looks at him earnestly).* I believe you (*scratching his head*), but damn me if I know why.

*Bishop (laying his hand on the Convict's arm).* Tell me about the time – the time before you went to – Hell.

*Convict.* It's so long ago I forget ; but I had a little cottage ; there were vines growing on it. (*dreamily*) They looked pretty with the evening sun on them, and, and – there was a woman – she was (*thinking hard*) – she must have been my wife – yes. (*Suddenly and very rapidly*). Yes, I remember ! She was ill. We had no

food, I could get no work, it was a bad year, and my wife, my Jeanette, was ill, dying (*pause*), so I stole to buy her food. (*Long pause. The Bishop gently pats his hand.*) They caught me. I pleaded to them. I told them why I stole, but they laughed at me, and I was sentenced to ten years in the prison hulks (*pause*), ten years in Hell. The night I was sentenced the gaoler told me – told me Jeanette was dead. (*sobs with fury*) Ah, damn them, damn them. God curse them all !

[*He sinks on the table, sobbing.*]

*Bishop.* Now tell me about the prison ship, about Hell.

*Convict.* Tell you about it ? Look here, I was a man once. I'm a beast now, and they made me what I am. They chained me up like a wild animal, they lashed me like a hound. I fed on filth, I was covered with vermin. I slept on boards, and I complained. Then they lashed me again. For ten years, ten years. Oh God ! They took away my name, they took away my soul, and they gave me a devil in its place. But one day they were careless, one day they forgot to chain up their wild beast, and he escaped. He was free. That was six weeks ago. I was free, free to starve.

*Bishop.* To starve ?

*Convict.* Yes, to starve. They feed you in Hell, but when you escape from it you starve. They were hunting me everywhere and I had no passport, no name. So I stole again. I stole these rags. I stole my food daily. I slept in the woods, in barns, anywhere. I dare not ask for work, I dare not go into a town to beg, so I stole, and they have made me what I am, they have made me a thief. God curse them all !

[*Empties the bottle and throws it into the fireplace R., smashing it.*]

*Bishop.* My son, you have suffered much but there is hope for all.

*Convict.* Hope ! Hope ! Ha ! ha ! ha !

[*laughs wildly*]

*Bishop.* You have walked far ; you are tired. Lie down and sleep on the couch there, and I will get you some coverings.

*Convict.* And if anyone comes ?

*Bishop.* No one will come ; but if they do are you not my friend ?

*Convict.* Your friend ? (*puzzled*)

[*scratching his head, utterly puzzled*]

*Bishop.* I will get the coverings. [*Exit L.*]

*Convict* (*looks after him, scratches his head*). The Bishop's friend ! (*He goes to the fire to warm himself and notices the candlesticks. He looks round to see if he is alone, and takes them down, weighing them.*) Silver, by God, heavy. What a prize !

[*He hears the Bishop coming, and in his haste drops one candlestick on the table.*]

[*enters the Bishop*]

*Bishop* (*sees what is going on, but goes to the settee up L. with coverings.*) Ah, you are admiring my candlesticks. I am proud of them. They were a gift from my mother. Your bed is ready. Will you lie down now ?

*Convict.* Yes, yes, I'll lie down now. (*puzzled*) – Look - here, why the devil are you-ki-kind to me ? [*Suspiciously*]. What do you want ? The ..... ?

*Bishop.* I want you to have a good sleep, my friend.

*Convict.* I believe you want to convert me ; save my soul, don't you call it ? Well, it's no good – see ? I don't want any damned religion, and as for the Church ! I hate the Church.

*Bishop.* That is a pity, my son, as the Church does not hate you.

*Convict.* You are going to try to convert me. Oh ! Ha ! ha ! that's a good idea. Ha ! ha ! ha ! No. no. I don't want any of your Faith, Hope, and Charity – see ? So anything you do for me you're doing to the devil – understand ? (*defiantly*)

*Bishop.* One must do a great deal for the devil in order to do a little for God.

*Convict* (*angrily*). I don't want any damned religion, I tell you.

*Bishop.* Won't you lie down now ? It is late.

*Convict (grumbling).* Well, all right, but I won't be preached at, I-(*on couch*). You're sure no one will come ?

*Bishop.* I don't think they will ; but if they do-you yourself have locked the door.

*Convict.* Humph ! I wonder if it's safe. (*He goes to the door and tries it, then turns and sees the Bishop holding the covering, annoyed*) Here ! you go to bed. I'll cover myself. (*The Bishop hesitates.*) Go on, I tell you.

*Bishop.* Good night, my son.

(*exit L.*)

[*Convict waits till he is off, then tries the Bishop's door.*]

*Convict.* No lock, of course. Curse it. (*looks round and sees the candlesticks again*) Humph ! I'll have another look at them. (*He takes them up and toys with them.*) Worth hundreds, I'll warrant. If I had these turned into money they'd start me fair. Humph ! The old boy's fond of them too, said his mother gave him them. His mother, yes. They didn't think of *my* mother when they sent me to Hell. He was kind to me too - but what's a Bishop for except to be kind to you ? Here, cheer up, my hearty, you're getting soft. God ! wouldn't my chain-mates laugh to see 15729 hesitating about collaring the plunder because he felt good. Good ! ! Ha ! ha ! Oh, my God ! Good ! Ha ! ha ! 15729 getting soft. That's a good one. Ha ! ha ! No, I'll take his candlesticks and go. If I stay here he'll preach at me in the morning and I'll get soft. Damn him and his preaching too. Here goes !

[*He takes the candlesticks, stows them in his coat, and cautiously exits L.C. As he does so, the door slams.*]

*Persome (without).* Who's there ? Who's there, I say ? Am I to get no sleep to-night ? Who's there, I say ? (*enter R. Persome*) I'm sure I heard the door shut. (*looking round.*) No one here ? (*Knocks at the Bishop's door L. Sees the candlesticks have gone.*) The candlesticks, the candlesticks. They are gone. Brother, brother, come out. Fire, murder, thieves !

[enters Bishop L.]

*Bishop.* What is it, dear, what is it ?What is the matter ?

*Persome.* He has gone. The man with the hungry eyes has gone, and he has taken your candlesticks.

*Bishop.* Not my candlesticks, sister, surely not those. (*He looks and sighs.*) Ah, that is hard, very hard, I, I—He might have left me those. They were all I had (*almost breaking down*).

*Persome.* Well, but go and inform the police. He can't have gone far. They will soon catch him, and you'll get the candlesticks back again. You don't deserve them, though, leaving them about with a man like that in the house.

*Bishop.* You are right, Persome. It was my fault. I led him into temptation.

*Persome.* Oh, nonsense I led him into temptation indeed. The man is a thief. I knew it the moment I saw. Go and inform the police or I will.

[*Going ; but he stops her.*]

*Bishop.* And have him sent back to prison, (*very softly*), sent back to Hell. No Persome. It is a just punishment for me ; I set too great store by them. It was a sin. My punishment is just ; but, oh God, it is hard, it is very hard. [*He buries his head in his hands.*]

*Persome.* No, brother, you are wrong. If you won't tell the police, I will. I will not stand by and see you robbed. I know you are my brother ; but you are a fool, I tell you, a child, and I will not have your goodness abused. I shall go and inform the police (*going*).

*Bishop.* Stop, Persome. The candlesticks were mine ; they are *his* now. It is better, so. He has more need of them than I. My mother would have wished it so had she been here.

*Persome.* But—[*Great knocking without.*] Sergeant (*without*). Monseigneur, Monseigneur, we have something for you. May we enter ?

*Bishop.* Enter, my son.

[Enter Sergeant and three Gendarmes with Convict bound. The Sergeant carries the candlesticks.]

*Persome.* Ah, so they have caught you, villain, have they ?

*Sergeant.* Yes, madam, we found this scoundrel slinking along the road, and as he wouldn't give any account of himself we arrested him on suspicion. Holy Virgin, isn't he strong and didn't he struggle ? While we were securing him these candlesticks fell out of his pockets.

(*Persome seizes them, goes to table, and brushes them with her apron lovingly.*) I remembered the candlesticks of Monseigneur the Bishop, so we brought him here that you might identify them, and then we'll lock him up.

[*The Bishop and the Convict have been looking at each other.*]

*Bishop.* But – but I don't understand ; this gentleman is my very good friend.

*Sergeant.* Your friend, Monseigneur ! Holy Virgin ! Well !!!

*Bishop.* Yes my friend. He did me the honour to sup with me to-night, and I-I have given him the candlesticks. *Sergeant* (*incredulously*). You gave him–him your candlesticks ? Holy Virgin !

*Bishop* (*severely*). Remember, my son, that she is holy.

*Sergeant* (*saluting*). Pardon, Monseigneur.

*Bishop.* And now I think you may let your prisoner go.

*Sergeant.* But he won't show me his papers ; he won't tell me who he is.

*Bishop.* I have told you he is my friend.

*Sergeant.* Yes, that's all very well, but –

*Bishop.* He is your Bishop's friend ; surely that is enough.

*Sergeant.* Well, but –

*Bishop.* Surely ?

[*A pause. The Sergeant and the Bishop look at each other.*]

*Sergeant.* I-I-Humph ! (*to his men*) Loose the prisoner. (*They do so*). Right about turn, quick march !

[*Exit Sergeant and Gendarmes. A long pause.*]



*Convict (very slowly, as if in a dream).* You told them you had given me the candlesticks – given me them. By God !

*Persome (keeping the candlesticks to her breast).* Oh, you scoundrel, you pitiful scoundrel. You come here, and are fed, and warmed, and – and you thief ; steal from your benefactor. Oh, you blackguard.

*Bishop.* Persome, you are overwrought. Go to your room.

*Persome.* What, and leave you with him to be cheated again, perhaps murdered ? No, I will not.

*Bishop (with slight severity).* Persome, leave us. I wish it. [*She looks hard at him, then turns towards her door.*]

*Persome.* Well, if I must go, at least I'll take the candlesticks with me.

*Bishop (more severely).* Persome, place the candlesticks on that table and leave us.

*Persome (defiantly).* I will not !

*Bishop (loudly and with great severity).* I, your Bishop, command it.

[*Persome does so with great reluctance and exits R.*]

*Convict (shamefacedly).* Monseigneur, I'm glad I didn't get away with them ; curse me, I am, I'm glad.

*Bishop.* Now won't you sleep here ? See, your bed is ready.

*Convict.* No ! (*Looking at the candlesticks*) No ! no ! I daren't, I daren't. Besides, I must go on, I must get to Paris ; it is big, and I-I can be lost there. They won't find me there. And I must travel at night. Do you understand ?

*Bishop.* I see – you must travel by night.

*Convict.* I-I-didn't believe there was any good in the world ; one doesn't when one has been in Hell ; but somehow I-I-know you're good, and-and it's a queer thing to ask, but-could you, would you bless me before I go ? I-I think it would help me. I –

[*Hangs his head very shamefacedly.*]

[*Bishop makes the sign of the Cross and murmurs a blessing.*]

*Convict (tries to speak, but a sob almost chokes him).* Good night.

[*He hurries towards the door.*]

*Bishop.* Stay, my son, you have forgotten your property (*giving him the candlesticks*).

*Convict.* You mean me—you want me to take them ?

*Bishop.* Please ; they may help you. (*The Convict takes the candlesticks in absolute amazement.*) And, my son, there is a path through the woods at the back of this cottage which leads to Paris ; it is a very lonely path and I have noticed that my good friends the gendarmes do not like lonely paths at night. It is curious.

*Convict.* Ah, thanks, thanks, Monseigneur. I—I—(*He sobs.*) Ah, I'm a fool, a child to cry, but somehow you have made me feel that — that it is just as if something had come into me—as if I were a man again and not a wild beast. [*The door at back is open, and the Convict is standing in it.*]

*Bishop* (*putting his hand on his shoulder*). Always remember, my son, that this poor body is the Temple of the Living God.

*Convict* (*with great awe*). The Temple of the Living God, I'll remember.

(*Exit L.C.*)

[*The Bishop closes the door. He sinks on his knees and bows his head in prayer.*]

## Glossary : I

*bishop* : (n) a senior priest.

John's grandfather was a *bishop*.

*convict* : (n) a criminal in a prison.

The *convict* was finally released.

*convict* : (v) to officially decide in a court of law that someone is guilty of a particular crime.

He has twice been *convicted* of robbery.

*sergeant* : (n) a police officer.

The *sergeant* arrested the thief.

*candlesticks* : (n) a candle stand / a metallic candle-holder .

He presented me silver *candlesticks* on my birthday.

*gendarmes* : (n) the police.

The *gendarmes* took the responsibility of solving out the crime.

*substantially* : (adv) in large size, value or importance.

Their house was *substantially* decorated.

*settee* : (n) a seat with a high back.

The new *settee* looked very beautiful.

*crucifix* : (n) image of Jesus on the cross.

The *crucifix* was hanging on the wall.

*monseigneur* : (n) My Lord (a title of respect given to a priest of high rank).

The *monseigneur* addressed the gathering. (also spelt *monsignor*)

*mon Dieu* : My God !

*Mon Dieu* ! I have failed.

*nincompoop* : (n) a stupid person

Our new maid-servant is no less than a *nincompoop*.

*feeling poorly* : feeling ill, indisposed

Today I am *feeling poorly*.

