

**EVERWIN VIDHYASHRAM**  
**ENGLISH**  
**STD: IX**  
**LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**BEEHIVE**  
**CHAPTER-1 THE FUN THEY HAD**

I. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words)

1. What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have?

Ans: Margie and Tommy had mechanical teachers. They were large and black and ugly and had large black screen on which all the lessons were shown and questions were asked. These mechanical teachers had a slot in which the students had to put their homework and test papers. They had to write their answer in a punch code and the mechanical teacher calculated the marks immediately.

2. Why did Margie's mother send for the county inspector?

Ans: Margie had been given many tests in geography by the mechanical teacher, but there was no improvement in her performance. It only kept getting worse. It is for this reason that Margie's mother sent for the county Inspector to find out why this was happening.

3. What did he do?

Ans: The county Inspector gave Margie an apple and started working on the mechanical teacher. He took it apart and then checked it.

Margie had hoped that the inspector would not know how to put the mechanical teacher together again, but he managed to reassemble it. He slowed down the geography sector of the teacher because it was geared a little too quick for an average ten-year-old.

4. Why was Margie doing badly in geography did the county Inspector do to help her?

Ans: Margie was doing badly in geography because the geography sector of the mechanical teacher had been geared a little too quickly. The county Inspector rightly told her that she could not be blamed for her performance. The county Inspector slowed down the geography sector of the mechanical teacher to an average ten-year level. He also told Mrs. Jones that Margie's overall progress pattern was satisfactory.

5. What had once happened to Tommy's teacher?

Ans: Once, the history sector of Tommy's teacher had once blanked out completely.

6. Did Margie have regular days and hours for school? If so, why?

Ans: Yes, Margie had regular days and hours for school. This was because her mother believed that learning at regular hours helped little girls learn better. Her mechanical teacher was also on at the same time every day except Saturday and Sunday.

7. How does Tommy describe the old kind of school?

Ans: Tommy described old kind of school as a special building where all kids studied together. There were hundreds of students studying and playing together. They used to shout and laugh together in an open yard.

8. How does he describe the old kind of teachers?

Ans: Tommy said that the old kind of teachers was men, who taught the students inside a special building. The teachers taught the children in groups and gave them homework and asked them questions.

9. What things about the book did she find strange?

Ans: Margie found it strange that the words printed on a book stood still instead of moving the way they did on a screen. She also found it odd that the words on a page always remained the same as the first time they were read. Besides, the idea that someone would write a book about schools was itself strange for Margie.

## **POEM: 1 THE ROAD NOT TAKEN**

**BY ROBERT FROST**

I. Short answer:

1. Where does the traveler find himself?

Ans: The traveler finds himself in the yellow woods at a point where the road fork into two. The problem that he faces is that he cannot decide which road to take to continue his journey since it is not possible for him to travel both roads at the sometime.

2. Discuss what these phrases mean to you.

i) a yellow wood

ii) it was grassy and wanted wear.

iii) the passing there

iv) leaves no step had trodden black.

v) how way lead on to way.

Ans: i) Yellow wood symbolized the autumn season. Autumn corresponds with old age. The poet could be symbolically talking about the later stages of life.

ii) It conveys that the road was full of grass and nobody has used that road. It was a smooth road. It was smooth road which had not worn out.

iii) The use of the path by passersby.

iv. The leaves had not changed their colour and turned black because of less people stepping on them. It could represent a path one may have never/seldom taken in life for the fear of uncertainty.

V. This phrase means how certain decisions one makes in life could pave the way for many other decisions.

3. Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them?

i) in the stanzas two and three?

ii) in the each two lines of the poem?

Ans: i) In stanza two, the poet explains that the only difference between he two loads was that the road he took had the right to be chosen (better claim) because it was covered with grass and looked as if it had not been used too much. Besides this difference, both roads has equally worn down by passersby travelling on them.

ii) In the last two lines, the poet says that there is a difference between the two roads because he took the road that was less travelled by other people and that made all the difference to his journey.

iii) In stanza three, he says that both the roads were equally covered with leaves and that no person had stepped on.

4. What do you think the last two lines of the poem mean? (Looking back, does the poet regret his choice or accept it?)

Ans: The last two lines of the poem mean the acceptance of reality; The poet made a choice and accepted the challenging path. He took an unexplored path in his life. He wanted to do something different in his life so he chooses the less travelled road. No, he does not regret his choice.

## **CH.2 THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

### **PART-1 BISMILLAH KHAN**

#### **SUMMARY:**

This chapter throws light on the origin of Shehnai Vedak – Bismillah Khan. The winner of Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of India, his dedication to music and his love for India.

“Pungi” a musical instrument, was banned by emperor Aurangazeb, because of its shrill and unpleasant sound. In fact, it was regarded more as a noise maker rather than a musical instrument. It was modified and perfected by a barber who belonged to a family of professional musicians. He played it

in the chamber of the king. Its sound was so appreciated by the emperor that it was made a part of Naubat. Since it was played for the first time in Shah's chamber by a Nai, it came to be known as Chennai.

Traditionally, it was played in the temples and on every auspicious domestic occasion also. Its sound was regarded as auspicious. But it was treated as an incomplete musical instrument, not capable of creating independent pages. But Bismillah Khan broke this myth.

Bismillah belongs to the Benares Gharana. He was born in 1916 at Dumraon, in Bihar. As a 5 year old, he used to visit the Bihariji temple and sing Bhojpuri 'Chaitya' there. For his melodious singing he used to earn a big ladder from the local Bhojpuri king. At the age of 6, he moved to Benaras. There under the guidance and training of his maternal uncle, Ali Bux, he started picking up the finer nuances of Shehnai. He used to spend most of his time practicing on the banks of river Ganges. The themes of his music were deeply affected by the sounds of flowing water of the Ganga.

He got the best performer award at All India music conference in Allahabad in 1930. In 2001, he won 3 wards 'the Padma Bhushan', Padma Shree and Padma Vibhushan. He was invited to play the Shehnai from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 1941, becoming the first to greet the independent India. He won many international awards also. He became the first Indian to perform at titje Lincoln Central hall, in USA. An auditorium in Pehran was named after him Tahar Mosiquee Ustaad Bismillah Khan.

Bismillah was very fond of Benaras and Dumraon. He declined an offer from one of his students to settle in the USA, as he was not willing to stay away for long term Benaras and its holy river Ganga. He ventured into film world also. He gave his music in 2 movies. His composition. 'Gunnji Uthi Shehnai' was a chartbuster. But he could not associate himself with the artificial glamour of die film world. For him, music was his soul, his life.

## **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

### **PART2 BISMILLAH KHAN**

I. Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentence each:

1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of music?

Ans: Evelyn was seventeen year old when she went to the Royal Academy of Music in London.

2. When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?

Ans: Her deafness was noticed when she was eight years old and it was confirmed when she was eleven.

