**GREENWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL, ADITYAPURAM**

**OUR MOTTO-DEVELOPMENT WITH DELIGHT**

**CLASS-VIII SUBJECT- ENGLISH**

**TERM-2 SYLLABUS**

**UNIT – 4**

**SECTION – 1**

**EMPERORS ON ICE**

**NEW WORDS:**

1. **Lieutenant**
2. **Instigated**
3. **Weirdest**
4. **Expedition**
5. **Explorers**
6. **Ornithological**
7. **Inaccessible**
8. **Rookery**
9. **Floes**
10. **Crevasses**

**WORD MEANINGS:**

* 1. **Slog – hard work**
  2. **Rookery – an area where Penguins mate, nest and raise their chicks.**
  3. **Instigated – encouraged**
  4. **Genesis – origin**
  5. **Ornithological – related to birds**
  6. **Floes – large, floating sheets of ice**
  7. **Cadaverous –very pale / thin**
  8. **Cloying-disgusting**

**FRAME SENTENCES :**

1. **Instigated –He evil nature instigated** him to kill his best friend.
2. **Expedition – They equipped themselves for the expedition.**
3. **Cloying – His acting was passionate , but never cloying or sentimental.**
4. **Misery – The family lived in misery for several years.**
5. **Cadaverous – He had a cadaverous face.**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:**

1. **What did the scientist want to establish after studying the eggs?**

**Ans: At that time it was thought that the emperor penguin was one of the planets most primitive birds and that analysis of its embryos would reveal links between all birds and their reptile predecessors. So obtaining the embryo of the emperor penguin was thought to be of extreme importance.**

1. **What additional benefits did they expect to achieve through this journey ?**

**Ans: The expedition would benefit them in other ways too. Firstly , it gave them the opportunity to try out different sledging rations under extreme field conditions, with varying quantities of fats etc, and secondly , Scott had requested that his meteorologist deliver predictions for the most likely weather conditions to be encountered on the Great Ice Barrier during his attempt on the pole. For this , they needed weather data from the Great Ice Barrier in winter. So the success of other polar expeditions depended on them.**

1. **What motivated Wilson to undertake this difficult journey ?**

**Ans: Wilson was the trip's zoologist who had dedicated his life to the study of Penguins . For Wilson , the chance to continue studying the breeding biology of the birds was an irresistible temptation and he risked this difficult journey.**

1. **What was the curators first reaction when he saw the eggs?**

**Ans: The curator of the American Museum of Natural History did not recognize the importance of the eggs. He dismissively asked Cherry – Garrard to take the eggs to an egg shop.**

**LONG ANSWER:**

1. **What , according to you , was the greatest challenge faced by the explorers ? Why do you think so ?**

**Ans: I think the journey from their base camp at Cape Evans to Cape Crozier was the most difficult part of their journey . They had to walk 120 KM’s in temperatures below – 60F with two sleds of food and equipment through thick , cloying snow in darkness.**

1. **Discuss the title of the piece.**

**Ans: The title ' Emperors on Ice' refers to the emperor penguins who live in the Antarctic polar region. This title also refers to the brave scientist who went to Antarctica. They are called emperors for having braved the extreme weather conditions to acquire the eggs.**

**SECTION – 2**

**FROM JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH**

**NEW WORDS:**

1. **Ardent**
2. **Imprudent**
3. **Treasures**
4. **Scattered**
5. **Tertiary**
6. **Umbrageous**
7. **Ruminating**
8. **Stupendous**
9. **Inextricable**
10. **Capacious.**

**WORD MEANINGS:**

1. **Ardent – enthusiastic**
2. **Imprudent –careless**
3. **Luminous – glowing**
4. **Inextricable – cannot be separated**
5. **Umbrageous – giving shade**
6. **Vapid – lifeless**
7. **Ruminating – thinking**
8. **Confounded – confused**

**FRAME SENTENCES :**

1. **Ardent – His father was an ardent socialist.**
2. **Luminous – My watch had a luminous dial So I could see it in the dark.**
3. **Confounded –His behavior confounded her.**
4. **Incredulity – The announcement has been met with incredulity.**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING :**

1. **The three men were talking von bones ; yet the scene is not gruesome . Why ?**

**Ans : The scene is not gruesome because the cavern had the appearance of a tropical country at midday in summer. The glowing fluid gave off a brightness and left no shadows on the landscape.**

1. **Describe the mastodons and their keeper.**

**Ans: The mastodons were gigantic elephants. They tore down the boughs and uprooted the trees easily with their huge tusks. They swallowed the whole mass of branches and leaves . Their keeper was a human giant , twelve feet tall , with head as big as a buffalo’s and a mane of matted hair. He held a branch of a tree and looked calm and still.**