*gratitude* : (n) the feeling of being thankful

She expressed her *gratitude* to all who helped her.

*chatter* : (v) to talk too much

She spent the evening *chattering* away to her friends.

*salt-cellars* : (n) containers to pour out salt, etc.

I could not find the *salt-cellars* on the table.

*awe* : (n) a feeling of respect, and slight fear

I always held my teachers in *awe*.

He speaks of her with *awe*.

*dot* : (n) dowry

Her parents gave her a little *dot*.

*comforter* : (n) muffler

It is very cold ; I need a *comforter*.

*delicious* : (adj) tasty

The food was indeed *delicious*.

*ridiculous* : (adj) something foolish or unreasonable and worth

laughing at.

He told us a *ridiculous* story.

*on her-death-bed* : very sick and about to die.

His grandmother is *on her death-bed*.

*break one's heart* : hurt somebody's feelings.

She really *broke* her mother's *heart* when she left home.

## II

*stealthily* : (adv) secretly

The thief *stealthily* followed the rich man.

*starving* : (adj) becoming very weak or about to die because of shortage of food to eat.

The animals were *starving* for want of fodder.

*supper* : (n) a small meal eaten late in the evening or dinner

Do you want some *supper* ?

*to be at the beck and call of* : ready to obey

He is always *at the beck and call of* his boss.

*ne'er-do-well* : good for nothing

He is not only a cheat, but also a *ne'er-do-well* person.

*enormous* : (adj) big, extremely large

What an *enormous* tree !

*sigh* : (v) taking a long deep breath of sadness or relief.

He sighed with relief on finding his wallet in his pocket.

*voraciously* : (adv) greedily

The dog ate the meat *voraciously*.

*virgin* : here it stands for Mary, mother of Jesus.

Have faith in the *Virgin* and do your best.

*suspiciously* : (adv) with a feeling of doubt

Everybody was *suspiciously* quiet.

*earnestly* : (adv) sincerely

I *earnestly* request you to reconsider your decision.

*prison hulks* : (n) ships used as a prison house

He was detained for many years in the *prison hulks*.

*gaoler* : (n) one who looks after the jail

The *gaoler* was a nice man.

*barn* : (n) a large simple building used for storing grains, hay, etc. on a farm.

The *barn* wore a deserted look.

- curse* : (n) a rude or offensive word.  
He uttered obscene *curses*.  
(v) to say rude or offensive things.  
He *cursed* his bad luck.
- wildly* : (adv) in a beastly / wild manner.  
She was seen rushing *wildly* from room to room.
- utterly puzzled* (adj) : totally confused.  
He looked sad and *utterly puzzled*.
- defiantly* : (adv) refusing to obey  
He spoke *defiantly* before his father.
- grumble* : (v) to complain or protest in a bad-tempered way  
"Better stop *grumbling*," said Ram to John.
- start me fair* : enable me to get a good start in life.  
Your timely help will *start me fair*.
- temptation* : (n) desire to do or have something that you know is wrong  
The *temptation* of easy profits made him a cheat.
- scoundrel* : (n) a person who lacks conscience or moral principles.  
At last the *scoundrel* was put behind bars.
- slinking* : (v) moving secretly.  
He was found *slinking* along the canal.
- severely* : (adj) intensely  
The teacher punished him *severely*.
- benefactor* : (n) one who gives money or other help to an institute, charity, etc.  
One should be loyal to one's *benefactors*.
- blackguard* (n) : one who is not honourable.  
At last the *blackguard* was arrested by the police.
- overwrought* (adj.): in a state of nervous excitement or anxiety.  
I am sorry for my behaviour ; actually I was *overwrought*.
- reluctance* : (n) feeling of being unwilling to do something.  
She showed a lot of *reluctance*, but finally accepted our offer.

*queer* : (adj) strange, odd.

The food had a *queer* smell.

*choke* : (v) to be unable to breathe.

The fumes almost *choked* me.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I(i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. Why did Persome rebuke Marie again and again ?
2. Why had the Bishop gone to see Marie's mother ?
3. What happened to the silver saltcellars ?
4. Persome said that she could not trust the Bishop out of her sight. Why ?
5. What did the convict want ?
6. Why did the Bishop leave the door unbarred ?
7. Why did the convict become a thief ?
8. What did he tell the Bishop about prison life ?
9. Why did he steal again ?
10. Who gave the candlesticks to the Bishop ?
11. Why did the Bishop not go to the police ?
12. What did the Bishop tell the policeman about the convict ?
13. Why does he give the candlesticks to the convict in the end ?

ii. Write a short note on the following in about a hundred words each :

- a. The Bishop
- b. Persome's behaviour
- c. Changing of the Convict from a wild beast to a man

### B Vocabulary Exercises

- II(i) Match the phrases in column A with their meanings in column B :

A	B
to make up to go without play one false at beck and call dare not to call on to look after to call out to hunt for	shout for help search for take care of go to visit someone have no courage ready to take orders to deceive to manage without something to reconcile

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with the opposites of the italicized words :

- The *extravagant* and the ..... both prove fatal for a sound economy.
- Fresh* food is a guarantee for good health whereas ..... food is an invitation to diseases.
- Mehar Mittal is the ..... king of Punjabi films and Dilip Kumar is the *tragedy* king of the Hindi films.
- A good teacher *persuades* the students to do good deeds and ..... them from sinful acts.
- Usha exerted all her force to make them *accept* the plan but the management ..... it.
- 'Elect in ..... ; repent at *leisure*' is a well known proverb.
- I can neither *condemn* nor ..... your proposal because it has not been prepared as per the norms.

iii. Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B :

A	B
gratitude monseigneur witch bedridden mon Dieu estate wretch audacity rouse vines barn preach benefactor queer vermin	worms strange well-wisher to give sermons storehouse for grains creepers awaken a hopeless person boldness property my God lying sick in bed a wicked woman address for a person of high rank thankfulness

### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Supply the necessary *nouns* or *verbs* in the blanks given below :

Verb

enter

.....

obey

.....

.....

trace

.....

do

Noun

.....

hatred

.....

pursuit

peace

.....

prison

.....



.....	contention
dine	.....
.....	certificate
advise	.....
.....	terror
perform	.....
.....	assumption

(ii) Look at the following sentences :

- a. Favour this gentleman *with your company*.
- b. I have lived in hell *for ten years*.

In the above sentences 'with your company' and 'for ten years' are adverbials that complete the meaning of the sentences. Also note that the adverbials are put after the object.

Now complete the following sentences selecting the adverbials from the box.

to cook her dinner	about the accident
to the library	to talk to the Kauravas
on the table	inside the hotel
in the pool	to give him a week's leave

1. The Pandavas chose Lord Krishna .....
2. I informed the police .....
3. Place the atlas .....
4. The student requested the Principal .....
5. The diver found a gold ring.....
6. The manager did not allow the dog.....
7. She asked the maidservant .....
8. The students followed the teacher .....

(iii) Rewrite the following sentences in the passive voice :

1. Inform the police.
2. I have told you he is my friend.
3. I led him into temptation.
4. You have forgotten your property.
5. The police will soon catch him.
6. They will not molest the Bishop's friend.
7. Why do you leave the window unshuttered ?

(iv) Punctuate the following paragraph :

there was perfect peace in the room abu ben adhem was bold enough to talk to the angel what are you writing he asked the names of those who love god was the reply is my name there said abu ben adhem no replied the angel abu then said more politely would you please put me down as one who loves his fellowmen the angel spoke nothing and vanished leaving the piece of paper there abu saw his name was on the top of the list.

### D. Pronunciation Practice

i. Say the following words aloud :

/ u : /	/ ɜ : /	/ ^ /	/ /
fo <u>o</u> d	bi <u>r</u> d	su <u>n</u>	ab <u>o</u> ve
tro <u>o</u> p	des <u>e</u> rt	ov <u>e</u> n	ag <u>a</u> in
gro <u>o</u> p	err	do <u>e</u> s	ob <u>o</u> tain
yo <u>o</u>	irk	blo <u>o</u> d	thor <u>o</u> ugh
sho <u>o</u>	fi <u>r</u>	tr <u>o</u> uble	cent <u>r</u> e
can <u>o</u> e	jo <u>u</u> rney	en <u>o</u> ugh	succ <u>u</u> mb
thro <u>u</u> gh	adj <u>o</u> urn		meas <u>u</u> re
bl <u>u</u> e	my <u>r</u> tle		broth <u>er</u>
grew	gi <u>r</u> l		fat <u>h</u> er
ewe / ju : /			do <u>ct</u> or

ii. Say the following words aloud :

<i>levl</i>	<i>/əʊl</i>	<i>/a:l</i>	<i>/aʊl</i>
wait	old	aisle	out
pray	comb	ice	bout
aye	toe	either	town
fete	soul	die	how
hate	go	buy	cow
break	bone	dye	doubt
veil	loan		proud

### E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. What would you do in the following situations ?

- You find a purse full of money on the road.
- You find a well-dressed lady stealing some articles from a store.
- You find a classmate of yours injured on the road in an accident.

Write your answers in 10-12 lines each.

2. Read two other one-act plays like the one you have read.

Discuss these with your classmates.

3. Write a paragraph on :

*Virtue is its Own Reward*

OR

*Love Wins Friends ; Hatred only Creates Enemies*

### (iii) Sympathy

*[The poet here says that helping a fellow being in distress or need with money is good. But more important than that is a loving, sympathetic heart. Charity, he says, should be seasoned with human feelings and divine qualities of love, sympathy and brotherhood.]*

I lay in sorrow, deep distressed,  
My grief a proud man heard ;  
His looks were cold, he gave me gold,  
But not a kindly word.

My sorrow passed – I paid him back  
The gold he gave to me ;  
Then stood erect and spoke my thanks  
And blessed his charity.

I lay in want, and grief, and pain  
A poor man passed my way,  
He bound my head, he gave me bread,  
He watched me night and day.

How shall I pay him back again  
For all he did to me ?  
Oh, gold is great, but greater far  
Is heavenly sympathy.

Charles Mackay

*[Charles Mackay (1814-89) was a Scottish song-writer. An editor of The Illustrated London News, he published several volumes of verse. His poems were very popular with the reading public and many of these are set to music.]*

**Glossary :**

- Distressed(adj)* – in trouble or grief, in great pain  
*Gold(n)* – (here) money  
*Charity(n)* – giving money to a needy person  
*Bound(n)* – bandaged a wound

**Enjoying the Poem :**

1. Write in your own words the message the poem conveys.
2. How did the proud man help the poet when he was in trouble ?
3. What did he not give to the poet ?
4. Did the poet pay him back ?
5. How did the poor man help the poet ?
6. List three things the poor man did for the poet.
7. What is greater than money ?
8. There is another poem having the same title. This is a poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar. Go through this poem too and discuss the differences and similarities between the two poems with your teacher.

## 8. God Sees the Truth, But Waits - I

Leo Tolstoy

In the town of Vladimir lived a young merchant named Ivan Dmitrich Aksenov. He had two shops and a house of his own.

Aksenov was a handsome, fair-haired, curly-headed fellow, full of fun and very fond of singing. When quite a young man, he had been given to drinking and was riotous when he had had too much ; but after he married he gave up drinking except now and then.

One summer Aksenov was going to the Nizhny Fair, and as he bade good-bye to his family his wife said to him, 'Ivan Dmitrich, do not start today ; I have had a bad dream about you.'

Aksenov laughed, and said, 'You are afraid that when I get to the fair I shall go on the spree.'

His wife replied : 'I do not know what I am afraid of ; all I know is that I had a bad dream. I dreamt you returned from the town, and when you took off your cap I saw that your hair was quite grey.'

Aksenov laughed, 'That's a lucky sign,' said he. 'See if I don't sell out all my goods and bring you some presents from the fair.'

So he said good-bye to his family and drove away.

When he had travelled half-way, he met a merchant whom he knew, and they put up at the same inn for the night. They had some tea together, and then went to bed in adjoining rooms.

It was not Aksenov's habit to sleep late, and, wishing to travel while it was still cool, he aroused his driver before dawn and told him to put in the horses.

Then he made his way across to the landlord of the inn (who lived in a cottage at the back), paid his bill, and continued his journey.

When he had gone about twenty-five miles he stopped for the horses to be fed. Aksenov rested awhile in the passage of the inn, then he stepped out into the porch, took out his guitar and began to play.

Suddenly a carriage drove up with tinkling bells, and an official alighted, followed by two soldiers. He came to Aksenov and began to question him, asking him who he was and whence he came. Aksenov answered him fully, and said, 'Won't you have some tea with me ?' But the official went on cross-questioning him and asking him, 'Where did you spend last night ? Were you alone, or with a fellow-merchant ? Did you see the other merchant this morning ? Why did you leave the inn before dawn ?'

Aksenov wondered why he was asked all these questions, but he described all that had happened, and then added, 'Why do you cross-question me as if I were a thief or a robber ? I am travelling on business of my own, and there is no need to question me.'

Then the official, calling the soldiers, said, 'I am the police officer of this district, and I question you because the merchant with whom you spent last night has been found with his throat cut. We must search your things.'

The soldiers and the police officer unstrapped Aksenov's luggage and searched it. Suddenly the officer drew a knife out of a bag, crying, 'Whose knife is this ?'