II. Answer each of the questions in about short paragraph of 30-40 words.

1. Who had helped her to continue with music? What did he say?

Ans: Percussionist Ron Forbes helped Evelyn to continue with music. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. He asked her not to listen to them through her ears but to try end sense the sound in some other manner.

2. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn Performs

Ans: Evelyn, with a hectic international schedule gives solo performances at regular concerts. Apart from these she gives concerts in prisons and hospitals. She also accords high priority to classes for young musicians.

## **POEM 2: WIND**

**BY SUBRAMANIA BHARATI**

I. Answer in short:

1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

Ans: In the first stanza, the wind shutter, breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers, throws down the books from the shelf, tears the pages of the books and brings showers of rain.

2. What does the poet say the wind god winnows?

Ans: The poet says that the wind God winnows the weak crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives and hearts and then crushes them all.

3. What should we do to make friends with the wind?

Ans: To make friends with wind we need to build strong homes with firm doors. We should also make ourselves physically and mentally strong by building strong, firm bodies and having steadfast hearts.

4. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

Ans: In the last four lines, the poet inspires us to face the wind, which symbolizes the hardships of our lives, courageously. He tells us that the wind can only extinguish the weak fires; adversities deter the weak – hearted but make stronger those who have unfaltering will. In such a case, befriending the wind or the hardships of life makes it easier for us to face them.

6. How does the poet speak to the wind- In anger or with humour? You must also have seen or heard of the word ‘crumbling lives’. What is your response to it?

Ans: The poet speaks to the wind with anger, yes, strong winds are known to cause plenty of damage and destruction to both life and property storms, cyclones, gales and strong winds cause havoc on land. They uproot trees, bring down houses, tear down electric posts and claim lives.

They also cause damage to boats and frighten the poor sailors and fishermen out of the sea. Yet, I do not agree with the poet that the wind only ‘crumble lives’. The wind is responsible for bringing rain; it cools the land and makes the climate pleasant. Today, wind energy turning windmills, wind turbines and generating electricity.

### **CH-3: THE LITTLE GIRL**

**BY KATHERINE MANSFIELD**

I. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences:

1. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?

Ans: Kezia was afraid of her father because he was very strict who always used to give commands to everybody else in the house. He never played with her. He had big hands and heavy face especially his mouth when he yawned were big and she was terrified with the manner in which he looked at her over his spectacles.

2. Who were the people in Kezias family?

Ans: Kezias family consisted of her mother, father grandmother and herself.

3. What was Kezias father’s routine?

i) Before going to his office?

ii) After coming back from his office, he ordered for tea to be brought into the drawing room. He also asked his mother to bring him the news paper and his slippers, and Kezia to pull off his boots.

iii) On Sunday, Kezia’s father would stretch, out on the sofa. He would cover his face with his handkerchief, put his feet on one of the cushions and sleep soundly.

4. In what ways did Kezia’s grandmother encourage her to get to know her father better?

Ans: Kezia’s grandmother encouraged her to get a to know her father better by sending her to the drawing room to talk to her parents on Sundays. She also suggested kezia to make a pin cushion out of a beautiful piece of yellow silk as a gift of her father’s birthday.

### **POEM 3: RAIN ON THE ROOF**

**BY COATES KINNEY**

I. Answer in short:

1. What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.

- i) humid shadows          ii) Starry sphere
- iii) What a bliss
- iv) a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start.
- v) a thousand recollections weave their air – threads into woof.

Ans: i) 'Human Shadow' refer to the dark clouds that produce rain.

ii) 'Starry Spheres' refer to the night sky abounding in stars.

iii) 'What a bliss' refers to the happiness of the poet. When it rains poet gets into his cottage and enjoy the patter of rain upon the roof.

iv) This refers to the various imaginary thoughts and fantasies that are aroused in the poet's mind.

v) This phrase means that numerous memories inter mingle to form a beautiful picture that the poet recollects.

2. What does the poet like to do when it rains?

Ans: When it rains, the poet feels delighted to lie with his head pressed against the pillow of his cottage chamber bed and listen to the patter of the soft rain.

3. What is the single major memory that comes to the poet? Who are the 'darling dreamers' he refers to?

Ans: The single major memory that comes to the poet is that of his mother and her fond look.

The 'darling dreamers' are the poet and his siblings in their childhood when they were lovingly put to sleep by their mother.

4. Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?

Ans: No, the poet is not a child now. He is a grown up man. He remembers her when he is inside his cosy cottage and enjoy the patter of rain on the roof.

#### **CH.4: A TRULY BEAUTIFUL MIND**

1. What did Einstein call his desk drawer at the patent office? Why?

Ans: Einstein called his desk drawer at the patent office the 'bureau of theoretical physics'. This was because the drawer was where he used to store his secretly developed ideas.

2. Why did Einstein write a letter to Franklin Roosevelt?

ANS: Einstein write a letter to Franklin Roosevelt to warn about bomb effect and also wanted to encourage them to make a bomb utilize its destruction potential.

3. How did Einstein react to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Ans: Einstein was deeply shaken by the disaster in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He wrote a public missive to the United Nations. He proposed the formation of a world government to stop the nuclear weapons.

4. Why does the world remember Einstein as a 'World Citizen'?

Ans: Einstein is remembered as a 'World Citizen' as much as a genius scientist because of his efforts towards world peace and democracy, and for his crusade against the use of arms.

#### **POEM 4: THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE**

**BY WB YEATS**

I. Answer the following:

1. What kind of place is Innis free?

(i) the three things the poet wants to do when he goes back there (stanza-1)

Ans: (a) The poet wants to build a small cabin of clay and waltte.

b) He wants to plant nine rows of beans.

c) He wants to keep honey bees hive.

(ii) What he hears and sees there and its effect on him (stanza 1)

Ans: a) He hears the cricket's song.

b) He holds linnets flying in the sky.

c) He sees glimmering midnight and glowing rooms.

iii) What he hears in his 'heart's core' even when he is far away from Innisfree (stanza III)

Ans: When the poet is far away from Innisfree he hears the sound of the lake water washing the shore in his 'heart's core'.

2. By now you may have concluded that Innisfree is a simple, natural place, full of beauty and peace. How does the poet contrast it with where he now stands? (Read stanza III)

Ans: The poet contrasts the clay and wattle made cabin, the loud glade, morning with dew and crickets songs, midnight with glimmer, noon with purple glow, evenings with linnet's songs lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore etc.

3. Do you think Innisfree is only a place, or a state of mind? Does the poet actually miss the place of his boyhood days?

Ans: Although Innisfree is the poet's boyhood haunt, it also represents his state of mind. The poet wishes to escape to Innisfree as it is more peaceful than where he is now - the city. Innisfree is representative of what the poet considers an ideal place to live, which is devoid of the restless humdrum of his life. Yes, the poet actually misses the place of his boyhood days. Even when he is away from Innisfree, he recalls the sound of the lake water washing the shore.

