

CBSE Class 12 English Core

NCERT Solutions

CHAPTER 4

The Rattrap

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1. Notice these expressions in the text. Infer their meanings from the context.

Keep body and soul together: To manage to keep alive/ to survive

Hunger gleamed in his eyes: One's face and eyes reveal that the person is very hungry.

Plods along the road: Moves along the road slowly but deliberately, to walk with a heavy feet

Unwonted joy: Unusual pleasure or happiness

Impenetrable prison: Impassable confinement

Nodded a haughty consent: arrogantly allowed the man to enter/ arrogant approval

Eased his way: Moved himself slowly and carefully

Fallen into a line of thought: Considered a matter in a particular way/struck by an idea

Things have gone downhill: To decline or grow worse and worse

Page No: 34 Think As you Read

1. From where did the peddler get the idea of the world being a rattrap?

Answer : One day the peddler was thinking of his rattraps. Suddenly he was struck by an idea that the whole world with its lands and seas, its cities and villages was nothing but a big rattrap. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food as baits in the same manner as the rattrap offered cheese and pork. As soon as someone touches the bait, he finds himself in the trap.

2. Why was he amused by this idea?

Answer : The peddler believed that the world with all its riches and joys, food and shelter appears as a rattrap to tempt people. The world had never been kind to him. It gave him unusual pleasure to think ill of it. So he was amused to think about the people who were already caught in the trap and others circling around the bait.

3. Did the peddler expect the kind of hospitality that he received from the crofter?

Answer : No, the peddler did not expect the kind of hospitality that he had received from the

crofter. This was because he was usually greeted by 'sour' and unfriendly faces whenever he knocked on doors and requested for shelter.

4. Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler?

Answer : The crofter was an old man without wife and children. He was living a monotonous and dull life in solitude. He welcomed his guest very warmly. He offered him food and shelter. Naturally, he was happy to get someone to talk to in his lonely life. So he was talkative and friendly with the peddler.

5. Why did he show the thirty kronor to the peddler?

Answer : The crofter was very proud of his cow that gave him enough milk to support him. He told peddler that he had got thirty kronor last month as payment by supplying the milk to creamery. The peddler seemed doubtful about it. So, in order to assure his guest he showed thirty kronor to the peddler.

6. Did the peddler respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter?

Answer : No, the peddler did not respect the confidence and trust reposed in him by the crofter. In fact, he betrayed his trust by robbing the thirty kronors from him. However, later in the story, his conscience was awakened by his stay with the Willmanssons and he decided to return the money.

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1. What made the peddler think that he had indeed fallen into a rattrap?

Answer : After stealing the crofter's money, the peddler believed that it was not safe to walk on the public highway. So he went into the woods. But it was a big and confusing forest. He walked and walked but could not get out of it. The forest having its trunks, branches and thickets appeared to be a big rattrap for him. Then he realized that he had fallen into the rattrap.

2. Why did the ironmaster speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home?

Answer : In the uncertain reflection from furnace, the ironmaster mistook the peddler as his old regimental comrade, Captain Von Stahle. His condition was very miserable. As he was an old acquaintance, he wanted to help him. He also wanted his company on Christmas Eve. So the ironmaster spoke kindly to the peddler and invited him home.

3. Why did the peddler decline the invitation?

Answer : The peddler knew that the ironmaster had mistaken him as his old regiment comrade. The invitation by the ironmaster did not please the peddler since he had the stolen money in his pocket. He thought that it would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion's den. He was feeling guilty and frightened. So he declined the invitation.

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1. What made the peddler accept Edla Willmansson's invitation?

Answer : Edla Willmansson had better power of persuasion. She looked at the peddler quite compassionately. She knew he was afraid. So she assured him that no harm would come to him and he would be allowed to leave just as freely as he came. Her friendly manner made the peddler feel more comfortable. He thought he could confide in her and accepted the invitation.

2. What doubts did Edla have about the peddler?

Answer : When Edla went to the iron mill to fetch the peddler, she noticed that he was frightened. She had doubts that the peddler had stolen something or had escaped from prison. His appearance and behaviour also left her in doubts whether he was actually an educated man, as claimed by her father.

3. When did the ironmaster realise his mistake?

Answer : The ironmaster realised his mistake the next day when the peddler turned up at breakfast. The valet had bathed the peddler, cut his hair, shaved him and given him clothes. The ironmaster realised that he had mistaken to recognise the person as his old friend because of the reflection of the furnace, the previous night.

4. What did the peddler say in his defence when it was clear that he was not the person the ironmaster had thought he was?

Answer : The ironmaster came to know the reality about the peddler the next morning. The peddler in his defence explained that he never pretended to be what he was not. He showed himself as a poor trader. He only desired to sleep in the forge for the night. He had declined the ironmaster's invitation again and again.

5. Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?

Answer : The peddler's true identity came to light the next morning. But Edla served the peddler not as her father's old comrade. Even after knowing the reality about the peddler she wanted him to stay with them on Christmas Eve and enjoy a day of peace. In her view it was not proper to chase away a person whom they had invited on Christmas.

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1. Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?

Answer : When Edla opened the package of gift left by the peddler she felt very happy. She found a small rattrap with three wrinkled ten kronor notes and a letter addressed to her. He had left the 30 kronors for its rightful owner. He was not a thief but his circumstances made him so. She was happy to note that after all he had changed.

2. Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain von Stahle?

Answer : The peddler was a vagabond. When he was invited by the ironmaster, he behaved like a real captain. In this role, he raised himself above the petty temptation. Kindness and hospitality shown by Edla had transformed him completely. He wanted to behave nicely with them. So he signed himself as Captain Von Sthale.

Page No: 43 Understanding the Text

1. How does the peddler interpret the acts of kindness and hospitality shown by the crofter, the ironmaster and his daughter?

Answer : The different ways in which the peddler repaid the three people correspond to the way he interpreted the kindness of the three people. The peddler realized that for the crofter it was his craving for company that led him to offer his hospitality. The ironmaster's hospitality apparently was limited to his acquaintances. It was only the daughter who genuinely offered warmth and goodness to the peddler. He was touched by Edla's kindness and it made him want to act differently. He repaid her good treatment with a gesture of true gratitude.

2. What are the instances in the story that show that the character of the ironmaster is different from that of his daughter in many ways?

Answer : The ironmaster failed to know the actual identity of the peddler. He took him for an old acquaintance, whereas his daughter could make out that the man was scared. This

suggested that he had stolen something. Though the father and the daughter expressed compassion for the vagabond, both did so for different reasons. The ironmaster was sure to help the vagabond get over his tramp manners because he had taken the latter for his old comrade. The daughter however wished to feed him and welcome him in spite of knowing that he was not Captain Von Stahle. The father acted impulsively and casually and invited him without confirming the stranger's identity. On realizing his mistake he recklessly wanted to hand him over to the sheriff. When he was threatened to be ensnared by the rattrap of this world, he thought otherwise. Edla on the other hand showed a strong sense of observation. She rightly judged him to be a tramp without any education. She persuaded her father to let him stay because they had promised him Christmas cheer. When the blacksmith's daughter infected the protagonist with her true altruism the peddler's inner soul experienced a rapid transformation from an ugly duckling to a dazzling swan.

3. The story has many instances of unexpected reactions from the characters to others' behaviour. Pick out instances of these surprises.

Answer : The first instance is that of the crofter's hospitality to the peddler. The rattrap peddler, used to being shooed away, was surprised at the friendly behavior of the crofter. The peddler was also surprised at the sudden invitation given by the ironmaster, who was himself shocked to realise his mistake after recognizing the peddler the next day. Another unexpected reaction, for both the peddler and the ironmaster, is Edla's intervention to seek peddler's presence for Christmas. However, the most unexpected reaction is from the peddler when he leaves the package and the letter for Edla, showing gratitude to the girl's hospitality and respect for him.