Aksenov looked, and seeing a blood-stained knife taken from his bag, he was frightened.

'How is it there is blood on this knife ?'

Aksenov tried to answer, but could hardly utter a word, and only stammered : 'I-don't know-not mine.'

Then the police officer said, 'This morning the merchant was found in bed with his throat cut. You are the only person who could have done it. The house was locked from inside, and no one else was there. Here is this blood-stained knife in your bag, and your face and manner betray you ! Tell me how you killed him and how much money you stole ?'

Aksenov swore he had not done it ; that he had not seen the merchant after they had had tea together ; that he had no money except eight thousand roubles (*Russian currency*) of his own, and that the knife was not his. But his voice was broken, his face pale, and he trembled with fear as though he were guilty.

The police officer ordered the soldiers to bind Askenov and to put him in the cart. As they tied his feet together and flung him into the cart, Aksenov crossed himself and wept. His money and goods were taken from him, and he was sent to the nearest town and imprisoned there. Then the trial came on : he was charged with murdering a merchant and robbing him of twenty thousand roubles.

His wife was in despair, and did not know what to believe. Her children were all quite small ; one was a baby at the breast. Taking them all with her, she went to the town where her husband was in gaol. At first she was not allowed to see him ; but, after much begging, she obtained permission from the officials and was taken to him. When she saw her husband in prison-dress and in chains, shut up with thieves and criminals, she fell down and did not come to her senses for a long time. Then she drew her children to her, and sat down near him. She told him of things at home, and asked about what had happened to him. He told her all, and she asked, 'What can we do now ?'

'We must petition the king not to let an innocent man perish.'

His wife told him that she had already filed the petition, but that it had not been accepted.

Aksenov did not reply, but only looked downcast.

Then his wife said, 'It was not for nothing I dreamt your hair had turned grey. Do you remember ? You should not have started that day.' And passing her fingers through his hair she said : 'Vanya dearest, tell your wife the truth ; was it not you who did it ?'

'So you, too, suspect me !' said Aksenov, and, hiding his face in his hands, he began to weep. Then a soldier came to say that the wife and children must go away, and Aksenov said good-bye to his family for the last time.



When they were gone, Aksenov recalled what had been said, and when he remembered that his wife also had suspected him, he said to himself, 'It seems that only God can know the truth ; it is to Him alone we must appeal and from Him alone expect mercy.'



And Aksenov wrote no more petitions, gave up all hope, and only prayed to God.

Aksenov was condemned to be flogged and sent to Siberia to live with other convicts.

## 9. God Sees the Truth but Waits - II

For twenty-six years Aksenov lived as a convict in Siberia. His hair turned white as snow, and his beard grew long, thin, and grey. All his mirth went ; he stooped ; he walked slowly, spoke little, and never laughed, but he often prayed.

The prison authorities liked Aksenov for his meekness, and his fellow-prisoners respected him : they called him 'Grandfather,' and 'The Saint'. When they wanted to petition the prison authorities about anything, they always made Aksenov their spokesman, and when there were quarrels among the prisoners they came to him to put things right, and to judge the matter.

No news reached Aksenov from his home, and he did not even know if his wife and children were still alive.

One day a fresh gang of convicts came to the prison. In the evening the old prisoners collected round the new ones and asked them what towns or villages they came from, and what they were sentenced for. Aksenov sat down near the newcomers, and listened with downcast air to what was said.

One of the new convicts, a tall, strong man of sixty, with a closely-cropped grey beard, was telling the others what he had been arrested for.

'Well, friends,' he said, 'I only took a horse that was tied to a sledge, and I was arrested and accused of stealing. I said I had only taken it to get home quicker, and had then let it go : besides, the driver was a personal friend of mine. So I said, "It's all right." "No," said they, "you stole it." But how or where I stole it they could not say. I once really did something wrong, and ought by right to have come here long ago, but that time I was not found out. Now I have been sent here for nothing at all.'

'Where are you from ?' asked someone.

'From Vladimir. My family are of that town. My name is Makar, and they also call me Semenich.'

Aksenov raised his head and said : 'Tell me, Semenich, do you know anything of the merchant Aksenov, of Vladimir ? Are they still alive ?'

'Know them ? Of course I do. The Aksenovs are rich, though their father is in Siberia : a sinner like ourselves, it seems ! As for you, Gran'dad, how did you come here ?'

Aksenov did not like to speak of his misfortune. He only sighed, and said, 'For my sins I have been in prison these twenty-six years.'

'What sins ?' asked Makar Semenich.

But Aksenov only said, 'Well, well - I must have deserved it !' He would have said no more, but his companions told the newcomer how Aksenov came to be in Siberia : how someone had killed a merchant and had put a knife among Aksenov's things, and he had been unjustly condemned.

When Makar Semenich heard this he looked at Aksenov, slapped his own knee, and exclaimed, 'Well, this is wonderful ! Really wonderful ! But how old you've grown, Gran'dad !'

The others asked him why he was so surprised, and where he had seen Aksenov before ; but Makar Semenich did not reply. He only said : 'It's wonderful that we should meet here, lads !'

These words made Aksenov wonder whether this man knew who had killed the merchant ; so he said, 'Perhaps, Semenich, you have heard of that affair, or may be you've seen me before ?'

'How could I help hearing ? The world's full of rumours. But it's long ago, and I've forgotten what I heard.'

'Perhaps you heard who killed the merchant ?' asked Aksenov.

Makar Semenich laughed, and replied, 'It must have been him in whose bag the knife was found ! If someone else hid the knife there - "He's not a thief till he's caught," as the saying is. How could any one put a knife into your bag while it was under your head ? It would surely have woken you up ?'

When Aksenov heard these words he felt sure this was the man who had killed the merchant. He rose and went away.

All that night Aksenov lay awake. He felt terribly unhappy, and all sorts of images rose in his mind. There was the image of his wife as she was when he parted from her to go to the fair. He saw her as if she were present ; her face and her eyes rose before him, he heard her speak and laugh. Then he saw his children, quite little, as they were at that time : one with a little cloak on, another at his mother's breast. And then he remembered himself as he used to be – young and merry. He remembered how he sat playing the guitar in the porch of the inn where he was arrested, and how free from care he had been. He saw in his mind the place where he was flogged, the executioner, and the people standing around ; the chains, the convicts, all the twenty-six years of his prison life, and his premature old age. The thought of it all made him so wretched that he was ready to kill himself.

'And it's all that villain's doing !' thought Aksenov. And his anger was so great against Makar Semenich that he longed for vengeance, even if he himself should perish for it. He kept saying prayers at night, but could get no peace. During the day he did not go near Makar Semenich, nor even look at him.

A fortnight passed in this way. Aksenov could not sleep at nights and was so miserable that he did not know what to do.

One night as he was walking about the prison, he noticed some earth that came rolling out from under one of the shelves on which the prisoners slept. He stopped to see what it was. Suddenly Makar Semenich crept out from under the shelf, and looked up at Aksenov with frightened face. Aksenov tried to pass without looking at him, but Makar seized his hand and told him that he had dug a hole under the wall, getting rid of the earth by putting it into his high boots and emptying it out every day on the road when the prisoners were driven to their work.

'Just you keep quiet, old man, and you shall get out too. If you blab they'll flog the life out of me, but I will kill you first.'

Aksenov trembled with anger as he looked at his enemy. He drew his hand away, saying, 'I have no wish to escape, and you have no need to kill me ; you killed me long ago ! As to telling of you – I may do so or not, as God shall direct.'

Next day, when the convicts were led out to work, the convoy soldiers noticed that one or other of the prisoners emptied some earth out of his boots. The prison was searched and the tunnel found. The Governor came and questioned all the prisoners to find out who had dug the hole. They all denied any knowledge of it. Those who knew would not betray Makar Semenich, knowing he would be flogged almost to death. At last the Governor turned to Aksenov ; whom he knew to be a just man, and said :

‘You are a truthful old man ; tell me, before God, who dug the hole ?’

Makar Semenich stood as if he were quite unconcerned, looking at the Governor and not so much as glancing at Aksenov. Aksenov’s lips and hands trembled, and for a long time he could not utter a word. He thought, ‘Why should I save him who ruined my life ? Let him pay for what I have suffered. But if I tell, they will probably flog the life out of him, and maybe I suspect him wrongly. And, after all, what good would it be to me ?’

‘Well, old man,’ repeated the Governor, ‘tell us the truth : who has been digging under the wall ?’

Aksenov glanced at Makar Semenich and said, ‘I cannot say, your honour. It is not God’s will that I should tell ! Do what you like with me ; I am in your hands.’

However much the Governor tried, Aksenov would say no more, and so the matter had to be left.

That night, when Aksenov was lying on his bed and just beginning to doze, someone came quietly and sat down on his bed. He peered through the darkness and recognized Makar.

‘What more do you want of me ?’ asked Aksenov. ‘Why have you come here ?’

Makar Semenich was silent. So Aksenov sat up and said, ‘What do you want ? Go away or I will call the guard !’

Makar Semenich bent close over Aksenov, and whispered, ‘Ivan Dmitrich, forgive me !’

‘What for ?’ asked Aksenov.

‘It was I who killed the merchant and hid the knife among your things. I meant to kill you too, but I heard a noise

outside ; so I hid the knife in your bag and escaped through the window.'

Aksenov was silent and did not know what to say. Makar Semenich slid off the bed-shelf and knelt upon the ground. 'Ivan Dmitrich,' said he, 'forgive me ! For the love of God, forgive me! I will confess that it was I who killed the merchant, and you will be released and can go to your home.'

'It is easy for you to talk,' said Aksenov, 'but I have suffered for you these twenty-six years. Where could I go to now? My wife is dead, and my children have forgotten me. I have nowhere to go .....

Makar Semenich did not rise, but beat his head on the floor. 'Ivan Dmitrich, forgive me !' he cried. 'When they flogged me it was not so hard to bear as it is to see you now . . . yet you had pity on me and did not tell. For Christ's sake forgive me, wretch that I am !' And he began to sob.

When Aksenov heard him sobbing, he too began to weep.

'God will forgive you !' said he. 'May be I am a hundred times worse than you.' And at these words his heart grew light and the longing for home left him. He no longer had any desire to leave the prison, but only hoped for his last hour to come.

In spite of what Aksenov had said, Makar Semenich confessed his guilt. But when the order for his release came, Aksenov was already dead.

### Glossary :

#### I

*riotous* : (adj) uncontrolled

The situation became *riotous* but the wise ruler controlled it.

*go on a spree* : (v) spending time on what one enjoys

She *went on a spree* during the holidays and enjoyed herself.

*condemn* : (v) express disapproval

Everyone *condemned* the rigorous imprisonment of the innocent man.

*flog* (v) beat with a whip

The soldiers *flogged* the thief.

*stammer* (v) speak with difficulty

Many children *stammer* but grow out of it soon.

*betray* (v) deceive

Tom did not want to *betray* the trust of his employer.

*convict* (n) a person who is guilty of a crime

He was proved to be a *convict*.

*gaol* (n) jail

Aksenov's wife came to see him in *gaol*.

## II

*premature* (adj) before one's normal time or age

His *premature* old age was the result of a long suffering of two decades.

*vengeance* (n) revenge

He longed for *vengeance* when he came to discover the person responsible for his miseries.

*perish* (v) end up, die

Hundreds of men and women *perished* in the storm.

*get rid of* (v) ; get free from

I want to *get rid of* my bad habits.

Why don't you *get rid of* this foolish servant ?

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I(i) Answer the following questions in brief :

1. What did Ivan Dmitrich Aksenov's wife say when he was about to start ?
2. What had she dreamt about ?
3. Where did he spend the night ?
4. Why was the officer questioning Aksenov ?
5. After searching his luggage what did the soldiers find ?
6. What was Aksenov charged with ?
7. What did he tell his wife ?
8. Did his wife believe him ?

9. Why did he give up all hope ?
10. What was the punishment given to him ?

(ii) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. What were the changes that came over Aksenov during his twenty-six-year stay in Siberia ?
2. What did the prison authorities think of Aksenov ?
3. Why had the new convict been arrested ?
4. Did Aksenov recognize Makar Semenich ?
5. What illegal activity was Makar carrying on in the prison ?
6. How did Aksenov feel when he became sure that Makar was the real culprit ?
7. How did Aksenov find out the truth about Makar's digging out the earth inside the jail ?
8. How did Makar's heart change ?

- (iii)
1. Write, in 50-60 words, a character sketch of
    - (a) Aksenov
    - (b) Makar Semenich
  2. Describe, in about 50-60 words, Aksenov's life
    - (a) before he left on a journey
    - (b) in the Siberian jail

### **B Vocabulary Exercises**

- II(i) Look at the following sentence :
- Aksenov was a handsome, fair-haired, curly headed fellow.