4. Look at these words:

Peace comes dropping slow dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings.

What do these words mean to you? What do you think "comes and dropping slow..... from the veils of the morning"? What does "to where the cricket sings" mean?

Ans: The given lines indicate that peace of mind can be slowly acquired from the natural surroundings. It is the peace that "comes dropping slow.....from the veils of the morning".

The phrase "to where the cricket sings" indicates a peaceful place where one can hear the vibrant sounds of nature- sounds such as the songs of the crickets at the time of dawn.

## CH. 5: THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

BY VAIKOM MUHAMMED BASHEER

I. Answer the following:

1. Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

' "The sound was familiar one". What sound did the doctor hear? What did he think it was? How many times did he hear it? (Find the places in the text). When and why did the sounds stop?

Ans: The doctor lived in a room which was full of rats. He heard the sounds of the rats. There was a regular traffic of rats to and from the beam. He heard the sound thrice. The sound stopped suddenly as rats had seen a snake.

2. What two "important" and "earth shaking" decisions did the doctor take while he was looking into the mirror?

Ans: The doctor took two "important" and "earth-shaking" decisions did the doctor take while he was looking into the mirror. First, he decided to shave daily and grow a thin moustache. Second, always to keep an attractive smile on his face.

3. "I looked at into the mirror and smiled," says in doctor. A little later he says, "I forgot my danger opinion about himself". What is the doctor's opinion about himself when:

(i) He first smiles, and

(ii) He smiles again? In what way do his thoughts change in between and why?

Ans: (i): When the doctor first smiles, he has an inflated opinion of himself, admiring his looks and profession.

(ii) In the second instance, the doctor smiles at his foolishness and helplessness.

His thoughts change after his encounter with the snake from being 2 proud doctor he moves on to accept his stupidity

II. This story about a frightening incident is narrated in a humorous way. What makes it humorous? (Think of the contrasts it presents between dreams and reality. Some of them are listed below:

1. (i) The kind of person the doctor is (money, professions)

(ii) The kind of person he wants to be (appearance, ambition)

2. (i) The person he wants to marry

(ii) The person he actually marries

3. (i) His thoughts when he looks into the mirror

(ii) His thoughts when the snake is coiled around his arm.

Write short paragraphs on each of these to get your answer:

Ans: 1. (i) The doctor is a poor person. He has hardly any money. He lives in unelectrified house. It is a small rented room with plenty of rats living in it. He has just started his medical practise. So he is not a man of possessions or money.

(ii) The person wants to be rich. He also would like to have good appearance. That's why he decides to grow a thin moustache.

2. (i) The doctor wants to marry a woman doctor with good medical practice and a lot of money. She would be fat as not to run a flies him and catch him.

(ii) He marries a thin ready woman who has a gift of sprinter.

3. (i) His thoughts are full of joy and satisfaction. He decides to grow his moustache and keep smiling always. He finds his smile attractive.

(ii) He turned to stone. He sat like stone image in the flesh. However, his mind was very active. He felt the great presence of creator. He decides to write the words 'O God' outside his little heart.

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### POEM 5: LEGEND OF THE NORTHLAND

BY PHOEBE CARY

I. 1. Answer the following:

1. Which country or countries do you think "The Northland" refers to?

Ans: "The Northland" could refer to any extremely cold country in the Earth's north polar region, such as Greenland, the northern regions of Russia, Canada, Norway etc.

2. What did Saint Peter ask the old lady for?

What was the lady's reaction?

Ans: Saint Peter asked the old lady for one of her baked cakes to satisfy his hunger. The lady tried to bake a small cake for the saint.

3. How did he punish her?

Ans: He punished the lady by changing her into a wood pecker that built "as birds do" and gathered sanity food by boring holes into trees.

4. How does the woodpecker get her food?

Ans: The woodpecker gets her food by boring holes into trees.

5. Do you think that the old body would have been so ungenerous if she had known who Saint Peter really was? What would she have done then?

Ans: No, the old lady, would not have been so ungenerous if she had known who Saint Peter really was. Instead, she would have tried to please him with her cakes for the fulfillment of her greedy desires.

### **CH.6: MY CHILD HOOD**

I. Answer the following:

1. Who were Abdul Kalam's school friends? What did they later become?

Ans: Ramanadha shastry, Aravindan and Shivaprakasan were Abdul Kalam's school friends. Ramanadha Shastry became the high priest of the Ramashwaram temple, Aravindan a transport businessman and Shivaprakasan was the catering contractor for the southern

2. How did Abdul Kalam earn his first wages?

Ans: During the Second World War, the newspaper were bundled and thrown out of a moving train. Abdul Kalam earned his first wages by helping his cousin, who distributed newspapers in Rameswaram to catch these bundles.

3. Had he earned any money before that? In what way?

Ans: Yes, Abdul Kalam had earned some money before he started helping his cousin. When the Second World War broke out, there was a sudden demand for tamarind seeds in the market. He collect the seeds and sold them at a provision shop in Mosque Street. Usually, a day's collection earned him one Anna.

4. How does the author describe: i) his father, ii) his mother, iii) himself

Ans: i) Kalam's father, Jainuabdeen was not a wealthy or educated person. However, he was an honest and generous man, who possessed great innate wisdom. He was self-disciplined and avoided all inessential luxuries.

ii) Kalam's mother, Ashiamma was an ideal helpmate to her husband. She believed in goodness and profound kindness, and fed many people every day.

iii) The author describes himself as a short boy with undistinguished looks, who had a secure childhood. He is an honest and self disciplined person, who believes in goodness and deep kindness.

. He says that he inherited honesty and self discipline from his father. He further says that he inherited faith in goodness and deep kindness from his mother.

5. Narrate two incidents that show how differences can be created, and also how they can be solved. How can people change their attitudes?

Ans: The first incident to show that how differences can be created is that when the new young teacher found a Muslim student sitting beside a Hindu student he asked Kalam to sit in the last row. His friend Ramanadha Shastry was heartbroken. They informed their respective parent Lakshmana Sastry summoned the teacher and conveyed the strong sense of conviction which ultimately reformed him. The other incident show that how differences can be resolved. The author's science teacher, Sivasubramania Iyer, though an orthodox Brahim with a very conservative nature, tried to bridge these difference.

6. Why did Abdul Kalam want to leave Rameswaram?

Ans: i) Kalam wanted to leave Rameswaram for forth studies. He wanted to study at the district headquarters in Ramanathapuram.

### **POEM 6 – NO MEN ARE FOREIGN**

**BY JAMES KIRKUP**

I. Answer the following:

1. i) 'Beneath all uniforms . . . . .' what uniform do you think the poet is speaking about?

ii) How does the poet suggest that all people on earth are the same?

Ans: i) The poet is probably speaking about the uniforms that the soldiers wear at the time of war. The word 'uniform' here could also mean the traditional dresses of a country.

ii) The poet suggests that all people on earth are the same as they breathe, buried, wake, sleep, hate, love and labour. The importance of the sun and air and water is equal for everyone. Everyone needs peace and suffers from starvation during wars.