4. What made the peddler finally change his ways?

Answer : Edla Willmansson treated the tramp in a friendly manner. She was nice and kind to her.

She interceded on his behalf when her father was about to turn him out. She still entertained the peddler even after knowing the truth about him. She offered him the suit as Christmas present and invited him to spend the next Christmas with them. Her love and understanding aroused the essential goodness of the peddler and he changed his ways.

5. How does the metaphor of the rattrap serve to highlight the human predicament?

Answer : The metaphor of the rattrap signifies that the world exists only to trap people by setting baits for them. Whenever someone is tempted by the luxuries, he ends up being

caught in a dangerous trap. The author, thus, makes a much deeper comment on the woeful plight of those in pursuit of the worldly pleasures, which often lead them to unfortunate situations. The story helps in realising the importance of general goodness and kindness. The peddler is saved from the snare of the huge rattrap called world only when he appreciates the kindness to him by Edla.

6. The peddler comes out as a person with a subtle sense of humour. How does this serve in lightening the seriousness of the theme of the story and also endear him to us?

Answer : The peddler doesn't come across as a humorous person, although one can locate a subtle sense of humour in the way he thinks about the world as being a giant rattrap. He is singularly pleased by this thought of his because it provides him with the opportunity of thinking 'ill' of the world that is not kind to him. It is clearly visible that whenever he gets caught unaware, in the web of deceit spun by his scheming mind, he hides behind the thought that the world is a rattrap and he is merely a prey. Thus, he lightens the mood and theme of the story and makes us endear him.

Talking about the Text

Discuss the following in groups of four. Each group can deal with one topic. Present the views of your group to the whole class.

1. The reader's sympathy is with the peddler right from the beginning of the story. Why is this so? Is the sympathy justified?

Answer : From the beginning, the rattrap seller is shown as a victim of his situation and not a downright evil character. The peddler had to resort to beggary and stealing because his business was not profitable enough to make both ends meet. His condition of penury does not allow him to be fully righteous. Moreover, we find that he lacks friends and guide to steer him in the right path. The sympathy is justified because in the end we find out that the peddler is capable of appreciating genuine goodness and hospitality. When he is treated with respect and kindness, he reciprocates the same in the best way he can.

2. The story also focuses on human loneliness and the need to bond with others.

Answer : The Rattrap deals with the issues of human loneliness and the need to bond with others. Not only the peddler but also other characters like the crofter, the ironmaster and Edla emphasise this fact.

The peddler's conscience had left him because he had been lonely in his predicament, for a long time. But Edla's kindness and hospitality changed him. The crofter, on the other hand, is

a lonely fellow whose craving for company leads him to give shelter to a vagabond, and he ends up getting robbed. Even, the ironmaster and his daughter suffer from loneliness. They crave company on Christmas Eve and are excited when they get the opportunity to serve a guest.

3. The story is both entertaining and philosophical.

Answer : The story is told in the form of a fairy tale with a happy ending. The narrative is interesting with many surprises and attention-grabbing dialogues. The twists and the unexpected reactions of the characters often astonish the reader making the story entertaining.

However, the author has carefully managed to weave philosophical elements into the storyline. The rattrap peddler's comparison of the whole world with a giant rattrap makes this an interesting commentary on how such people end up getting trapped in the giant chasm. The story also makes an observation on the inherent goodness of people. It also showcases how goodness and kindness shown by some people can change others' perspective.

Working with Words

1. The man selling rattraps is referred to by many terms such as “peddler, stranger” etc. Pick out all such references to him. What does each of these labels indicate of the context or the attitude of the people around him?

Answer :

	Labels	Contexts
1	Peddler	As he peddles or sells the rattraps
2	Vagabond	Used to describe his nomadic lifestyle
3	Stranger	Used to refer to the peddler when he was at the crofter's place, possibly to emphasise the fact that the crofter was compassionate to an unknown man
4	Guest	He is treated with compassion, especially at the ironmaster's house where he was invited to spend the Christmas
5	Intruder	When the peddler trespasses and enters the iron mill
6	Tramp	When the peddler asks for lodgings at the iron mill; also when the ironmaster, mistaking him for his old regimental comrade plans of helping him drop his tramp ways and begin a new vocation

7	Ragamuffin	When the ironmaster first notices him wrapped in rags and in the state to utter destitution
8	Old regimental comrade	The ironmaster mistakes him for his old friend when he first meets the peddler at his iron mill
9	Poor hungry wretch	Used only once when the author mentions the fact that Edla was excited about the prospect of getting a chance to help an unfortunate fellow on Christmas
10	Rat	The peddler calls himself a rat and thanks Edla for helping him escape the rattrap with her kindness and compassion

2. You came across the words, plod, trudge, stagger in the story. These words indicate movement accompanied by weariness. Find five other such words with a similar meaning.

Answer : Other words are lurch, stumble, slog, hike, clump, traipse and stomp.

Page No: 44 Noticing Form

1. He made them **himself** at odd moments.
2. He raised **himself**.
3. He had let **himself** be fooled by a bait and had been caught.
4. ... a day may come when you **yourself** may want to get a big piece of pork.

Notice the way in which these reflexive pronouns have been used (pronoun + self)

In 1 and 4 the reflexive pronouns “himself” and “yourself” are used to convey emphasis.

In 2 and 3 the reflexive pronoun is used in place of personal pronoun to signal that it refers to the same subject in the sentence.

Pick out other examples of the use of reflexive pronouns from the story and notice how they are used.

Answer :

Examples	Usage
“...would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion’s	used in place of personal pronoun to signal that it

den”	refers to the same subject in the sentence
“...except my oldest daughter and myself ”	used in place of personal pronoun to signal that it refers to the same subject in the sentence
“...he laughed to himself. ”	used in place of personal pronoun to signal that it refers to the same subject in the sentence
“...better powers of persuasion than he himself ”	used to convey emphasis
“stretched himself out on the floor”	used in place of personal pronoun to signal that it refers to the same subject in the sentence
“He could not bring himself to oppose her.”	used to convey emphasis

Thinking about the Language

1. Notice the words in bold in the following sentence.

“The fire boy shovelled charcoal into the **maw of the furnace** with a great deal of clatter”.

This is a phrase that is used in the specific context of an iron plant.

Pick out other such phrases and words from the story that are peculiar to the terminology of ironworks.

Answer : Other such phrases could be as follows:

1. ‘a hard regular thumping’
2. ‘hammer strokes’
3. ‘a large plant with smelter, rolling mill and forge’
4. ‘pig iron’
5. ‘coal dust’
6. ‘put on the anvil’

2. **Mjolis is a card game of Sweden.**

Name a few indoor games played in your region. ‘Chopar’ could be an example.

Answer : Some indoor games are chess, ludo, table tennis, playing cards, billiards, etc.

3. **A crofter is a person who rents or owns a small farm especially in Scotland. Think of other uncommon terms for ‘a small farmer’ including those in your language.**

Answer : Some other terms are peasant, plowman, cultivator, krishak, kisan etc

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CHAPTER 5

Indigo

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1. Notice these expressions in the text. Infer their meanings from the context.

Urge the departure: Insist on the going away of the British from India

Conflict of duties: Clash of obligation or responsibility

Harbor a man like me: Give shelter to an advocate of home-rule

Seek a prop: Try to find support or assistance

Page No: 47 Think As you Read

1. Strike out what is not true in the following.

a. Rajkumar Shukla was

(i) a sharecropper.

(ii) a politician.

(iii) a delegate.

(iv) a landlord.

Answer: (i) a sharecropper.

(ii) a politician.

(iii) a delegate.

(iv) a landlord.

b. Rajkumar Shukla was

(i) poor.

(ii) physically strong.

(iii) illiterate.

Answer: (i) poor.

(ii) physically strong.

(iii) illiterate.

2. Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being 'resolute'?