*Fair-haired* and *curly-headed* are called compound words. Now make some more compound words by matching the words in column A with their counterparts in column B :

A	B
half	made
good	officer
land	question
cross	stained
police	stack
hay	lord
lock	bye
hand	way
blood	up

- (ii) After he married he gave up drinking except *now and then*. In the phrase *now and then* there are two adverbs joined by the conjunction *and*. There are more such adverbs joined by *and* in column A. Pick out their meanings from the box B :

A	B
again and again	backwards and forwards
off and on	decidedly
out and out	repeatedly
through and through	frequently
to and fro	in addition to
over and above	completely
far and near	in all directions

### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Fill in the blanks with the following compound prepositions / phrases :

*(The prepositions, which are made up of more than one preposition, are called compound prepositions).*

along with	because of	on behalf of	out of
in case of	in spite of	according to	instead of

- ..... emergency, call the police.
- Pack your books ..... your clothes.
- The secretary made the speech ..... the chief guest.
- The students went to see the movie ..... going to the college.
- A responsible citizen is he who acts ..... the rules and laws of the land.
- ..... his sincere efforts, he failed.
- Ivan's father told him that one gets nothing ..... a quarrel.
- He lost his job ..... his laziness.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with the words given below :  
*(Note that all these words are followed by the preposition for)*

left	apology	affection
fondness	desire	capacity

- ..... for status can be a powerful motivator.
- Year by year their ..... for each other grew stronger.
- Sunita has great ..... for western music.

4. Limited resources are restricting our ..... for developing new products.
5. You owe him an ..... for the indecent remarks you made.
6. After his stay here for two days, he ..... for Mumbai.

(iii) Punctuate the following passage, putting punctuation marks and using capital letters where necessary :

once while rejecting an amendment moved by a senior opposition leader nehru said you see sir the majority is with me he immediately retorted yes Jawaharlal the majority is with you but the logic is with me nehru laughed with the house and accepted the amendment

(iv) Join each pair of sentences by means of a suitable conjunction. You can make the necessary changes :

1. Sita is going to the market.  
Gita is going to the market.
2. Hari went early to the theatre.  
Hari could not get a ticket
3. Pinki failed in her matriculation examination.  
She worked hard.
4. Lata can sing well.  
Asha can sing well.
5. Neelam wanted to go for shopping.  
She wanted to buy a saree.
6. You must start at once.  
You will be late.

7. Sunita works hard.  
Her brother works harder.
8. Our landlord is not polite.  
We seldom talk to him.
9. The man is poor.  
He is happy.

### D. Pronunciation Practice

- (a) Note how double c is pronounced in English words :

/ k /	/ ks /
accompany	accede
occupy	accident
accord	accent
occupant	
acclaim	access
account	success

- (b) All other double consonant letters are pronounced as single consonant sounds.

*Say the following words aloud :*

arrest	summer	sunny	penny
rubber	full	buzz	beggar
bigger	happen	sadder	egg
affair	appeal	differ	better

### **E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading**

1. Relate, in your own words, a story in which some virtuous and noble person is rewarded in the long run after several initial failures or reverses.
2. Who does one look to when one loses all hope ? Why should you have faith in God ? Write your answer in 10-12 lines.
3. Why does the author give this story a tragic ending by concluding it with Aksenov's death ? Read some other tragic stories. Do they suggest that this world is not a fit place for the really noble souls to live in ?
4. Discuss the topic : 'Evil Prospers while Virtue Suffers in this World.' Ask your teacher to hold a discussion on the subject in the class.

(iv) **Excelsior**

*[It is a small poem with a very inspiring message. The journey of life is full of problems, obstacles, temptations and threats. But one should go on fighting one's way to one's goal without being tempted, afraid or discouraged. Even if one fails to achieve one's goal, the gods above bless a person for the honest and brave efforts put in by him.]*

The shades of night were falling fast,  
 As through an Alpine village passed  
 A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and ice  
 A banner, with the strange device,  
     Excelsior ! 5

His brow was sad ; his eye beneath  
 Flashed like a falchion from its sheath,  
 And like a silver clarion rung  
 The accents of that unknown tongue,  
     Excelsior ! 10

In happy homes he saw the light  
 Of household fires gleam warm and bright ;  
 Above, the spectral glaciers shone,  
 And from his lips escaped a groan,  
     Excelsior ! 15

"Try not the Pass !" the old man said ;  
 "Dark lowers the tempest overhead,  
 The roaring torrent is deep and wide !"   
 And loud that clarion voice replied,  
     Excelsior ! 20

“O stay,” the maiden said, “and rest  
Thy weary head upon this breast !”  
A tear stood in his bright blue eye,  
But still he answered, with a sigh,  
Excelsior ! 25

“Beware the pine-tree’s withered branch !  
Beware the awful avalanche !”  
This was the peasant’s last Good night,  
A voice replied, far up the height,  
Excelsior ! 30

At break of day, as heaven-ward  
The pious monks of Saint Bernard  
Uttered the oft-repeated prayer,  
A voice cried through the startled air,  
Excelsior ! 35

A traveller, by the faithful hound,  
Half-buried in the snow was found,  
Still grasping in his hand of ice  
That banner with the strange device,  
Excelsior ! 40

There in the twilight cold and gray,  
Lifeless but beautiful, he lay,  
And from the sky, serene and far,  
A voice fell, like a falling star,  
Excelsior ! 45

H.W. Longfellow

[H. W. Longfellow – (1807-1882) was born at Portland, Maine. His father was a good Yorkshire stock and a capable lawyer. Initially he wanted to be a soldier. He became Professor of modern languages at Bowdon in 1829. Later he was appointed Professor at Harvard. He was a narrative, descriptive and lyrical poet. He wrote many ballads and other poems.]

**Glossary :**

*Excelsior(ad)* : higher

*Falchion(n)* : a short, curved convex-edged sword.

*Clarion(adj)* : clear and shrill, inspiring

*Spectral (n)* : ghostly, frightful

*torrent* : a stream of water flowing very quickly

*avalanche(n)* : a large mass of snow or ice sliding suddenly down from a mountain slope.

*Pious(adj)* : very religious or dutiful.

*Startled(v)* : shocked

**Enjoying the poem :**

1. Write a brief summary of the poem.
2. What is the central idea of the poem ?
3. Explain the meaning of the word 'Excelsior'.
4. What was the chief quality of the youth discussed in this poem ?
5. What lesson does the poem give us ?

Tick (✓) the correct answer :

The youth was -

- a) timid
- b) a shirker
- c) bold and courageous
- d) lazy



7. Write two pairs of rhyming words each from the last two stanzas of this poem. (Rhyming words are those words which end in similar sounds. Some rhyming words are *hide-wide, roast-toast, chest-nest*) etc.
8. Some poems are really inspiring. They inculcate the virtues of bravery and courage in us. They also make us optimistic. They tell us to work hard and not to stop till our goal is reached. Read Robert Frost's poem "*Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*".
9. Swami Vivekananda said :  
"Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached".

What message does this line convey ? Write your answer in 20-25 words.

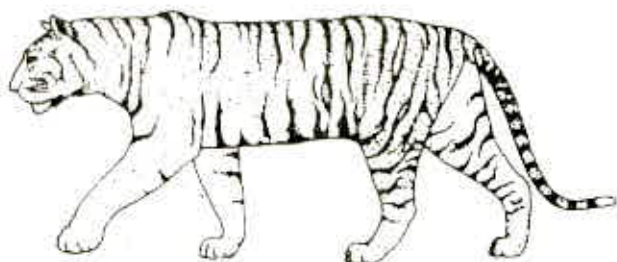
## 10. Life-Story of a Man-eater

Augustus Somerville

[Like Jim Corbett, Augustus Somerville is rich in his knowledge and experience of the Indian forest life. In this extract from 'At Midnight Comes The Killer', a tiger narrates his own story-his birth, his training in hunting, his marriage and his starvation that forced him into cattle-lifting and man eating.]

1. There is a range of hills that rise steeply from vast forests known to the jungle folk as *Sat Pahar* – the Seven Hills. Here on a hill lies a large cave, deep and warm, where on a cold December night, I was born.
2. Of those days I remember little, except the protecting company of my mother's. Of my father I remember less.
3. As the days sped I grew from a helpless, woolly being, into a strong active cub, with a will and a temper of my own. Often in the early dawn I would nestle down beside my mother and watch the great red ball of the sun creep up over the hill-tops and flood the forest with its golden light. Far beneath us were fields and meadows with here and there a small village in which lived those strange two-legged animals called Men. It was at such times that my mother taught me the ways of the Sambur and the Cheetul. She always cautioned me never to leave the cave during her absence, but to hide in its innermost recess till she returned. But as I grew older and stronger, a great restlessness possessed me and one moonlit night, when mother had left earlier than usual, I crept down the hill till I found myself deep in the forest. Here, in the shadow of a large bush, I hid, being afraid to venture further, yet unwilling to return. I saw in the dim moonlight, a large, black form advancing towards me. Inexperienced in the ways of the forest, I immediately

concluded that it was Mother returning and determined to give her a great surprise. Waiting till she was opposite me, I sprang upon her back. But it was I who got the great surprise. In an instant the form had risen upright and as I slid to the ground, a huge paw gave me a cuff that sent me sprawling and whimpering back into the bush. Here I lay trembling with fear and moaning softly, for that stroke had been a hard one and I was still little more than a cub. I soon realized that it was not my mother on whom I had sprung, but Bhalu the Wise One of the Forest.



4. "Come along, Young Un," he growled, and as I still did not move, a heavy paw swept me off the ground and back on to the path where a gentle push sent me running ahead.
5. Thus accompanied I was soon back at the cave.
6. The Bhalu told me all about the ways of life in the forest. He told me where the Sambur hid during the day and the water-holes to which the timid Cheetul came to drink at dawn.

7. "Bhalu," I said, as he moved away, "why did you not kill me when I jumped on your back ?" He looked at me in silence for a while. "Son," he replied, "there is a law in the jungle that is never forgotten. It says, 'Beware, the Cub of the stranger.' Remember this and you will live to a ripe old age. Also, avoid Man as you would the Red Dog and the mad Jackal. Remember, of all the Killers in the Forest, Man is the worst. He kills not only for food but also for the joy of killing and it is because of him that your people and mine have almost gone," and then he left me. I returned to the cave and when at dawn mother returned, bringing with her a fine juicy *Kakur*, I said nothing.
8. About a month later, when the moon was at its full, Mother said to me, "Come along, son, it is time you learned to feed yourself. Tonight we will go hunting together."
9. I was thrilled and trotted at her side filled with excitement, till we came to a sandy stream and here mother raised her voice in a peculiar husky cry. Almost immediately another voice answered and I saw my father stalking towards us. Ignoring me he came up to mother, giving her a playful cuff that would have knocked me senseless and hurried on ahead of us.
10. Travelling in a single file we hastened along the bed of the stream, till we came to a pile of huge black rocks, that stood out sharply from the sand and immediately I caught the scent of cool water.

Mother now hastened ahead and as we entered the rocks, she cast around till she discovered a shallow depression between two boulders and here, on the soft dried grass that filled the hollow, we lay down and waited.

11. I was young and impatient and could not lie still but Mother lay motionless through the long night, till towards dawn, when half asleep through exhaustion, I felt her suddenly stir. Cautiously she raised her head, then lay back, every muscle taut and only the tip of her tail quivering. Curious to see what had awakened her, I peeped over the rocks and saw, standing in the moonlight, the tips of his massive horns gleaming, a magnificent Sambur. Although eager to drink, he stood motionless, restless and afraid. That he sensed our presence I knew, but he was uncertain, deceived by the absolute stillness of the night. After a while he moved cautiously towards the water. His approach was so silent that I did not know he had come till I heard him sucking up the water greedily.
12. I was now to see my parent in action and can never forget the pride I felt in her. Where the Sambur stood, legs well apart and head bent down, could not have been more than ten feet from where we lay. The height of the rocks gave us an advantage and as my mother prepared to spring, I felt the superb muscles rippling along her side. For a moment she crouched, her whole body quivering and then with a roar she sprang. That split second's warning had been enough for the Sambur. Even as she sprang, the Sambur swung up his massive horns and I saw my mother go hurtling through the air as his antlers caught her full in the chest. But that Sambur had reckoned without me. Although young and inexperienced, I was almost full grown and voicing my excitement in a childish roar, I sprang a second after my mother, landing full on his back. Here I clung on, with teeth and claws, while that huge beast did its utmost to shake me from my hold. I saw my mother spring again, but this time she made no mistake. Landing on the shoulders of the Sambur, she buried her teeth in its neck and held on till the animal crashed to the ground.

13. Never again was I to experience that wild exultation of my first 'kill'. Springing on the body, I voiced again and again, the savage call of my tribe announcing my kill. A moment later I heard an answering roar from the forest and my father came bounding across the sand, eager to share the feast.
14. It was now that I noticed Mother lying on the sand beside the Sambur. One of the horns had pierced her side, inflicting a nasty wound and she was bleeding freely. Rushing to her side I endeavoured to console her by licking the wound gently, but Father thrust me roughly aside and laying a chunk of meat he had torn from the Sambur near her, he returned to his own feast. A moment later I joined him and the taste of the warm blood and the fresh meat was sweet in my mouth. After a while I noticed that Mother had started eating and when she had finished the portion that Father had given her, she crept towards the carcass and started tearing away long strips of meat, which she devoured with relish. The dawn was now almost on us and leaving the rest of the feast for the humbler folk of the jungle, we moved away reluctantly.
15. Mother was sore and weak from her wound, but she kept on determinedly beside us, but every now and then she stumbled and fell and when she coughed I saw the red blood on her tongue. Now I was truly afraid. Mother was the only creature who loved and protected me and if I lost her, I would be lost indeed. Father had paused once or twice watching us, then with a strange indifference he had hastened off, leaving us to whatever fate had in store.