2. In stanza 1. Find five ways in which we all are alike. Picke out the words.

Ans: Words which suggest the five ways in which we are alike.

- Each of us have a similar body
- All of us breathe
- All of us walk
- All of us lie

We live and die on the same earth

3. How many common features can you find in stanza 2? Pick out the words.

Ans: There are five common features in stanza-2. These features are the sun, the air, the water, peaceful harvest, hands and the labour.

4. ' . . . . . Whenever we are told to hate our brother . . . .' When do you times this happens? Why? Who 'tells' us? Should we do as we are told at such times? What does the poet say?

Ans: Whenever there is war, leaders tell people to hate the other country.

They tell us to do so because of their personal gains. But we should not act as a puppet in their hands and do as they say. We should understand that war is futile and analyses the situation before jumping to conclusions. The poet says that if we fight against them, we kill and condemn ourselves

### **Ch 7 - PACKING**

**By- Jerome K. Jerome**

**Q1. Why did the narrator (Jerome) volunteer to do the packing?**

**Ans:** Jerome, the narrator, prided himself in his packing skills a bit too much. He felt that under his guidance even poor packers like Harris and George could accomplish this task with great efficiency. He volunteered to do the packing, expecting that his friends would work under his guidance and directions.

**Q2. Why did the author take pride in his packing skills?**

**Ans:** The author felt that packing was one of those things that he knew more about than anyone else. This made him develop a sense of superiority about his ability as the best packer and he took pride in his packing skills.

**Q3. How did George and Harris react to Jerome's offer to do the packing? Did Jerome like their reaction?**

**(Textual)**

**Ans:** legs on the table. Jerome did not at all like this reaction because he actually wanted to supervise and instruct them how to do the plays as they

were, George and Harris agreed readily to Jerome's offer to do the packing. George sprawled over the easy-chair while Harris cocked hacking instead of doing it himself.

**Q4. What was Jerome's real intention when he offered to pack?**

**Ans:** Jerome's real intention was not to pack himself but to make his friends George and Harris work under his directions and supervision. He intended to prove his superiority by bossing over them and throw his weight around while they packed.

**Q5. How did the man, with whom the narrator once stayed, used to drive him mad?**

**Ans:** The man, with whom the narrator once stayed, used to drive him mad by lolling on the sofa and watching him constantly as he went about mulling the tasks at hand. The man said he really enjoyed that sight and felt good

**Q6. Why does the narrator say that the packing of his toothbrush drives him to a point of madness?**

**Ans:** The narrator says that the packing of his toothbrush drives him to a point of madness because he either packs it even before he has brushed his teeth or doesn't pack it at all. In both cases, he has to unpack everything to locate his brush.

**Q7. Who was Montmorency and how did he contribute to the packing?**

**(Ans:** Montmorency was the pet dog of the narrator and his two friends. He contributed to the packing by forcibly sitting down on things. He put his leg into the jam, fumbled with the teaspoons, and chased the lemons like rats. He gave a tough time to his masters who had to finally shoo him away with a frying pan.

Poem7

THE DUCK AND THE KANGAROO

By- Edward Lear

**1. What did the Duck promise the Kangaroo and why?**

**Ans.** The Duck promised the Kangaroo that if he took her around for a ride she would fully co-operate with him. She would sit on his back very steadily and quietly so that he would neither be distracted nor lose his balance.

**2. What did the Duck wish to do after leaving her pond? What places did she wish to visit in particular? Was she wish fulfilled?**

**Ans.** The Duck wished to go all over the land and the sea. She wanted to visit the 'Dee' and 'Jelly Bo Lee' in particular. Her wish was finally fulfilled when the Kangaroo took her around the world three times.

**3. What traits of the Duck's character does the following line reveal?**

**Ans.** I would sit quite still, and say nothing but 'Quack' This line reveals that the Duck is a very co-operative, considerate and thoughtful creature. She knows that if she would make noise or keep on moving, it would inconvenience and distract the Kangaroo. Hence, she voluntarily offers to co-operate by being quiet and still.

**4. What was the Kangaroo's reaction to the Duck's request?**

**Ans.** The Kangaroo was a very sensible and wise creature. When he was requested for a ride, he was slightly apprehensive as he knew that the wet and cold feet of the Duck may afflict him with rheumatism, a disease marked by inflammation and joint pains. So, before committing anything, he wished to give the whole issue a good thought, even though the proposal could bring him good luck.

**5. Why was the Kangaroo reluctant to carry the Duck on its back?**

Or

**What objection did the Kangaroo raise when the Duck requested him for a ride?**

*Ans. The Kangaroo was reluctant to carry the Duck on its back because he knew that the wet and cold feet of the Duck was unpleasant and could make him uncomfortable. He objected by saying that he might catch rheumatism because of the Duck's feet.*

**6. How did the Duck prepare for the journey on the Kangaroo's back?**

*Or*

**What preparations did the Duck make for her ride on the Kangaroo's back?**

*Ans. The Duck bought four pairs of worsted socks so that her cold and wet feet could be covered and protected from the cold. She also bought a cloak to keep the cold out. In addition, she decided to smoke a cigar daily to pass her time.*

**7. What instructions did the Kangaroo give the Duck before starting the journey? Did the Duck comply with the instructions?**

*Ans. The Kangaroo told the Duck to help him maintain his balance during the ride by sitting absolutely still at the end of his tail. The Duck did comply with his instructions and the two had a smooth trip and a very enjoyable journey.*

## **Ch 8 REACH FOR THE TOP**

### **PART 1; Santosh Yadav**

**1. Why was the 'holy man', who gave Santosh's mother his blessings, surprised? (Textual)**

*Ans. The holy man expected that like all other families in the villages, the family would be wishing for the birth of a son. However, when he was told by Santosh's grandmother that they wanted to have a daughter, he was surprised.*

**2. Why was Santosh Yadav not content with a traditional way of life? What path did she choose and why?**

*Ans. Santosh was not content with a traditional way of life because she was a bit of a rebel right from the beginning. She wanted to charter her own course in life, rather than following the age-old customs and traditions.*

*She chose the path of excellence through education, rational thinking and hard work and achieved unparalleled success as a woman mountaineer.*

**3. When did Santosh leave home for Delhi, and why?**

**(Textual)**

*Or*

**When Santosh turned sixteen, why did she consider it to be the 'right moment' to fight the system?**

*Ans. Santosh left home for Delhi when she turned sixteen because her parents had begun to pressurize her to get married in keeping with tradition. She decided that it was the right moment to rebel and she quietly got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi to continue her studies.*

**4. Why did Santosh's parents agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi? What mental qualities of Santosh are brought to light by this incident?**

**(Textual)**

*Ans. Santosh's parents agreed to pay for her schooling in Delhi because she told them that she planned to work part-time in order to pay her fees. They realized that their daughter was independent, had a strong will-power and firm self-belief. She could take her decisions and also stand by them.*

**5. How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?**

**(Textual)**

*Ans. Santosh Yadav began to climb mountains when she met some mountaineers in the Aravalli Hills, who not only let her join them but also motivated her for mountain climbing. She had gone to the Aravallis after she had seen villagers from her room (at the Kasturba Hostel in Maharani College, Jaipur) cross the hills and disappear beyond.*

**6. How did the government of India honour Santosh Yadav?**

**Ans.** The government of India recognized Santosh's achievements as a celebrated mountaineer. Acknowledging her feat as the only woman to climb Mount Everest twice, the government bestowed upon her one of the nation's top honours, the Padmashri.