Answer: Rajkumar Shukla is described as being 'resolute' because even after being told about the prior engagements of Gandhi at Cawnpore and other parts across the county, he does not quit. He continues to accompany Gandhi everywhere. Furthermore, he persistently asks Gandhi to fix a date for his visit to his native district of Champaran. His resolution and determination finally impresses Gandhi and the latter complies with his request.

3. Why do you think the servants thought Gandhi to be another peasant?

Answer: Gandhi was a simple and humble man dressed in a plain 'dhoti' (loincloth).. He must have looked like just another poor farmer in this country. This led the servants to this conclusion. Moreover, he was accompanied by Rajkumar Shukla whom they knew to be a poor indigo sharecropper. Thus, when the servants saw them both together, they mistook Gandhi as another peasant.

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1. List the places that Gandhi visited between his first meeting with Shukla and his arrival at Champaran.

Answer: Gandhi first met Shukla at Lucknow. Then he was in Cawnpore and other parts of India. He returned to his ashram near Ahmedabad. Later he visited Calcutta, Patna and Muzaffarpur before arriving at Champaran.

2. What did the peasants pay the British landlords as rent? What did the British now want instead and why? What would be the impact of synthetic indigo on the prices of natural indigo?

Answer: The peasants used to pay indigo as rent to the British landlords. Germany had now developed synthetic indigo. So the British landlords wanted money as compensation for being released from natural arrangement. The prices of natural Indigo would go down due to the synthetic indigo.

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1. The events in this part of the text illustrate Gandhi's method of working. Can you identify some instances of this method and link them to his ideas of satyagraha and non-violence?

Answer: There are many instances in the narrative that can be linked to Gandhi's idea of

non-cooperation and satyagraha. One such instance is Gandhi's refusal to obey the court order asking him to leave Champaran immediately. Besides that, Gandhi's protest against the delay of the court proceedings is also an instance of his belief in civil disobedience. Furthermore, Gandhi does not falter to plead guilty in front of the court. He accepts his guilt but presents a rational case as to what made him disobey the law. For him, truth is above everything and, thus, he decides to follow the voice of conscience and obey the "higher law of our being".

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1. Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 per cent refund to the farmers?

Answer: For Gandhi the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been forced to return part of the money and with it, part of their prestige. So he agreed to the settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers.

2. How did the episode change the plight of the peasants?

Answer: The episode of Champaran brought more than one change in the plight of the peasants of that district. These peasants gained confidence which was evident in their spontaneous demonstration on the morning of Gandhi's trial. After the successful refund of the compensation, the peasants, for the first time, realised their own rights and were liberated from the fear that had plagued them.

This episode brought an end to the fifteen percent arrangement of sharecropping. However, the most radical change that the episode brought about was in their social and cultural standard. Gandhi opened schools in six villages. His wife took pains to make the peasants aware of the importance of general sanitation and personal hygiene. He even appointed a doctor.

Page No: 54 Understanding the Text

1. Why do you think Gandhi considered the Champaran episode to be a turning-point in his life?

Answer: The Champaran episode began as an attempt to ease the sufferings of large number of poor peasants. He got the whole hearted support of thousands of people. Gandhiji admitted that he had done a very ordinary thing. He declared that the British could not order him about in his own country. Hence he considered the Champaran episode as a turning

point in his life.

2. How was Gandhi able to influence lawyers? Give instances.

Answer: Gandhi was able to influence the lawyers through his conviction, earnestness and pertinent questioning. Gandhi reproached the lawyers of Muzzafarpur for charging a large sum of money as fee from the peasants. Later, the lawyers from Bihar opined that they would return to their own places in the event of his imprisonment. But, Gandhi made them realise that it would be impudent for the lawyers from a neighbouring place, to return when a stranger was ready to get himself imprisoned for the peasants. So, they agreed to follow him to jail. Gandhi also convinced the lawyers not to seek support from an Englishman and be self-reliant.

3. What was the attitude of the average Indian in smaller localities towards advocates of 'home rule'?

Answer: The average Indians in smaller localities were afraid to show sympathy for the advocates of home-rule. Gandhi stayed at Muzaffarpur for two days in the home of professor Malkani, a teacher in a government school. It was an extraordinary thing in those days for a government professor to give shelter to one who opposed the government.

4. How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement?

Answer: Professor J.B. Kriplani received Gandhi at Muzaffarpur railway station at midnight. He had a large body of students with him. Sharecroppers from Champaran came on foot and by conveyance to see Gandhi. Muzaffarpur lawyers too called on him. A vast multitude greeted Gandhi when he reached Motihari railway station. Thousands of people demonstrated around the court room. This shows that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement.

Page No: 55 Talking about the Text

Discuss the following.

1. "Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor."

Answer: Do you think that the poor of India are free from fear after Independence?

2. The qualities of a good leader.

Answer: 1. In the story, Gandhi makes it possible for the sharecroppers of Champaran to

shed their fear of the British landlords. According to Gandhi, freedom from fear is the first step towards self-reliance. However, it is unfortunate that the poor of the country are not free from fear, even decades after the independence. Their actions, work, etc. are still under pressure; they are at the mercy of the bureaucratic system. Furthermore, the poor live in a continual fear of the police, who instead of taking care, often end up maltreating them. The already poor farmers are becoming poorer, because of globalisation and the craze for the foreign products. This leaves them in the fear of further destitution.

2. A leader is someone who leads the minds of others and convinces them into following his set of ideas and beliefs. As such, there are some qualities inherent in the persona of the leader that sets him apart from the rest. One of these qualities includes dedication to one's work. His enthusiasm is evident in his work and life, and this inspires others to follow him. A good leader is courageous in the face of adversity and is never a quitter. He motivates and encourages others, bringing out the best in them. He appreciates the efforts of others and is not biased or partial.

Thinking about Language

1. Notice the sentences in the text which are in 'direct speech'.

Why does the author use quotations in his narration?

Answer: Below are some sentences in the text which are in 'direct speech':

"I will tell you how it happened that I decided to urge the departure of the British. It was in 1917."

"I am Rajkumar Shukla. I am from Champaran, and I want you to come to my district!"

"Speak to Gandhi."

"Fix a date,"

"I have to be in Calcutta on such-and-such a date. Come and meet me and take me from there."

"It was an extraordinary thing ... for a government professor to harbour a man like me".

"The commissioner ... to bully me and advised me forthwith to leave Tirhut."

"conflict of duties"

"humanitarian and national service"

"not for want of respect for lawful authority, but in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience"

"But how much must we pay?"

“Look, there is no box or cupboard here for clothes. The sari I am wearing is the only one I have.”

“What I did,” he explained, “was a very ordinary thing. I declared that the British could not order me about in my own country.”

“He had read our minds correctly,” Rajendra Prasad comments, “and we had no reply... Gandhi in this way taught us a lesson in self-reliance”.

The author uses quotations to indicate the actual words of a speaker. Usually a quotation is used when a particular passage or sentence is well-written or memorable or is especially relevant in the context under discussion. In ‘Indigo,’ the author uses quotations when he mentions important commentary or observation, or any pertinent utterance by Gandhi, or for that matter, by any other character.

2. Notice the use or non-use of the comma in the following sentences.

When I first visited Gandhi in 1942 at his ashram in Sevagram, he told me what happened in Champaran.

He had not proceeded far when the police superintendent’s messenger overtook him.

When the court reconvened, the judge said he would not deliver the judgment for several days.

Answer: In this sentence, the comma is used after a long introductory phrase.

Essential clauses do not require commas. In this sentence, the clause ‘when the police superintendent’s messenger overtook him’ is an essential clause because it provides essential information. Hence, a comma is not required in this sentence.

In this sentence again we have an introductory clause which provides extra information. The second half of the sentence can stand alone and, therefore, is separated from the introductory clause with a comma.