That return journey was a nightmare experience. Mother was rapidly growing weaker and each time she fell, the struggle to rise caused the blood to gush from her side. At length when the sun was well overhead, we came to the entrance of our cave and here she collapsed entirely. A day later Mother died and I, distracted with grief and fear, fled from the cave never to return till many months later.

## II

1. I now took to hunting alone. As I grew in size and strength, my experience increased, till I roamed those vast forests truly a King in my own domain. And now a wonderful experience befell me. I remember it was a fiery, summer night. Panting with the heat and too exhausted to hunt, I sought instinctively the water-hole where I made my first kill. As I approached this well remembered spot, I slunk through the shadows in the hope that some small animal had come to drink, and then I stopped in amazement. As the breeze from the water-hole blew gently towards me, it brought a scent that was so strange and yet so tantalizing that I felt my whole body tremble with excitement. For a moment I sniffed the air and then as a form of madness came over me, I rushed towards the water. In the midst of the pool, lying contented and relaxed, was the most entrancing vision I had ever seen. As I approached her, she raised her head indolently, and gazed at me softly. At that moment I must I have gone mad. Without considering I plunged into the water and attempted to seize her. It was then I learned my first lesson in courtship – never to be precipitate. That female may have been entrancing to look at, but she carried a punch in her right paw that landed me almost senseless in the water at her side. However, I will not prolong the scene needlessly. A punch, such as I had received, was something no self-respecting tiger would take from any female, however beautiful, and I was soon giving her back as much as I received. Anyone hearing us would have thought a murder was in progress. No one would have believed we were having a little love affair.

2. However, the lady was willing and after a while she followed me daintily and so I returned, after many months, to my mother's cave, a married man.
3. In course of time a great change had come over our domain. On every side of the cave the forest was rapidly disappearing, cut down and burnt. Parties of hunters, armed with every conceivable type of weapon, marched through the forests, beating drums and shouting, and slowly the Sambur and other type of deer fled or were ruthlessly slaughtered, till the forests were left desolate.
4. Now the days of scarcity and hunger were on me and all my kind. Food was impossible to obtain and many a night I roamed the forests faint with hunger and misery.
5. Gradually I grew desperate. Often in the early hours of the morning, as I lay in wait by the fields near the villages, I watched the fat buffaloes being driven out to graze and my mouth watered, but a strange fear of these two-legged creatures that accompanied them, restrained me and I let them pass, till one day a calf came skipping by the bush behind which I lay. The temptation was too great and without a sound I sprang, sinking my teeth into its tender flesh.
6. That was my first domestic kill and thereafter I would hunt no other game, but morning and evening would lie in wait for the cattle leaving or returning to the villages and many a victim fell to my skill.
7. However, things were not as easy as all that. The villagers banded together and drove me out of the forest, so that I was compelled to range far and wide. Soon there came a time when even this killing of cattle became impossible. The villagers no longer permitted their



buffaloes to wander in the forest, but tied them a few yards from their huts and so even this source of food was denied to me.

8. Now in truth did a great fear and despair seize me. All wild game had long since disappeared, I was faced with starvation. One evening I lay on the hill-side. I saw a sudden illumination and a flash, followed by deafening sound. A heavy missile struck my paw, smashing the bone and tearing off the flesh. With a roar of rage and fear I bounded up the bank and in spite of my bleeding paw and the agony of pain, fled swiftly back to the cave.
9. All that night I lay in the cave licking my wound and restless with agony, and when dawn came and I saw the extent of my injury, I realized with a pang of horror that I would never use that foot again.

### III

1. There now started for me a period of terrible suffering, as the wound swelled and festered, maggots formed in the flesh and my whole body trembled and shook with a raging fever. Without food and water, save only the little that my mate occasionally brought me, it seemed as if my end had come. But I was young and strong and after a while the swellings subsided and the wound gradually healed, till one night when the fever had left me, I dragged myself to the old water-hole to drink and wallow in its cool depth. And here at last the Fates were kind. As I lay in the water, a hare crept down timidly to drink but when it saw me, terror so robbed it of all movement that I had only to stretch out my unwounded paw to drag it unresisting towards me.

- 2 The food provided by that hare did a little towards restoring my strength, but I soon realized that I was no match for a healthy buffalo or cow. Hunger and my inability to kill any of the larger animals drove me to the ignominy of contesting with the jackals and dogs for the offal thrown out by the villagers. Daily I became weaker and as hunger drove me to despair, I returned to the vicinity of the villages during the day, in the hope of waylaying some small calf.
- 3 One day as I crouched in the thick undergrowth, I noticed a lad driving a flock of goats towards the forest. One of them, a mere kid, came bounding towards my hide-out and without a moment's hesitation I struck at it. In its dying struggle it set up the usual shrill bleating of its kind and the lad, hurrying to find out the cause of its distress, came suddenly upon me. I would have slunk away, for the fear of human beings was still strong in me, but the lad, probably half crazed with fear, lashed out wildly with his staff. The blow unfortunately landed on my crippled paw and maddened by pain, I sprang straight at him, burying my fangs in his throat.
- 4 That lad died without a struggle and appalled at my act, I fled back to the cave. Reaching here my mate came out to greet me, but no sooner did she smell the human blood on my claws, than with a fierce snarl ran back into the forest. I never saw her again.
- 5 That one accidental killing was the undoing of me. The members of my own tribe avoided me, I was shunned and deserted, but the taste of human blood created a species of madness in me so that I must kill again and again to satisfy that craving.

6. Now, strange to say, I lost all fear of Man. My name grew to be a terror in that district. People deserted their homes and fled to larger villages. I followed relentlessly, till I came one night to a lone village at the foot of a high mountain. Here I crouched beside a narrow road that led from the village to the town on the main road. In the early hours of the morning I saw, staggering along the path, a party of three men (who by the way swayed and sang) I knew to be drunk, for they acted just as Bhalu did when he returned to his cave after a night in the *Mowah* groves. I waited till they came abreast and then sprang. The first, a mere stripling, went down before me without a sound. The other attempted to strike at me with his stick and him I killed with a single blow from my uninjured paw. The third man fled back screaming towards the town and him I disdained to follow. A short while after, a body of men armed with sticks and carrying lanterns, came towards me so that I was forced to abandon my kill and return to the forest.

### **Glossary : I**

*summit* : (n) the highest point or part, of a mountain etc.

They could not reach the *summit* because of bad weather.

He has reached the *summit* of his career.

*meadow* : (n) a piece of grassland.

The cattle were grazing in the *meadow*.

*recess* : (n) a part or space that is set back or recedes

The room has a *recess* designed to hold bookshelves.

*venture* : (v) to risk going somewhere or doing something that might be dangerous or unpleasant.

She rarely *ventured* outside, except when she needed some medical treatment.

*sprawling* : (v) to sit, lie or fall in an awkward way

He was *sprawling* in an armchair in front of the TV.

*whimpering* : (v) to make a series of low, weak and sad cries showing pain or fear.

The new born child was *whimpering* in the arms of the nurse.

*moaning* : (v) to make a long low sad sound expressing regret pain or suffering.

He lay on the floor *moaning*.

*growl* : (v) to produce a deep guttural sound of anger

He *growled* at me when I asked him to leave my office.

*thrilled* : (v) to be affected by a sudden wave of keen emotion. I was *thrilled* at her emotional gesture.

*trot* : (v) (of a horse, etc) to go at a gait between a walk and a run.

She *trotted* her pony around the field.

*crouch* : (v) to lower the body with one or both knees bent.

He sat *crouched* in the little space.

*quiver* : (v) tremble

The boy started *quivering* when he was scolded by the Principal.

*reckon* : (v) to count, to compute or make a calculation.

He *reckoned* thoroughly before saying 'yes' to my offer.

*exult* : (v) to show or feel a lively joy.

He *exulted* at the victory.

*savage* : (adj) uncivilized, cruel

His *savage* behaviour astonished me.

*carcass* (v) the dead body of an animal

The *carcass* of the buffalo was decaying on the road.

*devour* : (v) to swallow or eat up voraciously

He *devoured* the food like an animal.

*reluctantly* : (adv) unwillingly

He *reluctantly* accepted my offer.

*stumble* : (v) to strike the foot against something so as to stagger or fall, to walk or go unsteadily.

He *stumbled* over the stones and fell down.

*nightmare* : (v) a dream, marked by painful emotion.

My quarrel with him was no less than a *nightmare*.

*to be distracted* : (v) to get drawn away or get diverted, as far as mind or attention is concerned  
I was *distracted* by the sound of the beating drums while I was preparing my lesson.

## II

*domain* : (n) an estate, any land held in possession.  
He was so cruel a king that nobody could enter his *domain* without permission.

*entrance* : (v) to fill with delight.  
What an *entrancing* scene !  
The lovely spectacle *entranced* the audience.

*indolently* : (adv) without real interest or effort, lazily  
He was listening to our conversation *indolently*.

*courtship* : (n) the seeking of a person's affections, especially with a view to get married.  
His *courtship* with her went on for years together.

*ruthlessly* : (adv) without thinking about any pain caused to others, cruel  
The butcher *ruthlessly* slaughtered the animal.

*slaughter* : (v) killed cruelly or wrongly  
Thousands of people were *slaughtered* in the civil war.

*desolate* : (adj) left alone, lonely or deserted or devastated, very sad.  
She felt *desolate* when her mother died.

## III

*festered* : (v) infected  
His *festered* wound caused him a lot of pain.

*maggots* : (n) a creature like a very small worm  
The wound was full of *maggots*.

*ignominy* : (n) disgrace, dishonour  
The team experienced the *ignominy* of total defeat in the final match.

*crippled* : (v) disabled  
The accident has almost *crippled* him.

appalled : (v) overcome with fear and horror, shocked, dismayed  
I was *appalled* at the lack of staff and other facilities in the hospital.

terror : (n) intense fear  
The beast has created a *terror* in the whole area.

stagger : (v) to walk unsteadily  
Her *staggering* gait looked awkward.  
As the bullet hit him, he *staggered* for a while and collapsed.

scream : (v) utter a loud, sharp cry.  
On seeing the fire the child started *screaming*.

disdained : (n) a feeling of dislike and contempt  
Her *disdain* towards my parents astonished me.  
(v) to dislike  
He *disdained* to turn to his junior for guidance and help.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I(i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. What did the cub's mother caution him about ?
2. What did the cub do in his mother's absence one night ?
3. Why did the Bhalu caution him never to trust the spotted one ?
4. What is the law in the jungle ?
5. Who else did the Bhalu advise him to avoid ?  
Why ?
6. Who hunted the Sambur ? How ?
7. What happened to the mother after she was hurt ?
8. When did the cub feel a deep sympathy for his father ?
9. Which was his first domestic kill ?
10. Why were the things not easy after that ?
11. How was his foot injured ?
12. Why did his mate back away from him ?
13. Why was he forced to return to the forest ?

- ii. Write in your own words, the childhood memories of the tiger.
- iii. How did the lion become a man-eater ? What happened after that ?

### B Vocabulary Exercises

II(i) Match the animals in column A with their young ones in column B.

A	B
cat	duckling
cow	lamb
dog	chicken
tiger	foal
horse	kitten
hen	cub
sheep	calf
duck	puppy

(ii) Fill in the blanks with idiomatic comparisons picking out the answers from the box given.

proud	stupid	busy	blind	brave	cunning
faithful		gentle	merry	cheerful	

- a. As ..... as a bee.
- b. As ..... as a fox.
- c. As ..... as a lion.
- d. As ..... as a bat.
- e. As ..... as a lark.
- f. As ..... as a dog.

- g. As ..... as a lamb.
- h. As ..... as a cricket.
- i. As ..... as a peacock.
- j. As ..... as an ass.

iii. Fill in the blanks with the words given :

followed	blew	promise	dreaded	rid
swarmed	drowned	waded	hesitate	
clown	knocked	safe	announced	

Once upon a time, people ..... to live in the town of Hamelin because of an unusual reason—rats. Rats made the life of the people a hell. They ..... every place in the town—on the roads, in the streets and every room of the houses. They were all huge and fearless. The rats didn't ..... even to attack cats and dogs. Children were not ..... even in their bed. Fed up with this, people ..... at the door of the Mayor. He ..... a reward for the one who solved the problem. One day a funny looking man came. With a feather in his cap, he looked like a ..... . He held a long pipe. He said that he could ..... Hamelin of all the rats if the Mayor promised to give him one thousand gold coins. The Mayor agreed. He blew his pipe and all the rats followed him. The piper ..... through the river water and the rats followed him. All the rats were ..... in the river. Now the Mayor did not keep his ..... He did not give him one thousand gold coins. The piper ..... his pipe again. This time all the children ..... him. He took all the children away from the town.



### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Make meaningful words using the suffixes – *ward* and – *ly* with the following words :

up	back	cold	slow	down	glad	calm
in	home	kind	fortunate	out	convenient	

Now use them in sentences of your own.

(ii) Look at the following sentences :

Inexperienced in the ways of the forest, I immediately concluded that it was my mother returning.

The two sentences that combine to form the above sentence are

1. I was inexperienced in the ways of the forest.
2. I immediately concluded that it was my mother returning.

Now can you break up the following sentences in the similar way ?