**7. What shows Santosh's concern for the environment? (Textual)**

**Ans.** Santosh's fervent concern for the environment is indicated by the fact that she couldn't stand the sight of the Himalayas littered with garbage. Hence, she collected and brought down as much as 500kg of refuse from the pristine mountains.

**Q8. How did Santosh feel when she found herself on the 'top of the world' at the summit of the Everest?**

**Or**

**How does Santosh describe her feelings at the summit of the Everest?**

**Or (Textual)**

**What was the most spiritual and proud moment for Santosh Yadav?**

**Ans.** Santosh Yadav, while standing on the 'top of the world', was overwhelmed with emotions of patriotism and ecstasy. She felt proud as an Indian when she unfurled the tricolour on Mount Everest. She was so happy that she experienced a kind of spiritual bliss. She found it hard to articulate her feelings.

**Reach for The Top**

**PART 2 Maria Sharapova**

**Q1. Why was Maria brought to Florida in the U.S. by her father? Why didn't her mother go with her? How did Maria respond to this separation? Or**

**Why did Maria leave Siberia for the U.S.? Why didn't her mother go with her? How did this separation affect her?**

**Ans:-** Maria was brought to Florida in the U.S. by her father, Yuri, to get trained as a professional tennis player and reach great heights of success and stardom in this sport. Her mother, Yelena, did not go with her because of visa restrictions. This two-year separation was too painful for the young girl. But Maria endured this sacrifice to pursue her dreams.

**Q2. What important lesson did Maria learn during the first two years of her stay in the U.S., away from her mother?**

**Ans:-** Maria learnt that excellence comes at a price. Since she wished to reach the zenith in the field of tennis, she knew that she would have to make sacrifices and struggle hard. She endured the heart-wrenching separation from her mother for two years to attain excellence in tennis. Moreover, she also learnt how to put up patiently with adverse circumstances.

**Q3. Maria's father accompanied her to the U.S., but why could he also not see her during her stay there?**

**Ans:-** Maria's father, Yuri, had brought his nine-year-old daughter to the U.S. to get her trained in tennis. Unfortunately, he too could not see her frequently as he had to work very hard to earn to pay for her training. His work occupied most of his time and he could not see Maria often.

**Q4. How did Maria's co-trainees at the tennis academy trouble her? How did Maria cope with this?**

**Ans:-** Maria's co-trainees at the tennis academy were much older than her and would return to the room at around 11 p.m when Maria was already asleep. They were so inconsiderate that they woke up Maria and made her

tidy up the room. Maria coped with this trouble by not allowing it to depress her. Instead, she strengthened her determination and mental toughness.

**Q5. Despite staying in America for years, the core of her heart. Justify.**

**Ans:-** Maria is a Russian at the Maria moved to Florida, U.S., from Siberia at the young age of nine. Since then she has spent most part of her life here. Yet, she remained a Russian through and through. She is proud of her Russian blood and Russian citizenship. She adds that she would play for Russia in the Olympics if given an opportunity.

Poem 8: **ON KILLING A TREE**

By- Gieve Patel

**Q1. Can a "simple jab of the knife" kill a tree? Why not?**

**Ans:-** simple jab of a knife can certainly not kill a tree. It can merely injure it and cause its sap to ooze out like blood. The real life of a tree comes from the roots that provide it nourishment and firmly hold it.

**Q2 What finally kills the tree?**

**Ans:-**The withering of the pulled out root finally kills the tree. The root of a tree is the source of its strength. Once it is pulled out, it can no longer nurture the tree. The root is sensitive to sunlight and air. Once exposed, it gets dehydrated, brown and twisted. Ultimately it dries up and the tree yields to death.

**Q3. What message is conveyed by this poem?**

**Ans:-**The poem conveys the message that human beings have destructive temperament towards nature, but Mother nature has regenerative powers and cannot be destroyed easily. It has the ability to resurrect itself. Also, the tree teaches us that mere physical assaults cannot ruin us. As long as our root, our soul, is intact we can rise again.

**Q4. What is 'the most sensitive' part of the tree? What is it sensitive to and why?**

**Ans:-** The root of the tree is its most sensitive part. It is sensitive to the heat and vagaries of weather on the open surface of the earth. It is so because it remains hidden safely under the earth.

**Q 5. What is the meaning of "anchoring earth" and "earth cave"?**

**Ans:-** "Anchoring earth" means the earth which gives a firm grip to the tree and keeps it from falling. Just as a ship anchored in the sea stays in its place securely and steadily, similarly the tree stands secure and stable with the support of the earth. "Earth cave" refers to the depth under the earth where the root of a tree remains sheltered safely for years. It is firmly attached to this point and a cave-like hollow is created when the root is pulled out.

**Q6. What is the meaning of 'bleeding bark'? What makes it bleed? (Textual)**

**Ans:-**The 'bleeding bark stands for the sap oozing out of the tree trunk when it is attacked with a knife or an axe. The word 'bleeding' is metaphorically used to compare the sap to the blood from a wound of a human being. It signifies the pain of the tree.

**Ch.9 THE BOND OF LOVE**

By- Kenneth Anderson

**Q1. How did the narrator get the baby sloth bear?**

**Ans:-**The author got the baby sloth bear in a freak accident. It was found moving on the body of his mother who was wantonly shot dead by one of his companions. It was in great shock and tried to flee but the narrator managed to capture it and brought it home.

**2. How was Bruno cured of paralysis?**

**Ans:-**Bruno had mistakenly consumed poison and had got paralysed. He was taken to the veterinary doctor who consulted his book and injected 10 c.c. of the antidote into him. The first dose had no effect. Then another dose was

injected which cured Bruno absolutely. After ten minutes of the dose, his breathing became normal and he could move his arms and legs.

**3. Why did Bruno drink the engine oil? What was the result?**

**Ans:-**Once the narrator had drained the old engine oil from the sump of his car and kept it to treat termites. Bruno, who would drink anything that came his way, drank about one gallon of this oil too. However, it did not have any effect on him.