Working with Words

1. List the words used in the text that are related to legal procedures.

For example: deposition

2. List other words that you know that fall into this category.

Answer:

Deposition	Notice	Summon	Lawyer

Court	Cases	Fee	Agreement
Compensation	Order	Courthouse	Judge
Prosecutor	Statement	Guilty	Trial
Penalty	Law	Magistrate	Sentence
Bail	Judgement	Inquiry	Evidence
Documents	Imprison	Appeal	Rights
Investigation	Reconvene	Appear	Pleading

Witness	Accused	Proceedings	Adjourn
Verdict	Decree	Accusation	Defense
Impeachment	Charge	Affidavit	Indictment
Opposition	Prosecution	Offence	Crime

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CHAPTER 6
Poets and Pancakes

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1. Notice these words and expressions in the text. Infer their meaning from the context.

Blew over: Give a long, angry speech of criticism or accusation

Was struck dumb: Render speechless, as by surprise or shock

Catapulted into: To shoot forth or launch

A coat of mail: An armoured coat made of chain mail, interlinked rings, or overlapping metal plates

Played into their hands: To act or behave so as to give an advantage to (an opponent).

The favourite haunt: A frequently visited place

Heard a bell ringing: Stirring an often indistinct memory

Page No: 59 Think As you Read

1. What does the writer mean by ‘the fiery misery’ of those subjected to make-up’?

Answer: The heat produced by the lights in the make-up room brought about a lot of discomfort to the actors in the make-up room. Hence the writer refers to this pain and trouble as ‘fiery misery’.

2. What is the example of national integration that the author refers to?

Answer: The make-up division of the Gemini Studios was an example of national integration. According to the author, this is so because people from different regions and religious groups worked together in the same department. The department was headed by a Bengali who was succeeded by a Maharashtrian. The other helpers included a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and the local Tamils.

3. What work did the ‘office boy’ do in the Gemini Studios? Why did he join the studios? Why was he disappointed?

Answer: The office boy applies make-up on the players who played the crowd. On the days

of crowd shooting, he would mix his paint in a big vessel and apply it quickly and noisily on the faces of the players. He had joined the studios with the hope of becoming a star actor or a screen writer, director or lyrics writer. He was disappointed because he failed and remained only a 'boy'.

4. Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?

Answer: The author's duty was to cut out newspaper clippings on a wide variety of subjects and store them in files. Many of these had to be written out in hand. The onlookers noticed him merely tearing up newspapers. Hence to them he seemed to be doing next to nothing.

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1. Why was the office boy frustrated? Who did he show his anger on?

Answer: The office boy was frustrated because despite getting a good opening, he remained only an office boy. He had had a good formal education and would write poetry also. But his great literary talent was being allowed to go waste. He showed his anger on Kothamangalam Subbu, the No. 2 at Gemini Studios.

2. Who was Subbu's principal?

Answer: Mr. S.S Vasan, the founder of the Gemini Studios, was Subbu's principal.

3. Subbu is described as a many-sided genius. List four of his special abilities.

Answer: Four Special abilities of Subbu:

- (i) Subbu had the ability to look cheerful at all times.
- (ii) His sense of loyalty made him turn his entire creativity to his principal's advantage: Film-making was quite easy with Subbu around
- (iii) He was literary inclined too-a poet and novelist. He was an amazing actor.
- (iv) He had a charitable and loving nature.

4. Why was the legal adviser referred to as the opposite by others?

Answer: The lawyer was in the Story Department. He was officially known as the legal adviser. However, his actions did nobody any good. He had unwittingly brought to an end the career of a promising young actress. Hence he was referred to as the opposite by others.

5. What made the lawyer stand out from the others at Gemini Studios?

Answer: The lawyer's dress that he wore made him stand out from the others. He wore a

pant, a tie and sometimes a coat also. Others put on a khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt, which looked like everyone's uniform.

Page No: 64

1. Did the people at Gemini Studios have any particular political affiliations?

Answer: Most of the people at Gemini Studios were followers of Gandhiji and wore khadi. Beyond khadi and wearing of khadi they did not have any particular political affiliations. However, they were all against communism.

2. Why was the Moral Rearmament Army welcomed at the Studios?

Answer: The Moral Rearmament Army was a kind of counter movement to international communism.

The Big Bosses of Madras like Mr. Vasan simply played into their hands. So the Moral Rearmament Army was welcomed at the Gemini Studios.

3. Name one example to show that Gemini Studios was influenced by the plays staged by MRA.

Answer: The plays staged by the MRA greatly influenced Madras and Tamil drama community. For some years almost all Tamil plays had a scene of sunrise and sunset in the manner of 'Jotham Valley' with a bare stage, a white background curtain and a tune played on the flute.

4. Who was the Boss of Gemini Studios?

Answer: Mr. S.S Vasan was the Boss of Gemini Studios.

5. What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios?

Answer: Most of the 600 odd people at Gemini Studios were Tamil speakers. The Englishman was addressing them in his own language-English. He had a peculiar accent. Hence, there was a lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at who could not follow what he was saying.

6. Why is the Englishman's visit referred to as unexplained mystery?

Answer: The Englishman's visit to the Gemini Studios is referred to as an unexplained mystery because no one could decipher his identity, whether he was a poet or an editor.

Besides, when he spoke no one at the studio understood what he intended to say as his accent was beyond their comprehension.

Page No: 65

1. Who was the English visitor to the studios?

Answer: The English visitor to the Gemini Studios was Stephen Spender. He was the editor of The Encounter, a British Periodical, and a famous English poet, essayist and novelist of the twentieth century.

2. How did the author discover who the English visitor to the studios was?

Answer: Before investing money in participating in a short story contest organised by an English periodical The Encounter, the author did a research on the magazine. He went to the British Council Library where, while going through an issue of that periodical, he discovered that its editor was Stephen Spender, the poet that had once visited the studio.

3. What does 'The God that Failed' refer to?

Answer: 'The God That Failed' was a compilation of six essays written by six eminent writers, namely, Andre Gide, Richard Wright, Ignazio Silone, Arthur Koestler, Louis Fischer and Stephen Spender. In each of the essays, the respective writers described "their journeys into Communism and their disillusioned return".

Page No: 66 Understanding the Text

1. The author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles. Pick out instances of this to show how this serves to make the piece interesting.

Answer: The instances of humour, used by the author, mark the eccentricities and idiosyncrasies without making any direct and rude comment on anybody. For instance, the author portrays the make-up artists and the usage of the pancakes in an interesting way. Even the caricature of Subbu is hilarious. The way he tries to help his principal by offering quick solutions to his problems is quite amusing. The episode of the legal adviser that inadvertently causes the end of an actress's career is yet another example. The frustration of the office boy, the superficial praising of Gandhi, hatred of Communism and the 'mystery' surrounding Stephen Spender are some of the instances where the author has incorporated gentle humour.

2. Why was Kothamangalam Subbu considered No. 2 in Gemini Studios?

Answer: Kothamangalam Subbu succeeded in securing the place closest to The Boss by means of flattery. He was not brilliant but a rather cheerful person and exceedingly loyal to The Boss. He offered solutions whenever The Boss was in a fix. Thus, the other employees considered him No.2 in Gemini Studios.

3. How does the author describe the incongruity of an English poet addressing the audience at Gemini Studios?

Answer: The English poet was addressing the Tamil audience at Gemini Studios in English with a typical provincial accent. He was talking about the thrills and travails of an English poet to a dazed and silent audience. This was the incongruity because his audience could not understand him at all.

4. What do you understand about the author's literary inclinations from the account?

Answer: The writer was a prose-writer. He wanted to send a short story for the short story contest organized by a British periodical by the name 'The Encounter'.

Talking about the Text

Discuss in small groups taking off from points in the text.

1. Film-production today has come a long way from the early days of the Gemini Studios.

2. Poetry and films.

3. Humour and criticism.

Answer: 1. Film production is more technical nowadays. While earlier only five per cent of the shooting was done outdoors, nowadays outdoor shooting is no more limited to such a negligible percentage. The cameras and other equipments are more advanced allowing for more varied and accurate presentation.