- a. Waiting till she was opposite me, I sprang on her back.
- b. Finding the cave empty, I rushed out to tell the bhalu about that.
- c. Ignoring my presence, he came up to my mother.
- d. Giving her a playful cuff, he hurried on ahead of us.
- e. Travelling in a single file, we hastened along the bed of the stream.
- f. Voicing my excitement in a childish roar, I sprang after my mother.
- g. Landing on the shoulders of the sambur, she buried her teeth in its neck.
- h. Leaving the rest of the feast for the humbler folk of the jungle, we moved away reluctantly.
- i. Dragging the animals to the foot of the stockade, I sprang on the top of the wall.

(iii) Rewrite the following simple sentences as complex sentences :

1. He is too weak to walk.
2. For want of common sense, he was disgraced publicly.
3. The convict cannot prove his innocence.
4. The boy found the lost pen.
5. But for your age you could have got the job.
6. In spite of his sincere efforts he failed.
7. The student readily admitted his folly.
8. Everyone knows the author of 'Pride and Prejudice'.
9. I expect to meet my friend today.
10. It was the work of a wild animal.

### D. Pronunciation Practice

Notice the silent letters in the following words. Say these words aloud :

(i) b in the sequence - bt, mb

debt	lamb	thumb	limb
doubt	comb	womb	bomb
subtle	tomb	climb	numb

(b is not silent in : tumble, number, crumble, subtend, subtitle etc.)

(ii) d before j

adjective	adjunct	adjoin	adjacent
adjudge	adjust	adjourn	adjutant

(iii) g before m and n

phlegm	gnarl	gnat	sign
paradigm	gnash	gnaw	resign

### **E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading**

1. Read some books which contain stories of the life of the animals in the jungle. Discuss these with your friends.
2. Read the book man-eaters of Kumaon by Jim Corbett. How does a lion become a man-eater ? Write in 10-12 lines.
3. Have you seen some jungle movies ? If yes, write an account of the life of the wild animals in the forest.
4. Write a paragraph on : Need to Preserve Wild life.



## 11. The Discovery of Moon

On July 20, 1969, two American astronauts, Armstrong and Edwin, emerging from the spacecraft Apollo-11, became the first men to set foot on the moon.

This great event opened new avenues in the field of space and moon exploration. After collecting samples of the lunar soil, these two astronauts returned to their spacecraft Apollo-11. However, they left such instruments and machines on the moon which continued to send their observations about the moon to the observatories on the earth. Apollo-11 was locked

with another spacecraft, Eagle-2. As Apollo-11 remained on the surface of the moon, Eagle-2 revolved round the moon. Aboard the Eagle-2 was a third astronaut Michael Collins, who waited for the return of his two companions.

After this successful expedition, a series of Apollo spacecraft for making more manned space flights to moon was started. These flights made available extremely useful and wonderful information about the moon. This new information removed all kinds of misconceptions about the moon from the minds of the people the world over.

The discovery of moon formed an important part of the space programme. Besides earth, it was the only heavenly mass where man landed and had a glimpse of it. Spacecraft have been landed on other planets too, but man has yet to set his foot on any of these heavenly bodies. The USSR and the USA had worked out programme for the exploration of moon. The USSR sent there its spaceships, whereas the USA sent its astronauts. The exploration of planets is still going on but there is no more any programme for further exploration of moon.

The Soviet Union did not feel it necessary to land man on the moon. It thought it more appropriate to send spaceships and to carry on exploration with the help of scientific instruments only. The Soviet scientists sent a spacecraft called Luna-16 on the moon in September, 1970. It carried a robot that was placed on the surface of the moon. A robot was found to be as good as a man to carry out experiments on moon's surface. Moreover, it was also less expensive and above all, human life was not endangered.

Researches on moon for over three decades have shattered many traditional beliefs about it. The moon is an absolutely desolate place where there is no water and air. The Soviet scientists have declared it unfit for human inhabitation. Of course, some useful metals like aluminium, titanium and iron have been found on moon but man has not been tempted to exploit these metal resources of moon. However, some scientists still feel that moon can be made inhabitable for men by separating oxygen from elements which contain oxygen.

Today we know all the important facts about the moon. It is the Earth's only natural satellite. Compared to satellites of other planets, it is very large in relation to its parent planet. It is a quarter of the earth's diameter measuring 3476 km. Its distance from the earth is 384,405 km. It orbits the earth once a month, keeping the same face turned towards earth as it does so. Its surface is pitted with craters caused by Meteorites. The moon is the same age as the earth, about 4,600 million years. The moon is not a self-luminous body. The earth and the moon travel around a common centre of gravity in space. As the moon orbits the earth, different amount of its sunlit surface are visible from the earth. This produces the cycle known as *Phases* of the moon. We can see the full-moon and no-moon once in a month, and for rest of the days it appears in its phases. The average daily delay in moon-rise and moon-set is about 50 minutes. The moon is lacking water and it has no atmosphere. A very light 'rain' of cosmic dust continually falls here. In the glare of the sun, lunar rocks reach a temperature of  $110^{\circ}\text{C}$  – more than the boiling point of water. But in shadows the temperature goes down to less than  $-100^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



In spite of the knowledge of these 'dull' facts about the moon, poets and lovers continue to sing of the beauties of this heavenly body and compare the faces of their beloveds to this lovely satellite.

(Based on *The Discovery of Moon* from the book *World Famous Discoveries* Published by *Pustak Mahal*.)

## Glossary :

*astronaut* : (n) one who travels in a spacecraft, cosmonaut.

An *astronaut* has to go through tough training.

*avenues* : (n) means of access or attainment.

We should explore every *avenue* to find out a suitable answer to this problem.

*exploration* : (n) examination, a close study

We need to carry out a full *exploration* of all the alternatives.

*expedition* : (n) an excursion, journey or voyage made for some specific purpose.

The Indian *expedition* to Mount Everest is leaving next month.

*misconception* : (n) a wrong idea due to some false comprehension

I will do my utmost to change popular *misconceptions* about disabled people.

*heavenly* : (adj) related to heaven

The *heavenly* bodies are worshipped in certain countries.

*appropriate* : (adj) suitable

Your dress is not *appropriate* for this function.

*robot* : (n) a manufactured device capable of performing some human-like functions.

Or a machine used to perform jobs automatically ; it is programmed and controlled by a computer.

In some factories *robots* are used to assemble machinery.

*endangered* : (v) someone or something at a risk or in danger of being harmed, damaged or destroyed.

*Endangered* species are animals that are in danger of becoming extinct.

*decade* : (n) a period of ten years

I have been in this job for the last two *decades*.

*shattered* : (adj) extremely tired, exhausted or upset.

John was *shattered* when he heard that he had failed in the final examination.

*desolate* : (adj) feeling very sad and lonely

He felt *desolate* when his only brother died in an accident.

*inhabitable* : (adj) a worth-living place or land.

These inlands are not *inhabitable*.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I(i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. Name the two astronauts who landed on the moon.
2. What was the name of their spacecraft ?
3. Which two countries had worked out programme for the exploration of the moon ?
4. How did the Soviet Union feel about carrying on this exploration ?
5. Why have the scientists declared moon unfit for human habitation ?
6. According to the scientists, how can moon be made habitable for man ?
7. Name the metals found on the moon.
8. Have the traditional beliefs about moon proved true ?

### B Vocabulary Exercises

II(i) Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B :

A	B
astronaut	something that can be used to help in achieving an aim
spacecraft	to get attracted
misconception	chemical substance made of atoms of one type only
shatter	older methods and ideas
desolate	a person who travels and works in spacecraft
traditional	a place that is empty or without people
element	a vehicle that travels in space
tempted	a belief not based on correct information
resources	to destroy completely



(ii) Fill in the blanks with words given :

planet	satellite	orbit	man-made	constant
face	rotate	phenomenon	heavenly	

The word *satellite* comes from the Latin word *satellit* meaning attendant. The moon is Earth's ..... It is our planet's ..... companion in space. The moon takes exactly the same time to ..... round its axis once as the earth takes to rotate on its axis once. That is why we see the same ..... of the moon on earth. Scientists took an idea from this ..... and developed artificial satellites. Satellites are ..... bodies that revolve round a planet. They are also called the moons of the ..... Artificial satellites are ..... objects which are put into ..... with the help of rockets.

iii. Can you identify the names of the eight planets of our solar system in the box :

A	D	S	E	R	T	S	G	Q	W
O	B	F	Y	M	Y	A	E	H	L
J	B	V	F	A	E	T	A	Q	J
H	J	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y	U
V	E	N	U	S	F	R	T	E	P
B	V	F	R	U	I	N	H	L	I
S	S	D	A	T	Y	U	U	F	T
V	B	U	N	E	P	T	U	N	E
W	P	L	U	T	O	R	T	Y	R
G	N	M	S	V	C	D	X	P	O

### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Rewrite the following paragraph in the past tense :

There is a function at our school. The whole school is decorated with balloons, strips of coloured paper, flowers and blinking lights. All the students are excited. They do their best. The performers wait for their turn at the backstage.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with the correct tense forms of the verbs given in brackets :

1. Two U.S. astronauts ..... (land) on the moon on July 20, 1969.
2. The astronauts ..... (bring) back samples of lunar rocks to earth.
3. These samples ..... (analyse) by the scientists. (passive)
4. The astronauts ..... (find) no evidence of life on the moon.
5. Some useful metals like aluminium and iron ..... (find) on the moon. (passive)

### D. Pronunciation Practice

Say the following words aloud. Take care that you pronounce the cluster of consonants correctly.

strike	scrap	spray	square
straight	screen	sprain	squint
strict	scream	spring	squeak
stream	screw	spright	squash
friends	belt	box	heads
trends	pelt	fox	wads
rends	hilt	tax	lads

### **E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading**

1. Read the chapter on Solar System in your General Science book. Write a brief note on it.
2. What do you know about India's progress in the field of space travel ? Name the satellites put into the orbit by India.
3. Read the story of Kalpana Chawla, the space heroine who lost her life during a space exploration mission in the USA. Write 10-12 lines on her achievements.

### (v) The Nightingale and the Glow-Worm

*[The story of the Nightingale and the Glow-worm as related in the poem carries a lovely lesson for mankind. Every object of nature, living or non-loving, is useful in its own way. For the world to be happy and prosperous, one must learn to co-exist with others in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. How does the poet convey this idea ?]*

A nightingale, that all day long  
Had cheered the village with his song,  
Nor yet at eve his note suspended,  
Began to feel as well he might,  
The keen demands of appetite ;  
When, looking eagerly around,  
He spied far off, upon the ground,  
A something shining in the dark,  
And knew the glow-worm by his spark ;  
So, stooping down from hawthorn top,  
He thought to put him in his crop.  
The worm, aware of his intent,  
Harangued him thus, right eloquent  
"Did you admire my lamp," quoth he,  
"As much as I your minstrelsy ?  
You would abhor to do me wrong,  
As much as I to spoil your song ;  
For't was the self-same power divine,  
Taught you to sing, and me to shine ;  
That you with music, I with light,  
Might beautify and cheer the night."  
The songster heard his short oration.  
And warbling out his approbation  
Released him, as my story tells,  
And found a supper somewhere else.

William Cowper

[William Cowper – (1731-1800) was born in Hertfordshire, and educated at Westminster School, where Warren Hastings was his contemporary. He was an expert in giving expression to the idea of the healing power of nature. He is called Nature's poet. He was a very good letter writer too.]

**Glossary :**

- Cheer* (v) : to make someone happy  
*spied* (v) : saw (in a secret way)  
*harangued*(v) : spoke loudly and angrily  
*quoth* (v) : said  
*minstrelsy*(n) : singing  
*abhor*(v) : hate, dislike  
*oration* (n) : speech  
*approbation*(n) : approval, praise

**Enjoying the poem :**

- 1 What did the nightingale do throughout the day ?
- 2 Why did it stop singing in the evening ?
- 3 What is the central idea of the poem ?
- 4 A nightingale beautifies and cheers the night. How does it do that ?
- 5 How does a glow-worm beautify and cheer the night ?
- 6 How does the glow-worm plead his case with the nightingale ? Say in your own words.
- 7 A 'synonym' means a word with a similar meaning. Find synonyms of the following words from the poem :

hunger \_\_\_\_\_  
speech \_\_\_\_\_  
dinner \_\_\_\_\_  
God \_\_\_\_\_

'Antonyms' are words opposite in meaning. Find antonyms for the following words from the poem :

arrested \_\_\_\_\_  
redo \_\_\_\_\_  
bright \_\_\_\_\_

## 12. Three Great Indians

### I Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji



The historic period of 19th and 20th centuries witnessed the rise of many a great man in India who not only started a campaign against the social evils prevailing in the country but also raised a banner of revolt against the British Empire. "Freedom is our birthright," declared Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Valiant fighters from all over the country – Tanya Tope, Rani Laxmi Bai, Dadabhai Naoroji, Khudi Ram Bose, Sri Aurobindo, Lala Lajpat Rai, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nahru, Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh – to name just a few – came to join the national struggle for freedom and the eradication of social ills. An important name amongst them was that of Satguru Ram Singh of Punjab who gave birth to the great Kuka Movement that stood for social reforms and complete independence.