**Q4. Who advised the narrator's wife to send Bruno to a zoo and why? What was her reaction? Or**

**Why was it decided to send Bruno to Mysore zoo?**

**Ans:-**The narrator, his son and friends advised the narrator's wife to send Bruno to a zoo because he was now too big to be kept at home. But she loved the pet bear so deeply that she could not accept the proposal readily. It took her three weeks to make up her mind and give her consent.

**Q5. How did the narrator's wife react when Baba was sent to Mysore zoo?**

**Ans:-**When Baba was sent to Mysore zoo, the narrator's wife felt so miserable that she could not be consoled.. She wept and kept worrying about the bear. She refused to eat anything for some days. She wrote letters one after another to the curator of the zoo to inquire about Baba's well being.

**Q6. How did Baba reach back home?**

**Ans:-** At the request of the narrator's wife, the Superintendent of the zoo agreed to permit her to have Baba back home. He wrote a letter to the curator and asked him to lend a cage so that the bear could be brought home safely. The cage was carefully put on the top of the car and Baba travelled back to his home in Bangalore.

**Q7. What kind of a place was prepared for Baba at the narrator's home and why?**

**Ans:-**With the purpose of keeping Baba at a safe distance from the children of the tenants, an island like a place, cut off from the house, was made in the compound. It measured twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide. Around the island, a dry moat was dug having six feet width and seven feet depth.

#### **POEM 9 THE SNAKE TRYING**

**By- W.W.E. Ross  
(Textual)**

**Q1. What is the snake trying to escape from?**

**Ans:-**The snake is trying to escape an assault on him. He is being chased by a man with a stick in his hand. The snake fears that the man wants to kill him by hitting him with the stick. The snake intends to evade being struck by the stick.

**2. What does the poet wish for the snake? (Textual)**

**Ans:-** The poet wishes a safe and free life for the snake. He does not want any human being to feel threatened by the snake and wants him to be left alone. He desires a peaceful coexistence for the snake and human beings.

**Q3. Where was the snake before anyone saw it and chased it away? Where does the snake disappear? (Textual)**

**Ans:-** Before being seen by anyone, the snake was lying comfortably on the sandy banks of the pond. After getting noticed and chased, he moved swiftly to the pond, got in the water and reached the other side to disappear in the slim and green reeds growing over there.

**Q4. Where did the snake hide and how?**

**Ans:-**The snake hid among the green reeds growing on the other side of the pond. He did this by merging his slender and green body with the slim and green reeds. This camouflage helped him deceive the person who was trying to kill him.

**Q5. Why does the poet want the snake to be spared?**

**Ans:-** The poet wants the snake to be spared because he is non-venomous and hence harmless. He is so safe that he cannot harm even a young child. Since the snake is not a threat to any human being, there is no rhyme or reason in killing him.

## **Ch.10- KATHMANDU**

**By- Vikram Seth**

**1. What does the author imply by 'febrile confusion' in the Pashupatinath temple?**

**Or**

**What made the atmosphere in and around the Pashupatinath temple full of 'febrile confusion'?**

*Ans:-The author makes this remark to show the hectic and feverish activity that causes utter chaos. Around the temple, there is a huge crowd of priests, hawkers, tourists, and even cows, monkeys and pigeons. Inside the temple, there are a large number of worshippers who elbow others aside to move closer to the priest. Together, they create utter confusion.*

**2.. What activities are observed by the writer on the banks of the Bagmati river?**

*Ans:-The writer observes some polluting activities on the banks of river Bagmati. He notices some washerwomen washing clothes, some children taking a bath and a dead body being cremated on the banks of this sacred river. He also observes someone throwing a basketful of wilted flowers and leaves into the river.*

**3. What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug? (Textual)**

*Ans:- There is a small shrine on the banks of the holy Bagmati in the Pashupatinath temple. Half part of this shrine protrudes from a stone platform. It is believed that when the shrine will emerge completely from the platform, the goddess in the shrine will escape and that will mark the end of the Kaliyug.*

**4. What are the author's observations about the streets in Kathmandu?**

*Ans:-The author finds the streets in Kathmandu 'vivid, mercenary and religious'. Extremely narrow and busy, these streets have many small shrines*

*and some images clad in flowers. Stray cows roam about mooing at the sound of the motorcycles. Vendors sell their wares shouting loudly and radios are played at a loud pitch. In addition, the horns of the cars and the ringing of the bicycle bells increase this din.*

**5. What picture of the Baudhnath stupa does the author portray?**

*Ans:-The author gives a brief but vivid picture of the Boudhanath stupa. He admires the serenity and calmness of this shrine. There are no crowds even on the road surrounding the stupa which has some shops run by the Tibetan immigrants. The stupa has an immense white dome with silence and stillness as its distinctive features.*

### **POEM 10A SLUMBER DID MY SPIRIT SEAL**

**By- William Wordsworth**

#### **Summary:**

William Wordsworth loved a small imaginary girl Lucy very much. Her death put a great effect on him. The poet says that her deep sleep has made his soul a seal. Her death has made him so insensitive that he can't realize human fears. He says that the child can't have any feeling of this earthly time because she has died. Now she can't hear or see anything. But the poet consoles himself with the thought that she has become a permanent part of nature. She moves in this cosmos as the earth does on its axes in a daily routine. She is moving with the rocks, stones and trees all the time.

**Q.1. On the basis of reading this poem, how would you describe William Wordsworth?**

*Ans. In this poem, William Wordsworth's deep love for nature has been expressed. He imagines that it is a point of relief and peace for him if someone near and dear becomes a part of nature after his/her death.*

**Q.2. Explain the line 'She seemed a thing that could not feel'?**

*Ans. It means that she is dead now. She has no sense of feeling any human emotions. She can't be grieved or happy because she is a dead thing now*

**Q.3. What is the theme of the poem 'A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal'?**

*Ans. It is a poem about the death of a loved one of the poet. The poet says that his soul has been sealed by the deep sleep of a lovely child whom he loved very much. But when he thinks that the child has become a part and parcel of nature, this gives him some relief and peace.*

## **Ch.11 IF I WERE YOU**

**By- Douglas James**

**1. What did Gerrard tell the intruder about himself? Was he telling the truth? Why/Why not?**

*Ans:- Gerrard told the intruder that as a child, he was stolen by the gipsies and now in his thirties, he was all alone in life. He was not telling the truth; he was just being funny as he wished to make it clear that he was not afraid of a gun-toting criminal. In fact, Gerrard had already started concocting stories about himself.*

**2. Why does the intruder intend to kill Gerrard?**

*Ans:- The intruder is a criminal who is being chased by the police for having murdered a cop. As per his plan, the intruder intends to kill Gerrard in order to take on his identity and avoid being caught by the police. In this way, he can lead a peaceful life without being haunted by the fear of arrest and punishment.*

**3. "They cannot hang me twice." Who says this and why? (Textual)**

*Ans:- The intruder says this because he is already wanted for having murdered a cop. If he manages to kill Gerrard, as per his plan, the punishment for this murder too, like the first one, will be a death sentence. Hence, he cannot be hanged twice by the police.*