The quality of make-up has improved many folds from the days of the Gemini Studios where only pancake was used. The people involved in various departments are experts in their specialized work, be it the director, producer, scriptwriter, lyricist or the actors. The overall quality of the films is more striking and lively.

2. In India poetry and films are intricately linked. The people at Gemini Studios, all claimed to have the talents of a poet. The main reason behind it was their monotonous and leisurely

life at the studios. However, these people were not knowledgeable or educated enough to be poets. Unlike poetry, films can be enjoyed by people with little resources who cannot afford to cultivate taste for poetry and literature.

3. The story is interspersed with instances dipped in subtle humour. The humorous instances, however, make interesting and relevant comments on the behavior of general people. A humorous story has more readers, a humorous film more viewers. This is because they provide entertainment and a respite from the tedious existence. Criticism by means of humour is more effective, hence writers and film-makers often use humorous elements in their works and make sarcastic comments and criticism.

CBSE Class 12 English Core
NCERT Solutions
Chapter 6
On the Face of It

Page No: 56 Read and Find Out

1. Who is Mr. Lamb? How does Derry get into his garden?

Answer : Mr Lamb is an old man with a tin leg. His real leg was blown off years ago during the war. He lives all alone in his house. There is a garden near the house. It has ripe crab apples looking orange and golden in colour. Mr Lamb is sitting in his garden when Derry climbs over the garden wall to get into his garden. Though the gate is open, the boy does not use it.

Page No: 62

1. Do you think all this will change Derry's attitude towards Mr. Lamb?

Answer : Yes, all this will change Derry's attitude towards Mr.lamb.Derry's burnt face made him the center of ridicule. Although people sympathized with him, it was never a heartfelt one. This resulted in his pessimistic approach towards life. He thought that everyone detested and despised him. On the contrary, Mr. Lamb did not show any pity towards him. He considered Derry to be his equal and welcomed him in his garden.Mr.lamb had a tin leg and Derry had a burnt face.So Mr.Lamb could empathise. He helped the boy to love and live life happily without any contempt for his own self. Derry had initially considered the old man to be like others, but he gradually started respecting and liking him for what he said.

Page No: 69 Reading with Insight

1. What is it that draws Derry towards Mr. Lamb in spite of himself?

Answer : Derry finds Mr. Lamb different from others. Mr. Lamb shows no shock or fear on seeing Derry's burned face. Rather he talks to him in a loving manner. He welcomes him to his garden. He offers to pluck apples and make jelly for him. He calls him his friend. He says that things look outwardly different, but inwardly they are all the same. He gives the example of flowers, trees, herbs and weeds. They look different, but they are all growing

living things. Similarly, people can have different looks, but inwardly they are all the same. Derry says that he hates some people. When Mr. Lamb hears this, he says that it can do him more harm than any bottle of acid. Acid burns only the face, but hatred burns one's inside -- the soul. He tells Derry never to think of his burned face. He has two arms, two legs, eyes ears, tongue and a brain. And if he has a firm mind, he can do better than others. It is by such words of encouragement that Mr. Lamb draws Derry to himself.

2. In which section of the play does Mr. Lamb display signs of loneliness and disappointment? What are the ways in which Mr. Lamb tries to overcome these feelings?

Answer : Although the loneliness of Derry dominates the play, there are evident traces of Mr. Lamb's loneliness throughout the first scene of the play. The old man says that having heard the bees for a "long time" he knows that they "sing", not buzz. It not only depicts how his perception was different from others but also illustrates that he was lonely .He did not have any one to be with him.

Another evidence of his loneliness is the fact that the whole day he sat in the sun and read books. This proves that books were his only true friends. He says that his "empty house" is full of books .This shows that the void of his empty life was filled in by books.

By the end of this scene, it becomes even clearer that he is lonely and sad when he mutters to himself that no one comes back to him after the first meeting. Likewise, he does not expect Derry to return. He was so sure that Derry would never return that he climbed the ladder to collect all the apples himself. However, Derry had offered to help him after informing his mother, but the old man was not sure of his return. Ironically, he would have died unnoticed if Derry had not returned to fill the emptiness of his own life.

3. The actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities. What is the kind of behaviour that the person expects from others?

Answer : A person with any physical impairment can live life with respect and honour, if he is not ridiculed and punished with heartless pity. He expects empathy rather than sympathy. If everyone looks down at him with a pessimistic approach, he may never be able to come out of his sorrow, and consequently, would recline to his own secluded world. He is already in tremendous mental and emotional pressure. So, he expects others to be understanding rather than remind him of his disability.

In the play, Derry and Mr. Lamb, both are caught in a similar situation. Mr. Lamb, as an adult, is able to cope with such problems, but Derry, being a child, is not able to untangle this web alone. He develops a strong liking for this old man because he spoke the words to a person who was suffering from the same ignominy. The old man thought the boy would wish to hear him.

4. Will Derry get back to his old seclusion or will Mr. Lamb's brief association effect a change in the kind of life he will lead in the future?

Answer : No, Derry will not get back to his seclusion. The brief association of Derry with Mr. Lamb boosted his self-confidence and helped him to respect his own self. The manner in which the old man made Derry realize the importance of his being self-dependent, of respecting himself and of holding on to hope helped Derry undergo a remarkable change. The new found self-esteem makes him tell his mother that his looks are not important. He starts believing in his strengths rather than his appearance.

It is not likely that the death of Mr. Lamb would take him back to his secluded life. This big change in him is definitely there to stay and would not be undone due to setbacks.

CBSE Class 12 English Core
NCERT Solutions
Poem 3
Keeping Quiet

Page No: 95 Before you Read

1. What does the title of the poem suggest to you? What do you think the poem is about?

Answer: The title of the poem suggests the importance of silence.

The poem shows the poet's concern about self-examination and introspection. It is also an appeal to universal harmony advocating tolerance and selflessness. It refers to Nature that never fails to exist and is a testimony to forbearance.

Page No: 96 Think it Out

1. What will counting up to twelve and keeping still help us achieve?

Answer: Counting up to twelve takes very short time. Keeping still for this brief interval of time gives us a momentary pause to introspect and review the course of action. It is generally observed that most of the ills and troubles of the world are caused by our rush or hurry. The rush refers to competition that leads to all kinds of intolerance. Intolerance gives birth to anger and violence. Keeping quiet and still will give us necessary respite from this rush and ensure peace.

2. Do you think the poet advocates total inactivity and death?

Answer: No, he does not advocate either total inactivity or death. He makes it quite clear that 'stillness' should not be confused with 'total inactivity' or equated to it. Total inactivity brings death. But Neruda does not wish to get associated with death. His stillness means halting of harmful and hostile human activities.

3. What is the 'sadness' that the poet refers to in the poem?

Answer: The poet refers to the 'sadness' of failing to understand oneself in the monotonous every day existence. He also finds it sad that the humanity is moving towards its own ruin owing to its unanalyzed actions. He regrets the rush of outdoing others that has made us forget the values of humanity.

4. What symbol from Nature does the poet invoke to say that there can be life under apparent stillness?

Answer: The poet uses the symbol of the earth to illustrate the point that there can be life under apparent stillness. The earth refers to Nature. Nature never ceases to exist, but is still and quiet, tolerating everything. The earth seems silent, yet nurtures so much life in it.

CBSE Class 12 English Core
NCERT Solutions
Poem 4
A Thing of Beauty

Page No: 98 Before you Read

1. What pleasure does a beautiful thing give us? Are beautiful things worth treasuring?

Answer: The world is filled with negative elements which make our life dull, sad, depressing and bereft of hope. In such moments, a beautiful thing gives us everlasting joy and helps us forget our sorrows.

Yes, a beautiful thing is worth treasuring because even its memory soothes our nerves and inspires us to overcome the challenges of life.