Born on February 3, 1816 in the village Raiyan in district Ludhiana, this child shot into prominence when Guru Balak Singh Ji declared him a 'guru', a religious guide. From his headquarters at Shri Bhaini Sahib in Ludhiana the guru started preaching his

divine message. His first sermon was delivered on the Baisakhi day in 1857. In his teaching, he exhorted the people to believe in one God, lead a simple, honest life free from any kind of evil, to help the poor and the needy and to work for the freedom of the country. Thousands became his followers and flocked to his discourses every day. He strongly opposed child marriage, female foeticide, taking of alcoholic drinks and non-vegetarian foods, dowry systems, religious fanaticism, cow slaughter and casteism. He encouraged people to live like brothers and fight for the freedom of their country from the British rule.

Against the British policy of 'Divide and Rule', he gave the slogan of 'Unite and Fight' to the people of India. He started a movement of non-cooperation against the British rulers and called upon the people to boycott the British. It was he who introduced the concept of 'Be Indian, buy Indian' in the country. The British rulers came down heavily on his roaring followers. The Punjabi word '*Kuka*' stands for a '*roar*'. Sri Satguru Ram Singh's followers who raised a loud voice against the British came to be popularly known as '*Kukas*'. The followers of this movement were named Namdharis. The Namdhari sikhs soon became a brave force to be reckoned with.

The British rulers could not tolerate the rise of such an inspired patriotic force against them. They let loose a reign of terror against the Kukas. Nine Namdhari sikhs were sent to the gallows in 1871 while another 65 were blown up by cannon fire in an open field in 1872 at Malerkotla (Punjab). Amongst these martyrs was a twelve year old boy named Bishan Singh. He was offered pardon on the condition that he should deny his allegiance to the Kuka cause. He angrily pounced upon the British officer (Mr. Cowen Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana) and pulled at his beard. The enraged officer got both his hands severed and then beheaded him. The lovers of liberty refused to be cowed down by this repression but continued to fight with greater enthusiasm. Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji was arrested and exiled to Burma and unknown foreign land. His spirit continues to guide his followers even today.

The followers of Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji continue to

flourish today under the able stewardship of their holy gurus (presently Satguru Sri Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj) and spread the message of universal brother-hood, national unity, secularism, simple living and high thinking.

## II Rani Laxmi Bai (1834-1858)



No other woman warrior in the history of India has made such a powerful impact on the minds of the Indian people as the Rani of Jhansi, Laxmi Bai. Her heroic battle against the British has become the subject of many folk songs and ballads all over the country. Her indomitable spirit as a fighter for the independence of her country was appreciated even by her enemies. Rani Laxmi Bai died fighting bravely for the sake of her country. The Rani of Jhansi became the most popular leader of the First War of Independence (1857).

Laxmi Bai was born on 16th November 1834, in Varanasi (U.P.). Her childhood name was Manikarnika or Manu. After the death of her mother she came to Bithur with her father. In Bithur, she learnt horse-riding and martial arts. When she was eight, she was married to Raja Gangadhar Rao of Jhansi and so she was called the 'Rani of Jhansi'. In 1851, she gave birth to a son but by 1853, both her son and husband had died. The Rani of Jhansi adopted a son under the 'Policy of Lapse', but the British Government did not recognize the adopted son and annexed Jhansi in 1853. On 4th June 1857, the sepoy regiment stationed at



Jhansi rebelled. The British control broke down in Jhansi, and the British representative himself asked the people to obey the Rani.

The British forces under the leadership of Sir Hugh Rose later besieged Jhansi. The Rani continued to command her forces from inside the fort but ultimately she was forced to leave Jhansi. She then managed to reach Kalpi where she merged her forces with those of the Nawab of Banda, Tatia Toppe. The British forces pursued her at Kalpi also and inflicted defeat on Kalpi. The Rani was surrounded from all sides, and so, she now tried to organize a retreat. While doing so, she was fatally wounded on 18th June 1858. She breathed her last on the battlefield.

### III **Udham Singh (1899-1940)**



Udham Singh's name is linked inseparably with Jallianwala Bagh. He was the man who took his revenge on General O'Dwyer, the British officer who had ordered firing on a peaceful gathering at Amritsar on the Baisakhi Day in the year 1919. Thousands of men, women, children and old men died in the massacre. Many tried to escape by jumping into a nearby well but were suffocated to death. Udham Singh waited for 21 years to avenge this national insult. He killed the villain of the show in England on 13 March 1940. Udham Singh was arrested and sentenced to death on 30 July the same year.

This fiery revolutionary was born on 18 December 1899 at Sunam in Sangrur District of the Punjab. He was already associated with the struggle for freedom. Before sailing for England, he had been sentenced to jail as many as five times during the freedom struggle for various anti-government activities.

For Udham Singh, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre was a national outrage and ought to have been avenged ; so he pledged to take his revenge. In 1937, he reached England after travelling through Europe. In London, he shot General O'Dwyer at a point-blank range in full view of a large gathering.

Udham Singh was all for the unity and solidarity of the country. His life bears a lesson for all those who are propagating divisive ideas in the name of religion.

### Glossary :

#### **I Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji**

*witnessed* : (v) saw

I *witnessed* the whole incident from a distance

*valiant* : (adj) brave

The *valiant* fighter fought to the last breath

*prominence* (n) a position of fame

The new teacher shot into *prominence* soon and became popular with his students.

*exhort* (v) advise

He *exhorted* his followers to speak the truth.

*foeticide* (n) murder or destruction of the unborn child inside the womb

The government has banned female *foeticide*

*send to the gallows* (v) hang by the neck

Many freedom fighters were *sent to the gallows* by the British rulers

*to be cowed down* (v) to be discouraged or afraid

In spite of grave threats to his life and liberty, he refused *to be cowed down* and continued his struggle.

## II Rani Laxmi Bai

*warrior* : (n) a soldier, a person who fights in battle.

India has given birth to many valiant *warriors*.

*impact* : (n) a strong impression or effect

Her speech made a great *impact* on everyone.

*ballad* : (n) a song or poem that tells a story.

He wrote several *ballads* in his lifetime.

*indomitable* : (adj) that cannot be defeated or suppressed.

He showed an *indomitable* courage in the battlefield.

*appreciate* : (v) to recognise and enjoy the good qualities of something.

They *appreciated* my views.

*martial art* : (n) any of the fighting sports, e.g., Judo and Karate etc.

He is an expert in *martial arts*.

*annex* : (v) to take control of a territory

Kalinga was formally *annexed* to Ashoka's territory after his victory.

*regiment* : (n) a large military group commanded by a colonel.

Earlier he was in a tank *regiment*. The Gorkha *regiment* took control of the town.

*rebel* : (v) to fight against an authority.

He finally *rebelled* against his cruel father.

*representative* : (n) an agent.

He is the sole *representative* of the company.

(adj) a typical of a class or group.

The building is quite *representative* of the French architecture.

*pursue* : (v) to follow or chase.

The robbers were hotly *pursued* by the police.

*inflicted* : (v) to make somebody or something suffer.

He *inflicted* many injuries on the tiger.

## III Udham Singh

*inseparably* : (adv) without being separated

He is *inseparably* joined with this institute.

*revenge* : (n) a deliberate punishment inflicted in return for what one has suffered.

He took a pledge to take his *revenge* against their families.

*massacre* : (n) the killing of a large number of people.

The *massacre* was condemned by one and all.

*suffocate* : (v) to die as a result of being unable to breathe.

Many passengers were *suffocated* inside the burning train.

*villain* : (n) a person who is guilty or capable of great wickedness.

The police have caught the *villains*.

*sentenced* : (v) punished

The thief was arrested and *sentenced*.

*revolutionary* : (adj) of political revolution

The *revolutionary* leaders were arrested by the forces.

*associated* : (v) attached or linked

Tea is traditionally *associated* with Darjeeling.

*pledged* - (v) swore

He *pledged* to seek a revenge on the enemy.

*avenge* - (v) to hurt somebody for a wrong done

She *avenged* her father's murder.

*point-blank range* (n): from a very close distance.

He fired at him from a *point-blank range*.

*solidarity* : (n) unity or agreement.

The international *solidarity* should not be undermined at any cost.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I(i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. What is the name given to the national uprising of 1857?
2. When and where was Laxmibai born ?
3. What was her childhood name ?
4. Who was she married to ?
5. What happened to her son and husband ?

6. Where did she join her forces with Tanya Tope ?
7. How is Udham Singh's name linked with Jallianwala Bagh?
8. What was his pledge ?
9. How did he take his revenge ?

ii. Write a short note on the each of the following :

1. Death of Rani Jhansi
2. Jallianwala Bagh massacre
3. First War of Independence
4. Teachings of Satguru Shri Ram Singh Ji

### B Vocabulary Exercises

II(i) Match the words in box A with their opposites given in column B :

A	B
fresh	disloyal
entrance	immortal
loyal	pessimist
bravery	vice
barbarous	reward
punish	cowardice
benevolence	exit
virtue	malevolence
refined	crude
optimist	civilized
mortal	stale

(ii) Rewrite the following sentences by using one word for the underlined part of the sentence :

1. Your television set cannot be repaired.
2. The speaker addressed the assembly of listeners.
3. Holika had a device that could not be seen.

4. 'My Experiments with Truth' by Mahatma Gandhi is his life story written by himself.
5. Satan said that he had a will that could not be conquered.
6. These windowpanes are such that will not allow the passage of light.
7. Usha is quite fond of entertaining guests.

### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Look at the following sentence :

The British control *broke down* in Jhansi also.

The word *break* can give different meanings when followed by different prepositions.

Fill in the blanks with suitable preposition in the following sentences :

1. She was distressed at the break ..... of her marriage.
2. The war broke ..... at Kalpi.
3. The two countries broke ..... their diplomatic relations.
4. We have been working since long ; let us break ..... lunch.

Similar is the case with the word *fall* :

- a. The population growth has fallen ..... five per cent.
- b. Anju fell flat ..... her face.
- c. Romeo fell ..... love with Juliet at first sight.
- d. Write an essay on 'The Rise and Fall ..... the Mughal Empire'.
- e. Jhansi fell ..... the British.
- f. He fell ..... and wounded his leg.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with the articles *a, an, the* :

Rabindranath Tagore is ..... most famous man of letters. His literary production is vast and varied. He is ..... novelist as well as ..... playwright. He is ..... educationist as well as ..... freedom fighter. But above all, he is ..... poet. He is ..... great religious poet, one of .....

greatest that ..... world has ever produced. In 1913 he was awarded ..... Nobel Prize in Literature for his collection of poems entitled 'Gitanjali.'

(iii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate comparatives or superlatives of the adjectives given in the brackets :

1. Prevention is ..... than cure. (good)
2. Pen is ..... than the sword. (mighty)
3. Honour is ..... to all than life. (dear)
4. Wordsworth was the ..... nature poet. (great)
5. Bill Gates is the ..... man of the world today. (rich)
6. It is ..... to preach than to practise. (easy)
7. Gold is ..... than any other metal. (costly)
8. The condition of some of the roads is much ..... than it was five years ago. (good)
- 9.

### D. Pronunciation Practice

Note the silent letters in the words listed below. Say these words aloud.

(i) h is silent after g and in the word-final position.

ghost	ah
aghast	oh

(ii) k before n at the beginning of words

know	knob	kneal	knit	knee
knot	knowledge	knife	knight	knave

(iii) l before k and m

walk	balm
talk	palm
stalk	psalm

### E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. Read the stories of any two of the following great Indians and write 10-12 lines on each.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak  
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose  
Lala Lajpat Rai  
Mangal Pandey  
Veer Savarkar

2. Would you like to become a great man ? How can you achieve that aim ? Discuss the subject in your class with the help of your teacher.



### 13. The Death of Abhimanyu

[This lesson gives us a glimpse of the Great Mahabharata War. It contains an account of Vir Abhimanyu's death and the way this death was avenged by Arjuna. How does Arjuna settle scores?]

When Bhishma fell, Karna was chosen to take his place as the Commander-in-Chief of the Kaurava army. But he declined the offer in favour of Drona, who was older and more experienced. Duryodhana requested Drona to plan the war strategy in such a way that Yudhishtira might be arrested. On the eleventh day of the war, Drona went to the battlefield, determined to capture Yudhishtira. Arjuna was informed about the intentions of Drona, and he was fully cautious. In order to engage Arjuna away from Yudhishtira, Susharma's sons launched a mighty and reckless attack on Arjuna. Arjuna that day fought on two fronts. His attention and energy were divided. The enemy made a desperate attack on Arjuna to keep him engaged. Arjuna found it difficult to divert his attention from the daring attack. Drona took advantage of this situation and made a most determined attempt to capture Yudhishtira. At this crucial time Bhima came to the rescue of his elder brother. Somehow, the day was saved by the Pandavas.