**4. How does Gerrard imprison the intruder and save his life?**

*Ans. Gerrard asks the intruder to run away from there with him because the police may come at any time. He opens a door. He says that this door leads to the garage. The intruder steps in. It was the cupboard door. Gerrard pushes the intruder in and shuts the door. Thus he imprisons the intruder and saves his life.*

**5. Bring out the contrast between Gerrard and the intruder.**

*Ans:- Coarse, crude, boastful and an irritable egoist, the intruder is overconfident and thinks that he is the smartest one around. Gerrard, on the other hand, is pleasant, cool-headed, refined, lively and very intelligent, but a modest and humble person. Although Gerrard does not brag, he proves to be much smarter and more intelligent than the intruder.*

## **EVERWIN VIDHYASHRAM CLASS IX ENGLISH MOMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY READER)**

### **CH.1 THE LOST CHILD**

**-BY MUL RAJ ANAND**

#### **Summary**

This story highlights a child's love for his parents. It is the festival of the spring. Everyone is going to the festival. The child is very happy and excited because he is also going to fair with his parents. On the way to the fair, the child is fascinated by the natural beauty. He gets attracted to various things but he does not ask for these things because he knows that his parents cannot afford all these things. He was engrossed in watching the roundabout. Suddenly, he noticed his parents were not there. He saw a snake charmer. He liked the music and wanted to stay there for some time but he moved on with his parents because such music was not approved by his parents. Seeing the merry go round, the first time he expressed his desire but there was no reply. He was engrossed in watching the roundabout. Suddenly, he noticed his parents were not there. He searched for his parents here and there. He was lost. He started crying. He ran towards a shrine. There was a big crowd. In the crowd, he was pushed back. A kind-hearted man heard him crying. He stopped and lifted the child in his arms. He tried to soothe him by offering all

these things which he desired but he was crying continuously for his parents. The man offered him everything but the child refused to accept them. These things had lost their charm. Now the child wanted only his parents.

## **Ch-2 The Adventures of Toto**

**By- Ruskin Bond**

### **Summary**

The narrator's grandfather was an animal lover. He established his own private zoo. He bought a baby monkey from a tonga driver and named it Toto. The narrator's grandmother did not like his pets. Toto's presence was kept in a little closet which opened into the narrator's room. Toto tore off author's school blazer. He peeled off the plaster also. Toto was kept with other animals. There he did not allow them to live peacefully. The grandfather had to collect his pension from Saharanpur. He took Tote with him. He had to pay extra fare for Toto. Toto was ultimately accepted by the family. He was put into a stable with Nana, the family donkey. Toto teased Nana. Toto and Nana never became friends. Once Toto nearly boiled himself alive. He used to take bath in warm water. One day, a large kitchen kettle had been left on the fire to boil water for tea. Toto raised himself. It was cold outside. He sat down again. He continued hopping up and down till the grandmother came to rescue him from inside the pot. Toto did not give up his mischief. He tore things to pieces. He tore up the dresses of the aunt. He broke plates and utensils. One day he entered the dining room and ran out with a plate of Pulao, he threw the plate at grandmother.

Toto caused much mess to the family. They could not tolerate him anymore. In frustration, the grandfather sold Toto back to the tonga driver and heaved a sigh of relief.

## **Ch.3- ISWARAN THE STORYTELLER**

**By- R.K. Laxman**

### **Summary**

Mahendra was a junior supervisor in a firm which offered on hire, supervisors at different sites. He was a bachelor. A cook, Iswaran, was attached to him, who did his household chores including cooking. Iswaran was a good storyteller also. Most of his stories were full of surprise and thrill. His descriptions were fine. He narrated the smallest incident in detail. He would work up suspense and add a surprising end. He was very imaginative. Mahendra always enjoyed stories. Iswaran told him a story of a mad tusker. It entered a school ground. All students and teachers were afraid and hid. Iswaran who was then a junior student controlled the elephant all alone with a stick. He also told Mahendra about his encounters with ghosts. Mahendra called him a crazy fellow. He tried to convince Iswaran that it was his imagination and there was nothing like a ghost in the world. But he himself was afraid now. One night he was woken up by a low moan close to his window. He saw outside, there was a ghost. He was frightened. He broke into cold sweat and fell back on his pillow. However, he thought that it might be a kind of auto-suggestion or a trick. Next morning, Iswaran reminded Mahendra that he had heard someone moaning outside the window. He told him that he had come running to his room after hearing the moans. Mahendra felt frightened and ran to his office. Now he decided to leave that haunted place immediately.

## **Ch.4-In The Kingdom of Fools**

**By- A.K. Ramanujan's**

### **THEME**

The story is based on the theme that foolish people are unpredictable and can be very dangerous. So, one must stay away from them even if they offer benefit for some time. The disciple got tempted by the availability of all items for one duddu each and stayed in the Kingdom of Fools in spite of warning by his wise guru. Had the guru not returned to rescue him, the disciple would have had to pay for this temptation through his life.

### **TITLE**

“In the Kingdom of Fools” is a story about a kingdom ruled by a foolish king and his silly minister. The people too are foolish, for they obey the most ridiculous orders passed by their king. The entire action of the story takes place in this kingdom. The reasons that make this place a Kingdom of Fools are well exemplified by the episodes in which innocent people are caught one after the other in the name of justice. Hence, the title stands justified and apt in every way.

### **MESSAGE**

The story is a folktale and gives two messages. The first message is that one should stay away from foolish people; else one is bound to suffer. The second message is that in order to tackle foolish people one should employ wisdom and not logic. The guru does not argue or reason the innocence of his disciple. Rather he flatters the king and manages to convince him that the new stake was lucky. He not only saves the life of his disciple but also rids the kingdom of the foolish king and his silly minister. In addition, he becomes the next king and his disciple the next minister

## **Ch.5 The Happy Prince**

**By- OSCAR WILDE**

### **TITLE**

The title of the story, “The Happy Prince”, presents its elements in a symbolic manner. The story is about a prince who used to be happy when he was alive. However, he is very sad after he is placed atop a column as a statue. The prince appeared to be happy only because he knew nothing of life outside of his palace. Only after he died and became a statue did he learn of the people’s suffering and the disparity between the rich and the poor. He now sought happiness by sacrificing himself for the happiness of others. The title thus aptly suggests that the outward happiness of the prince is symbolic of the superficial joys in life. Real happiness lies in having a compassionate heart.

### **Message**

The most powerful message or moral lesson given by this story is that it is very essential to help the poor and the downtrodden in society. The second message is, we must be sensitive to the people who are suffering, especially the poor, and help them out. This will reduce their suffering and help them to stand up. This story highlights the virtues of kindness and pity towards others. It also talks about sacrifice towards others. The Happy Prince could have retained his precious stones on his body and retained his glory. But he decided to give them all away to help the poor and needy. This shows the sacrifice done by him.