Page No: 99 Think it Out

1. List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem.

Answer: The things of beauty are the sun, the moon, old and new trees, daffodils, clear rills, musk roses that bloom among the thick forest ferns.

2. List the things that cause suffering and pain.

Answer: The things that cause suffering and pain are dark phases of our life, adverse circumstances, gloomy days, death of noble people and bad health.

3. What does the line, 'Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth' suggest to you?

Answer: This line suggests that things of beauty bind us to the earth with a beautiful connection. We should maintain this friendship- band without harming Nature. According to the poet, even if the world is not worth living because of the innumerable reasons that ultimately result in gloom and depression, the zeal to live a happy and contented life can be derived from the sight of the beautiful bounties of Nature around us.

4. What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?

Answer: Human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings because of the existence of several natural and beautiful things around them. These things of beauty never fade. They

give joy and optimism to human mind, and thus, help in overcoming or bearing the troubles and sufferings. Beautiful things in one form or the other facilitate a life full of radiance and propel us to forget the negative sides of life.

5. Why is 'grandeur' associated with the 'mighty dead'?

Answer: The 'grandeur' here refers to the beauty of the noble deeds. The "mighty dead" are the warriors who have sacrificed their lives for some noble cause. They have left behind the beautiful legacy of their brave acts. Their selfless sacrifice for their nation and deeds for the welfare of mankind still continue to inspire us.

6. Do we experience things of beauty only for short moments or do they make a lasting impression on us?

Answer: The poet believes that when we look at a beautiful thing or experience a moment of joy and happiness, even for a short time, the pleasure remains with us forever. It leaves a lasting impression that inspires us to live life with hope and optimism.

7. What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?

Answer: The poet uses the image of 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth. The earth, like a fountain, pours unto us numerous beautiful things like the sun, the moon, flowers, rivers and greenery. We are fortunate to enjoy all these beautiful things like the nectar, the immortal drink to quench our thirst for seeking pleasure and live a beautiful life without any grudge.

ENGLISH WRITING SKILLS (CLASS XII)

A. LETTER TO EDITOR

Question 1:

DETERIORATING LIVING STANDARD

Write a letter to the Editor of a magazine Expressions, New Delhi on the deterioration in the standard of living in your city. Give suggestions for improvement. Sign yourself as PMR.

Answer:

15A Model Town

Delhi

April 5, 20XX

The Editor

Expressions

Kasturba Gandhi Marg

New Delhi-110001

Sir

Sub: Deteriorating standard of living in the capital city.

Through the columns of your reputed magazine, I wish to express my views on the deteriorating standard of living in the capital city of Delhi.

What does the standard of living actually mean? Does it mean possessing expensive goods of comfort and beauty, living in posh bungalows or, the overall decent and peaceful living conditions including health and hygiene, pollution-free environment, and above all, a value-based society.

Considering all these, the living conditions in Delhi are really appalling. Dumps of garbage, heavy traffic congestion on the roads, growing atmospheric pollution, high levels of noise pollution, overcrowding at public places, etc., throw ample light on the deterioration in the people's standard of living. Our lungs are hungry for fresh air and green belts.

The large number of immigrants, from other states to Delhi, put tremendous pressure on the resources of the city. The housing problem is growing rapidly with lack of civic amenities. The life is so busy that there is little interaction among neighbours. Hurry and worry is what best describes the life in the capital city. With growing consumerism and rising prices, the disparity between rich and poor is increasing day by day. Something judicious needs to be done to remedy this situation. More green belts and 'silence zones' should be created. The unrestricted inflow of people to Delhi should also be checked. Only then the standard of living can be improved.

Yours truly

PMR

Question 2:

WATER-SCARCITY

Write a letter to the Editor of National Herald, New Delhi about water scarcity in your locality suggesting ways to improve the position of water supply. You are Ramnath/ Reema of Ghaziabad.

Answer:

A-24, Kavi Nagar

Ghaziabad

April 2, 20XX

The Editor

National Herald

New Delhi-110001

Sir

Sub: Water crisis in Kavi Nagar

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw the attention of the concerned authorities towards the problem of water scarcity in our locality.

It is still early summer and the residents are already facing acute water shortage in the area. The supply is cut off at 8.30 a.m. in the morning and is restored only for half an hour in the evening between 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Since the timings are erratic, many people, especially, the working couples are unable to store water. Frequent complaints to the Jal Board haven't yielded any result as the authorities express their helplessness saying that one of the tanks of the Hyderpur Water Treatment Plant is under repair and has been shut down for a month or so thereby affecting the water supply in the area. But it is nearly one and a half months since the problem began, yet there is no respite to the residents.

The Jal Board should, in the meantime, make provisions for water tankers at different horns of the day. Also, measures must be taken to expedite the repair work.

Yours truly

Ramnath /Reema

Question 3:

ILLICIT LIQUOR AND ANTHRAX

You are Hemant/Himakshi. Write a letter to the Editor of The Herald, New Delhi expressing your anguish over the problems faced by people due to illicit liquor and the deadly chemicals like anthrax.

Answer:

Examination Hall
New Delhi-110058
5th April, 20XX
The Editor
The Herald
New Delhi-110002

Sir

Sub: Terror caused by illicit liquor and anthrax

The recent deaths due to the consumption of illicit liquor and the fear generated in the minds of people on account of anthrax is a matter of great concern.

We often hear or read about people dying due to the consumption of illicit liquor, but never come to know about the follow up action or the punishment given to the guilty. What a tragedy! Families get ruined, children orphaned but the illegal trade continues unabated. Why is our government so apathetic towards this social curse or maybe, keeps the eyes closed deliberately because the custodians of law have their palms greased through these means only.

However, we, the awakened citizens, must raise our voice against this evil. We must try to educate not only the children but adults also. Responsibility can also be given to the Gram Panchayats and the best village or Panchayat should be awarded if they are able to eradicate this menace from their villages.

Another problem, I need to address is the problem of global terrorism. The people have yet to recover from the trauma of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers when they are confronted with a still more dangerous and threatening problem—the problem of bio terrorism. Prominent personalities in different countries are being targeted through the deadly bio-chemical like anthrax sent in letters. Is man degenerated to such an extent that he can kill another human being using such means? The US government has taken strong steps to check this deadly act. However, if the guilt is proved on anybody, the person(s) must be given exemplary punishment to eliminate this heinous crime completely. I am sure that the contents shared here express the views of many. In the hope that sanity may prevail among people some day.

Yours truly,

Hemant

Question 4:

FEAR OF TERRORISM

Write a letter to the Editor of The Hindu on the fear that is spreading among people due to their anxiety over the widespread terrorism in the world. Give suggestions to curb such anti-social activities. You are Vikram/Varsha.

Answer:

Examination Hall
Delhi-110065 3
March, 20XX
The Editor
The Hindu
New Delhi-110002
Sir

Sub: Widespread fear of terrorism

Through this letter of mine, I wish to express my concern over the widespread fear caused in the minds of people because of growing terrorist activities all over the world.

Terrorism as a method to achieve political aims has become a worldwide phenomenon.

However, the shameful and hideous terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in the USA has given terrorism a new dimension. The daring assault on the dignity and prestige of one of the largest democracies of the world has shattered the faith of people completely. What is worse, it has left religious fanaticism behind as its offspring. The widespread communal riots as a fallout of these terrorist activities in India has instilled a great fear in the minds of common people. As it is, in the cross fire of political game, it is always the common man who suffers the most.

Stringent methods must be taken to restore peace and harmony in the country. One must keep the interests of the nation above the interests of the community or the individual. Sanity must prevail at all costs.

Yours truly
Vikram

Question 5:

STRAY ANIMALS

You have noticed many stray animals on the road during the busy hours of the day. These animals have caused traffic jam as well as accidents. You have already written to the concerned authorities but no action has been taken so far. So write a letter to the Editor of a leading newspaper telling him about the nuisance created by the stray animals. Sign your name as PreetiIKrishnan, C/5, Assam.