On the thirteenth day of the battle, Arjuna decided to bring the attack of his enemies to an end. Arjuna, therefore, requested Krishna to drive his chariot to the place where Susharma's sons had assembled. While Arjuna went to fight them, Drona arranged his army in the shape of a wheel. This was known as *Chakravyuh*. Only Arjuna, Krishna, Pradyumna and Abhimanyu knew how to pierce through it. Since, Arjuna and Pradyumna were fighting far away and Krishna would not fight, Drona tried to entrap Yudhishtira. Yudhishtira called Abhimanyu and asked him if he would be of any help at this moment. A brave young boy, bubbling with enthusiasm, Abhimanyu immediately agreed to lead the army and pierce through the *Chakravyuh*. Abhimanyu knew only the art of

entering the *Chakravyuh* but he knew nothing about carving his way out of it. Abhimanyu immediately asked his charioteer to drive towards the *Chakravyuh* at the gate of which Drona was standing. Yudhishtira sent others to help Abhimanyu. The young lad pounced upon the enemies with great fury and broke the rings of the *Chakravyuh*. He pierced through the rings one after another. No sooner had he entered the *Chakravyuh* than the Kauravas surrounded him and stopped the other warriors of the Pandava army from reaching the place where Abhimanyu was fighting alone. Surrounded from all sides by such eminent warriors as Drona, Karna, Duryodhana, Dushahsana and Jaydratha, Abhimanyu, without the least sign of nervousness, fought with incredible courage and skill. The Kaurava warriors found it difficult to subdue the lonely Abhimanyu. At last they thought of disarming him first. His bow was cut into pieces, his sword was broken and his club was shattered. Now left with no weapon, he fought with the wheel of his chariot. At last the wheel was also torn into pieces. Unarmed as he was, the Kaurava warriors killed him. The most cruel, unprincipled and decisive blow was given by Jayadratha, the king of the Sindhus and the husband of Duryodhana's sister.

The sun set. Truce was announced. All the warriors returned to their camps. Arjuna also came back after destroying Susharma's sons. When the dead body of Abhimanyu, with limbs severed from the trunk, was brought, there were heart-piercing cries in the Pandava camp. Arjuna wept bitterly, so did other Pandavas and Krishna. Arjuna came to know that in the death of his son, the most unscrupulous and mischievous role was played by Jayadratha. He took a vow to kill Jayadratha next day by sunset or die himself.

When Jayadratha and the Kauravas knew about the vow of Arjuna, there was panic in the Kaurava camp. Jayadratha was so terror-stricken that he wanted to run away. Duryodhana assured him all protection. He made it clear that the entire forces of the Kauravas would be dedicated to protect Jayadratha that day. If they succeeded in protecting Jayadratha that day, Arjuna would commit suicide. This would mean a sure victory for the

Kauravas in the war. Consequently, Jayadratha was so surrounded and protected by the Kauravas that Arjuna could never reach him. Arjuna fiercely attacked the Kauravas that day. He pierced through the Kaurava army through the lines of their elephants. Warriors of the Kauravas ran to and fro in great confusion. With whole-hearted devotion to the cause of finding out Jayadratha, Arjuna advanced ahead. He met with tough resistance at every step. He was upset because of the impregnable opposition of the Kauravas. With very great difficulty he managed to pierce through the heart of the army. But suddenly Duryodhana sprang up and challenged him to a duel. Arjuna made repeated attacks on Duryodhana, but it appeared to him that his arrows had lost effectiveness. The fact was that Duryodhana was fighting with a magic armour on his body. He then started aiming his arrows at the unprotected limbs of Duryodhana. Duryodhana was soon exhausted. It was the time when the shades of evening started spreading over the battlefield. Arjuna was aware of the time of truce. Krishna was watching everything carefully. He knew that the sun was to set soon. But before the hour of sunset drew near, Krishna with the help of his power, covered the sun with a mist so thick that none could know when the sun set that day. The fighting continued. With fresh courage and strength, he jumped into the fray, and at last managed to reach the centre of the army formation where Jayadratha hid in great terror. Sighting Jayadratha there, Arjuna shot his arrows with terrific speed. They slashed the head of Jayadratha from his body. Thus the death of Abhimanyu was avenged, and Arjuna fulfilled his vow. Jayadratha, with all the care and protection given by the Kauravas, could not be saved. *(An adaptation from The Mahabharata as retold by S.B. Srivastava, a Reader at Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur.)*

**Glossary :**

*declined* : (v) to refuse to accept.

She *declined* my invitation.

*strategy* : (n) a plan

Let us work out a new *strategy* to achieve success.

*intention* : (n) proposal or plan

He is humble and honest ; his *intentions* are not bad.

*rescue* : (v) to save from a dangerous situation.

Nobody *rescued* the drowning boy.

*crucial* : (adj) very important

Your time is very *crucial* ; you should work hard.

*chariot* : (n) an open vehicle with two wheels, pulled by horses.

*Chariots* were used in ancient times by royal families.

*charioteer* : (n) a person driving a chariot.

Ram's father is only a *charioteer* ; he is not a rich man.

*entrap* : (v) to catch something or somebody in a trap.

The *entrapped* terrorist had to surrender.

*bubbling with enthusiasm* : very happy and eager.

The students were going on a trip ; they were *bubbling with enthusiasm*.

*pounce* : (v) to leap or swoop down suddenly and catch a prey.

The cat *pounced* upon the rat.

*incredible* : (adj) unbelievable

He is earning an *incredible* amount of money these days.

*subdue* : (v) to bring something or somebody under control by force or to defeat.

All efforts were made to *subdue* the rebels.

*sever* : (v) to cut

His leg was *severed* into two pieces in the accident.

*unscrupulous* : (adj) dishonest, without moral principles.

He is using *unscrupulous* methods to succeed in his business.

*pierced* : penetrated

The arrow *pierced* his chest and he died on the spot.

*resistance* : (n) the opposition offered by a thing, force or someone to another.

Nobody allowed him to carry out his research smoothly ; he had to face a tough *resistance* even from his colleagues.

*impregnable* : (adj) strong enough to resist attack

It is not easy to make a building *impregnable* against determined thieves.

*duel* : (n) a prearranged combat or fight between two persons.

The youth challenged his opponent to a *duel*.

*truce* : (n) an agreement calling for an end to a fight or a war

The king announced the *truce* before an irreparable loss could occur to his country.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES

### A. Comprehension Questions

I(i) Answer the following questions in brief :

1. Why did Karna decline to be the Commander-in-chief of the Kaurava army ?
2. What request did Duryodhana make ?
3. What happened on the eleventh day of the war ?
4. Who came to the rescue of Yudhishtira when Drona tried to capture him ?
5. What is a *Chakravyuh* ?
6. Who knew how to pierce through *Chakravyuh* ?
7. What was Arjuna's vow ?
8. Who killed Jayadratha and how ?

ii. Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. Who was Abhimanyu ? How did he pierce through the *Chakravyuh* ? Who killed him and how ?
2. How did Arjuna avenge his son's death ?

iii. Tick (✓) the correct choice :

4. Abhimanyu was :
  - a. a coward
  - b. an ignorant young boy
  - c. a brave warrior
  - d. a leader
5. Jayadratha was :
  - a. an honest man

- b. a divine power
  - c. cruel and unprincipled
  - d. a true soldier
6. .... played the most unscrupulous and mischievous role in the death of Abhimanyu :
- a. Arjuna
  - b. Duryodhana
  - c. Jayadratha
  - d. Yudhishtira

### B Vocabulary Exercises

II(i) Match the words in column A with their antonyms (opposites) given in column B :

A	B
declined older attack difficult disadvantage careful standing war	defend easy advantage accepted younger sitting peace careless

- (ii) Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B :

A	B
avenge	penetrated
unscrupulous	a protective shield or covering a fight or battle
pierced	not based on principles or honesty
armour	which cannot be believed
fray	cut off or separated
arrested	taken into custody
severed	to take revenge for a wrong or harmful act
incredible	

- (iii) Fill in the following blanks with the words given in the box :

bubbling	crucial	appreciated	incredible
chosen	brave	enthusiasm	saved

John was a ..... boy. He was always ..... with ..... . He was ..... as the leader by his friends. He helped them in their ..... times. One day he ..... a boy from drowning in the river. His ..... courage was ..... by all.

### C. Grammar Exercises

III(i) Change the following sentences from Direct to Indirect speech :

1. She says, "I have done my duty."
2. He said, "I know her."
3. You said, "I have got a prize."
4. The teacher said, "Two and two make four."
5. Seema said, "I am all right."
6. You said to me, "She knows me very well."
7. She said to me, "Is your brother intelligent?"
8. The teacher said to the student, "Do not waste time."

(ii) Correct the following sentences :

1. The class has less boys today.
2. I prefer milk than tea.
3. Do you have a five rupees note ?
4. Please lay down.
5. He has no informations.
6. He is angry at me.
7. I have written a poetry.
8. What is the time in your watch ?

(iii) Fill the following blanks with suitable pronouns :

1. Seema tried to save ..... younger sister.
2. .... were sitting in the garden.



3. We shall always do ..... duty.
4. She lost ..... purse in the fair.
5. This book is not .....
6. Only ..... students who work hard will get through.
7. You must behave ..... in the class.
8. They did not learn ..... lessons.

II. Write comparative and superlative degrees of following adjectives :

	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
1.	bold	-----	-----
2.	beautiful	-----	-----
3.	able	-----	-----
4.	gloomy	-----	-----
5.	clever	-----	-----
6.	much	-----	-----
7.	good	-----	-----
8.	bad	-----	-----

### D. Pronunciation Practice

Note the silent letter in the words given below. Say each word aloud.

- (i) n after m at the end of words
- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| autumn  | damn   |
| column  | hymn   |
| condemn | solemn |

(n is not silent in *derivatives* like autumnal, damnable, solemnity, etc.)

(ii) p in the word-initial sequences    pn. ps. pt

pneumonia                      psalm  
psychology                      Ptolemy

(iii) s before l in the following words

aisle                                      island                                      isle

(iv) t between                      (i) s and l                      (ii) s and en

castle                                      glisten  
thistle                                      listen  
hustle                                      fasten  
whistle                                      chasten

### E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. Abhimanyu was an intelligent, brave and fearless young boy. What inspiration do you derive from such a character ? Write in 8-10 lines.
2. Some girls are very bold and determined. Read the book The Diary of a Young Girl (Anne Frank), Bantam Books, USA.
3. Relate the story of Anne's life to your class-fellows.

(vi) **The Ballad of Father Gilligan**

*[This poem conveys the idea that those who go on doing their duty to the best of their capacity and ability are the true servants of God. God is always kind and helpful to them. He forgives them and personally appears in this world to save them from any kind of embarrassment. How does He do that ?]*

The old priest Father Gilligan  
Was weary night and day,  
For half his flock were in their beds,  
Or under green sods lay.

Once while he nodded on a chair,  
At the moth-hour of eve,  
Another poor man sent for him,  
And he began to grieve.

"I have no rest, nor joy, nor peace,  
For people die and die,"  
And after cried he, "God forgive !  
My body spake, not I !"

And then, half-lying on the chair,  
    He knelt, prayed, fell asleep ;  
And the moth-hour went from the fields,  
    And stars began to peep.

They slowly into millions grew,  
    And leaves shook in the wind ;  
And God covered the world with shade,  
    And whispered to mankind.

Upon the time of sparrow chirp  
    When the moths came once more,  
The old priest Peter Gilligan  
    Stood upright on the floor.

“Mavrone, mavrone ! the man has died,  
    While I slept on the chair” ;  
He roused his horse out of its sleep,  
    And rode with little care.

He rode now as he never rode,  
    By rocky lane and fen ;  
The sick man's wife opened the door :  
    “Father ! you come again !”

"And is the poor man dead?" he cried.

"He died an hour ago".

The old priest Peter Gilligan

In grief swayed to an fro.

"When you were gone, he turned and died,

As merry as a bird."

The old priest Peter Gilligan

He knelt him at that word.

"He that hath made the night of stars

For souls who tire and bleed,

Sent one of His great angels down

To help me in my need".

He who is wrapped in purple robes,

With planets in His care,

Had pity on the least of things

Asleep upon a chair.

*William Butler Yeats*

[W.B. Yeats (1865-1939) was a great poetical figure of the first half of the 20th century. He was born in Dublin (Ireland) and went to London for higher studies in literature. In 1894 he returned to Ireland and founded the famous Abbey Theatre. At the young age of 43, he was the best known poet and dramatist of Ireland. In 1923 he bagged the Nobel Prize for Literature.]

**Glossary :**

*weary* (adj) – tired

*knelt* (v) – rested on knees

*mavrone* ( little mother) – (here the Priest addresses  
Virgin Mary)

*fen* – a low flat wet land

*swayed*(v) – moved (slowly)

*merry*(adj) – happy, cheerful

*wrapped*(v) – covered

**Enjoying the poem :**

- 1 Write a summary of the poem in your own words.
- 2 Who was Father Gilligan ?
- 3 What happened in the evening ? What was Father doing at that time ?
- 4 What was Father Gilligan's grievance ?
- 5 Who opened the door when Father Gilligan visited the poor man's house ? What was her reaction ?
- 6 How did the poor man die ?

7 Tick (✓) the right choice :

- Father Gilligan was -
- a) a lazy person
  - b) a cheat
  - c) an innocent and hard-working man
  - d) an atheist

8 A ballad is a long simple narrative poem or a song that tells a story.

Read some other famous ballads. Some of the well-known ballads are :

- (i) *A Diverting History of John Gilpin* by William Cowper.
- (ii) *Ballad of Sir Pertab Sing* by Henry Newbolt.
- (iii) *Robin Hood and Allen-A-Dale* (Anonymous)