### **Justification of the Title**

The statue of the Happy Prince is adorned with gold and precious stones. The Happy Prince gets happiness by distributing the jewellery to the poor of the city. The swallow helps him to carry out his task. The Prince who was crying when the swallow met him, now feels happy that he has been able to make a number of poor people happy around the city. So the title ‘Happy Prince’ is apt. It is about the inner or real happiness of the prince at the cost of his out happiness.

## Ch.6 WEATHERING THE STORM IN ERSAMA

By- **Harsh Mander**

### **Theme**

When a natural calamity like a storm takes place, people are put to a lot of suffering. Apart from the help the government provides, the members of the community should also mobilise themselves to solve their problems. In this story, we see how a young boy, hardly 19 years old, takes the initiative and helps the members of his community to stand on their feet. His leadership qualities are praised.

### **Message**

This lesson conveys the message that when a natural calamity strikes, the members of the community should help themselves. They should not be totally dependent upon the government to provide help. It also gives the message that the youth have a major role to play in organising the community to help themselves. Youth should provide a leadership role to solve the problems of the common people. In this lesson, we see the leadership provided by Prashant during the superstorm in Orissa village. We should especially concentrate our efforts on women and children who form the most vulnerable section of society.

### **Justification of the title**

A superstorm happens in Ersama in Orissa state, in 1999. A boy called Prashant sees nearly 2500 people in a pitiable condition in a storm shelter. He mobilised the people to help themselves and provided succour to them.

He arranged accommodation and food for them. Even after the storm was over, for several months he was involved in rehabilitation work for the community. Since the article speaks about the efforts of the people to overcome the destruction caused by the storm, the title is appropriate

## Ch.7 THE LAST LEAF

By - **O. Henry**

### **MESSAGE**

The story gives the message that the power of hope and optimism can help win the most difficult situations. Sue does not lose hope and keeps trying until the end to revive the desire to live in her friend Johnsy. Her optimism finally succeeds in reviving Johnsy's interest in life and helps her recover from pneumonia.

Another message given by the story is that friends are our saviours. Sue keeps telling Johnsy that she has to live for her friend's sake and her own life would be meaningless without Johnsy. She tends to her by talking about cheerful things, giving her food, calling in a doctor, and even seeking help from neighbours.

A latent message of the story is that sacrifice is a great virtue. Bauman sacrifices his life so that Johnsy gets over her depression. This sacrifice does not go in vain. Not only does Johnsy recover but Behrman also manages to create the masterpiece that he had yearned for all his life.

### **Theme**

The story is based on the theme that life is precious and faith and hope should never be lost. We come across many hindrances in life and they should be overcome by fighting back in high spirits. Depression can lead to disaster even when the situation is not bad. Another theme that runs through the story is that devoted friendship can be succour during times of crisis. A

minor theme of the story is the importance of art in human lives. The old painter knowingly sacrifices his life in his urge to create a masterpiece.

### **CH.8 A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME**

**By- Zan Gaudios**

#### **THEME**

The story is based on the theme of adjustment issues encountered by teenagers. Routine problems of life appear grievous and difficult to children in their growing years. They fail to acknowledge the little blessings offered by life and focus on the small missing things. It takes some time, but love and support from people around them rebuild their faith in the goodness of life. Zan felt so pressurized by the changes in his life that he thought of death, the extreme way to escape. However, genuine outpouring of concern from his schoolmates made him realize that his fear and insecurities were unfounded. He connected back with life with the help of his new friends.

#### **TITLE**

The word 'house' denotes a structure made of concrete material while the word 'home' connotes a place where love and concern bind the people inhabiting a space. "A House is Not a Home" is an appropriate title because Zan did not lose his home when he lost his house. Zan took to heart the burning down of his house and the things like his backpack, his shoes and other belongings. When he received love, support and concern from everyone around him, he realised that the emotion which was present in his house had grown even stronger after the fire tragedy. He had lost the house but the home was still there, stronger than before. Hence, the title aptly conveys the

main idea that material losses can be recovered but they cannot cause the loss of genuine emotions.

#### **MESSAGE**

The story conveys the message that camaraderie and bonhomie are two strong factors that help build genuine relationships. Zan felt awkward, isolated and embarrassed by the changes that marked his early teenage. But when new people approached him with open arms and extended a hand of friendship, he was overwhelmed. All his worries, fears, and insecurities faded away. Helping others in need and being grateful while getting help, are the two values one should acquire. The teenagers, especially, should volunteer to make newcomers feel at home. Another message conveyed by this story is that one should not grieve over material loss. As long as one has emotional support, one can overcome any loss.

### **Ch.9-THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST**

**By- Bill Bryson**

#### **MESSAGE**

The story gives the message that one should be mature enough to laugh at one's own follies. This temperament not only eases tense situations but also helps to move on with more important things. Bryson makes up for his lack of grace and confused behaviour by mocking at himself. This not only makes his story funny but also provides comfort as it is normal for all of us to make mistakes. Living in the real world can be confusing for some people like Bryson. However, they can draw joy even from this confusion and let others too laugh along with them.

#### **TITLE**

The title suggests that the story is about a tourist who is accidental i.e. finds himself involved in difficult or embarrassing situations as a tourist. On reading the text, one finds that the tourist, Bill Bryson, travels frequently but ends up causing one or the other accident every time. He does not learn from his mistakes and keeps repeating the same follies. He forgets to place his frequent flyer card at the proper place, he spills drinks while extending his hand to get one, leaves a big part of his coat outside while closing the door of the car, smudges his light-coloured trousers many times over without realizing it, and many such ordinary things cannot be handled by him without making a mess of them. The title, "The Accidental Tourist" is thus apt because it is amusing to see Bryson getting frequently into accidents at a time when travelling is so easy that it has made the world a small place.

#### **Ch.10 THE BEGGAR**

**By- Anton Chekhov**

#### **MESSAGE**

The story gives the message that it is through counselling and benevolence that a wayward can see his errors and mend his life. Sergei helps Lushkoff as he believes that honest labour can reform a person. Olga, on the other hand, helps Lushkoff without making demands on him. She chides him but also helps him to survive. Her humane approach proves more effective as it forces Lushkoff to realise his mistakes and reform himself.

#### **Justification of the Title**

Lushkoff is a beggar who is harmless and spends his life on the streets. His habit is to tell lies and beg from the people. He asks for alms from Sergei, an advocate, who admonishes him but also helps him out. Since the story revolves around the beggar Lushkoff, the title is justified.

#### **THEME**

The story is based on the theme of transformation of a depraved alcoholic through kindness, compassion and selflessness. Olga's words and noble deeds changed Lushkoff's heart. He gave up drinking and mended his truant ways. Another theme that runs through the story is gratitude. Lushkoff had become weak because of alcoholism and was no longer able to work. He resorted to telling lies and begging in order to survive. But when he received kindness, he acknowledged it with gratitude and remained indebted to Olga for life.