Answer:

Preeti

C/5, Assam

15 March, 20XX

The Editor

The Indian Express

Guwahati

Sir

Sub: Nuisance created by the stray animals

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw the attention of the concerned authorities of the Municipal Corporation regarding the plight of the residents of Bow Bazaar.

While going to school at 8.50 a.m, I notice many stray animals wandering here and there on the busy market roads. The position is almost the same a repeat performance in the afternoon.

Sometimes these animals cross the roads in a long unending array, thus causing traffic blocks as well as accidents. These animals create a health hazard too by urinating everywhere. Huge heaps of dung are lying here and there. Flies hover over them and insects breed inside them.

We have already written to the concerned authorities but no action has been taken so far. The authorities are requested to depute officials to catch these stray animals and send them to the police pen. If unclaimed, these might be auctioned. It is hoped that an early action will be taken by the concerned authorities.

Yours truly

Preeti

B. LETTER FOR PLACING AN ORDER

Question 6:

You are Mohan Singh, Librarian of DPS School, Mumbai. Write a letter for placing an order to the Manager Bhavan Book Sellers, Mumbai for supply of books for the school library.

Answer:

The Librarian
DPS School
Mumbai

The Manager
Bhavan Booksellers
Mumbai
23 Feb 2015

Dear Sir,

Subject : Supply of books for the school library

We are pleased to inform you that our management has decided to place an order with you. We would like to place a bulk order to you for the supply of books to our school library. We would like to have at least a 20% discount on the purchase of the books apart from the additional 5% discount granted to institutional buyers.

The following is the list of books with their particulars attached.

List of Books

S. No	Name of the books	Authors/Publisher's name	No of copies
1	History of India	L Prasad	20
2	Modern Trigonometry	Bansilal	30
3	Modern Algebra	S K Sen	25
4	The New Atlas of the World	Frank Bros	30
5	Wonder that was India	Bhasham	15
6	India Wins Freedom	M A Q Azad	10

We understand that the shipping of the above books will be free, as mentioned on your website. We want the above books to reach us in proper shape and order not later than 15 March 2015, if our terms and conditions are acceptable to you.

Yours sincerely
Signature
Mohan Singh
Librarian

Question 7:

Write a letter to the Sales Manager, MMS Books, Ashok Vihar, Delhi, placing order for five titles of books that you need for educational purpose. You are Sanjeev/Sanjana, 12/CA, Model Town, Kurukshetra.

Answer:

MMS Books
Ashok Vihar
12/CA, Model Town
Kurukshetra, Punjab – 0112

December 2017

Delhi – 88

Subject – Placing Order

Sir/Madam

Thank you for your prompt reply to our previous letter of inquiry dated 20 November 2017 with reference number 56B/2017. A panel of our firm has studied your brochure and price list and feels satisfied to place an order for the same. The following chart describes the products we intend to buy along with the author, quantity, etc.

Title	Author	Quantity	Year
Modern Eco	Dr. Singh	35	2015
Business 2016	Mathew MN	40	2016
Mental Disorders	Dr. Yashank B	55	2013
Ageing in 30s	Ruchir Dua	66	2015

Kindly be reminded that each of the title carries 20% student discount and 5% winter sale discount. As per our earlier communication, we have requested to send only books without binding. Also, make sure that every single book is devoid of any kind of printing-binding-packing defect. The total amount of \$ 1200 will be paid at the time of delivery.

Yours truly
Sanjana

C. COMPLAINT LETTER

Question 8:

You are Apoorva/Arpit. You bought a refrigerator from Ganesh Electronics and electricals, Gandhi Marg, Nagpur. It does not function properly. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of the shop, complaining about the defect and asking for immediate replacement or repair, as necessary.

Answer:

33, Stadium Road
Nagpur
16th September ,2008

The Sales Manager
Ganesh Electronics and Electricals
Gandhi Marg
Nagpur

Sir,

Sub : Complaint about Defective Refrigerator Purchased from You
Ref : Bill No. 234 dated 7th August 2008

On 7-08-08, I purchased a Godrej refrigerator, Model No. 435, vide Receipt No. 234 from your showroom, paying Rs.15,000.

Unfortunately, the refrigerator does not function properly now. It does not cool properly and sidewalls of it get heated a lot. The freezing compartment of the refrigerator stops suddenly. It produces noise with vibrations.

To resolve the problem I would appreciate if you get the refrigerator checked properly by a qualified technician. Since, it is under warranty period, I request you to kindly send someone to replace it as it seems to have some manufacturing problem.

I look forward to your reply and a resolution to my problem, and will wait until a week before seeking help from the Consumer Protection. Please contact me at the above address or by phone at 0402667546 between 4.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Yours sincerely,
Arpit

Enclosures cc: Receipt of purchase and warranty card

Question 9:

You are Reno \ Reena of 25, Akbar Road, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Police commissioner (traffic) about inadequate parking facility in the Connaught Palace area of New Delhi.

Answer:

25 Akbar Colony
New Delhi

9th September 2008

The Police commissioner
Parliament Street
New Delhi

Sub: Inadequate parking facility in Connaught place area - reg-

Sir.

May I have the honor to draw your kind attention towards inadequate parking facilities in the Connaught place area? You know that it is a busy area round the clock. People come here from far and near for trading and sight seeing. The N. D. M. C. Park, Jantar Mantar and the Palika bazaar add its charm. Often one can see foreigners trading here in large groups. They hire vehicles. The provide traders and other persons find it difficult to park their cars. There is little space for parking near the Palik Bazaar which is quit insufficient. Even the pedestrians find it difficult to cross the road. The D. T. C. buses and the Red Lines remain on the move. It is highly imperative on your part to provide more parking spots. I hope you will pay attention to it and help the general public.

Thank you

Yours truly,
Reena
[REENA

Question 10:

You read in a newspaper the article ‘An Old Couple Murdered in Delhi. You decide to write a letter to the Commissioner of police complaining against the rising rate of crime against the old and helpless. People. Write the letter giving suggestions for the security of the older people. You are Arun of d-9 \ 9, Phase-I, Ashok Vihar.

Answer:

D 9\ 9 Phase-I
Ashok Vihar
Delhi

12th September 2012

The Commissioner of Police
Delhi police
Police head quarters
New Delhi 110002

Sub: Crime Against the Aged – reg-

Sir,

I wish to lodge a serious complaint with against the rising crime and violence against the aged. Every few days, we hear a murder of or robbing of the old. There have been some cases even of the rape of old woman living alone.

I feel your department can do a lot to make the aged feel secure in their homes. Beat constables should be given instructions to visit the old, helpless and if aged single people from time to time. There can be a special phone number at every police station for the use of the aged. The police officers and constables should be given special training to be sensitive to the needs of the aged.

I hope the police department will take some effective measures to prevent crimes against the aged.

Thank you
Yours truly,
Arun
[ARUN]

D. LETTER FOR JOB APPLICATION

Question 11:

You are Maitri/Mitra, living at 43, Vilaspuri, New Delhi. You have recently completed your +2 and have two months holidays. You have found the following advertisement in 'The Hindu'. Write a letter in response to it.

A new biscuit factory requires sales boys/girls to work at New Delhi. Applicants should be young, smart and active. Must be fluent in Hindi and English. Apply Within 7days to Manager, Taste well Confectionaries, New Delhi-13.

Answer:

Mitra

43, Vilaspuri
New Delhi
3rd March 2010
The Manager
Taste well Confectionaries
New Delhi-13
Sir,

Subject : Application for the post of a Sales Boy reg.,

Ref : With reference to the advertisement given in The Hindu dated 1-03-2010

I, Mitra, aged 17 wish to tender my application for the above said post. I have recently appeared for CBSE Class XII exams. I have two months holidays and I wish to use these holidays in a fruitful way. I believe in being financially independent, hence, the need for this job.

Although I do not have long experience, I am hard working and take the work with great sense of responsibility.

I am a computer literate and have a good knowledge of word processing. I can work on MS Office besides handling emails and surfing internet. I am prepared to travel any part of the country and find pleasure in meeting people. I know the art of dealing the people and can speak Telugu, Marathi, Hindi and English.

I am in excellent health which I believe is essential for a sales boy.

I am confident that you will find me a competent person for the Sales Boy post.

I would be happy to hear from you. Kindly find my bio-data enclosed. I would be glad to furnish any other details required.

Yours sincerely,

Mitra

Encl: Bio-Data

Akil,
4, Pycrafts Road,
Chennai.

3rd March 2010
New India Assurance Company,
Mumbai.

Sir,

Sub:- Application for the post of Manager.

With reference to your advertisement in “The Times of India” dated 1st March 2010 inviting applications for the post of Manager AWARENESS CAMPAIGN I would like to offer myself for the post and submit my application for your valuable consideration.

I shall be available for a personal interview at your convenience. If you provide me with an opportunity I shall prove worthy of selection. I am a young and energetic graduate, looking for a challenging career in a reputed institute like yours.

My detailed curriculum vitae has been enclosed for your reference.

Yours Faithfully,

Akil

Encl: resume

E. ARTICLES

Q1. 'Grow more trees to reduce pollution.' Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic given above for your school magazine.

Answer:

Grow More Trees to Reduce Pollution

Radhika

“Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky.”

Trees and plants are one of the main reasons why mankind came into existence. The importance of planting trees has been emphasized time and again. This is because of the numerous benefits they offer.

They make the world a better place to live in. They exhale oxygen and inhale carbon dioxide to maintain the **ecological balance in the environment**. They also absorb all the harmful gases and give us fresh air to breathe.

Trees build a sheet to protect us from the harmful ultraviolet rays. Not only this, they serve as a habitat for birds and various species of animals. This is not it. Trees help in controlling **water pollution and preventing soil erosion**.

The places inhabited by large numbers of trees are quite cooler compared to the concrete jungles that cannot do without air conditioners. Unfortunately, urbanisation is leading to clearing of forests and parks despite the numerous benefits they offer. People come here for morning walks, evening strolls, yoga sessions and laughter therapy. These also serve as a safe place for the kids to play and socialise. The only way left to preserve them and reap these benefits is by growing them at a faster rate.

As a Chinese proverb states, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” So do your bit and make this place more beautiful.

Thank you.

Q2. India is a land of diversity. One way in which it makes us feel proud of it is the number of festivals we enjoy. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'Festivals of India'. You are Karuna/Karan. 10 (SOURCE- CBSE 2016)

Answer:

FESTIVALS OF INDIA

- Karan/ Karuna

It is said that "Greatness of a culture can be found in its festivals". India has proved every word of the saying right by being famously known as the "Land of Festivals" .

True to this belief, India has scores and scores of festivals that bring happiness and joy all across the country.

This is because of the diverse cultures that exist in this subcontinent. All these different cultures and religions get tied together in bonds of love with these invisible threads of celebrations.

Every festival has a social, religious and mythological value. Accordingly, Dussehra has a great significance. Similarly, the Janmashtami festival has also a great religious and social significance. This is the occasion when Lord Krishna was born to kill Kansa and other demons and save the people from a great danger. This festival also teaches us how to fight evil and falsehood and establish truth.

On these festivals, people offer prayers to their deities, wear ethnic clothes and make merry with their near and dear ones. Ganesh Chaturthi, Eid Ul Fitr, Baisakhi, Onam, Pongal, Gurupurab, Ram Navami and Durga Puja are some of the festivals that are celebrated with immense zeal in different parts of India with some of these being specific to a particular region.

No wonder, our country is called a land of festivals.

Thank you.

Q3. Our performance in the Rio Olympics has told us that we do not pay enough attention to athletics and outdoor games. It is time we revised our attitude. Sports should be an important part of school's daily routine. Write an article in 150-200 words in 'Importance of Outdoor Games'. You are Sreeja/Thomas.

Answer:

IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOOR GAMES

- By Sreeja/ Thomas

Sports occupy a prominent place in the life of a nation. It not only helps keep you healthy and fit but also plays an important part as a recreational event. Unfortunately, in our country, the trend is such that it focuses only on the academic front. To grow a tree, we have to water it's roots; just like that, to prepare athletes that could play for the country, we need to inculcate the concept of sports at the primary level, i.e., the school level. What we are missing out is that sports play a vital role in imparting complete education.

Clearly, things did not go well in the Rio Olympics, and as everyone gets down to doing the post-mortem of our performances, often breathless, blame the quality of attention being given to athletics.

The benefits of playing sports are several, as it leads to balanced mental growth. It teaches the children life skills like team efforts, leadership, patience and social skills. It inculcates confidence, discipline and playing without crossing the rules.

Thus, it becomes all the more important to change the attitude of schools towards sports. It should be made a compulsory activity. It has been rightly said,

“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play, they learn how to learn.”

Thank you.

Q4. By 2050, India will be amongst the countries which will face acute water shortage. You are highly alarmed and terrified of the future world without water. So, write an article on “Save water- are we doing enough?” for the local daily in 150-200 words.

Answer:

SAVE WATER- ARE WE DOING ENOUGH?

Many people are living with less water than they need, whether in the world's most prosperous cities or in its bountiful agricultural heartlands.

Droughts have also become more frequent, more severe, and affecting more people around the world. As many as four billion people already live in regions that experience severe water stress for at least one month of the year. With populations rising, these stresses will only mount.

Water is the precious gift of God on earth. Life exists on the earth because of the availability of water. Itself being tasteless, odourless and colourless, it adds taste, colour and nice smell in the life of living beings on the Earth.

Here are different methods we can follow to save clean drinking water and deal with the water scarcity. Rain water harvesting is one of the most effective and suitable methods among save water techniques.

Deforestation is also a good method as it reduces the surface runoff and recharges the groundwater. It promotes underground water conservation. By practicing such methods we can conserve more water naturally and ensure the availability of it for future generations. We should take a pledge and make it a lifelong motto to preserve water because,

“If you conserve water, it means you conserve life.”

Thank you.

Q5. Recent floods in many metropolitan cities of the country during the monsoon season laid bare the hollowness of the claims of the civic authorities of their preparedness. The poor had to bear the brunt of the problem while no one was ever held accountable. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on the common man's woes during the monsoons and the need for accountability of the officials concerned. You are Sumit/Smita Verma.

Answer:

COMMON MAN'S WOES DURING MONSOON

-by Sumit/ Smita Verma

The much awaited Monsoon brings respite from the scorching heat. But Monsoon and madness walk together. Every year during the monsoons, chaos reigns supreme. The roads are flooded; the sewage system collapses; a huge loss of crops, fruits, life, and property is caused. Water logging and breeding of mosquitoes together becomes the reason for a lot of people falling ill. Network connectivity gets weak.

In spite of 71 years of independence, the Indian Government has not been able to tackle the flood problem caused by monsoons. Recent floods have laid bare the hollowness of the claims of the civic

authorities of their preparedness. The poor had to bear the brunt of the problem.

One of the causes behind this chaos is the lack of strict laws and accountability of the officials and the Ministries responsible for tackling the floods. The Government formulate and pass strict laws regarding the projects launched to relieve people of their distress but there is hardly a sign of effective implementation of the scheme. There needs to be strict accountability.

When the Ministers will be accountable, they will ensure the officers, officials involved in the projects surely create foolproof systems. It is only through strict accountability laws the system can be made efficient.

Thank you

Q6. Write an article on “Save water- are we doing enough?” for the local daily in 150-200 words.

Answer:

SAVE WATER- ARE WE DOING ENOUGH?

(By – XXX)

Many people are living with less water than they need, whether in the world's most prosperous cities or in its bountiful agricultural heartlands.

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