1. **Why do you think was the dagger left behind ? Was it done on purpose ?**

**Ans: Yes , I think the dagger was left on purpose by someone who wants others to discover this world and find their way through it. A dagger would prove very useful in the journey.**

1. **What was the most important discovery in this story ? Why do you think so ?**

**Ans: I think the most important discovery in the story would be the existence of twelve – feet – tall men. It would question the theory of evolution and the origin of mankind.**

**LONG ANSWERS:**

1. **In the extract , it is perseverance that guides the men along the way. As a result , they gain knowledge. Justify.**

**Ans: The narrator is quite lost in the coast. All the rocks and landscape looked alike and they found it impossible to find their way out. A careful examination of the creek made him believe that they had reached their starting point but to their dismay his uncle pointed out that their previous footsteps could not be seen. They discovered the dagger then. Reason and perseverance led them to a dark tunnel where they found the initials**

**‘ A.S' carved on a granite slab.**

1. **The lesson you just read is a piece of fiction but it also has some scientific truths. What are these?**

**Ans: The vegetation of the Tertiary period comprising huge palms and palmacites is accurately depicted. The herd of mastodons described here lived in the Miocene era in the Quaternary period.**

**Section – 3**

**POEM – IMAGINATION**

**SUMMARY OF THE POEM:**

**In the poem ' imagination ' George Bernard Shaw , the poet reminisces his boyhood day when he would play different games acting as pirates or cowboys. He read adventurous books which helped him to forget daily burden. He recalls his fantasy could be translated in his exploring the poles and living with the Eskimos . Reading Jukes Verne's science fiction took him to the moon and Dr. Livingstone was his guide during his trip to Africa and then to America where he hides with Huckleberry Finn. Childhood fantasy and imagination gave him a chance to be the hero of all nations. After growing up his cherishes his world as a child. Though he has turned serious , he still likes the mysterious.**

**POEM – 1**

1. **Read the extract and answer the following questions:**

**Once I lived with the Eskimos**

**In the land of ice and snow**

**Went hunting and a fishing**

**My fantasy was all aglow.**

1. **Who is “I” in the above line ?**

**Ans: The poet as a little boy is I in the above line.**

1. **Why does the poet say “ my fantasy was all aglow ”**

**Ans: He feels as if he is living with them , as his mind sets his fantasy aglow.**

1. **Give the rhyming words from the Stanza.**

**Ans: snow – aglow.**

1. **I read a book of Jules Verne**

**And went off to the moon,**

**It was just to take a look**

**Then it was time to return.**

1. **Name the book that the poet reads.**

**Ans: Jules Verne**

1. **When did the poet go to the moon ?**

**Ans: The poet went to the moon after reading the book.**

1. **Did he stay there on the moon ?**

**Ans: No , he didn’t stay there on the moon**

1. **I spent time in the forest’s of Africa**

**With Dr Livingstone as my guide**

**Then off again to America**

**With Huckleberry Finn I did hide**

1. **Name the poet and the poem.**

**Ans: George Bernard Shaw is the poet and the poem is Imagination.**

1. **Who was his guide in the forest ?**

**Ans: Dr Livingstone**

1. **Which book he reads during his visit to America in his imagination ?**

**Ans:The adventures of Huckleberry Finn.**

**UNIT – 5**

**SECTION – 1**

**THE DIAMOND MAKER**

**NEW WORDS :**

1. **Parapet**
2. **Embankment**
3. **Sophisticated**
4. **Wretched**
5. **Corundum**
6. **Mineralogy**
7. **Crystallizes**
8. **Costermonger**
9. **Anarchist**
10. **Scoundrel**

**WORD MEANINGS:**

1. **Parapet – a railing along the edge of a bridge**
2. **Sophisticated – stylish, refined and complex looking**
3. **Pacific- peaceful , soothing**
4. **Wretched –worn out**
5. **Tramp – beggar**
6. **Flux – chemical mixture**
7. **Scoundrel – villain**
8. **Prying – secretly looking about**

**FRAME SENTENCES:**

1. **Wretched –He was wretched when he failed the examination.**
2. **Tramp – He planned to tramp the whole country.**
3. **Prying –she is always prying into other people’s affairs.**
4. **Anarchist – He was a social anarchist.**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:**

1. **Where did the narrator meet the mysterious man?**

**Ans: once after a hard day’s work , the narrator had a headache and wanted to get away from the noise of the city , so he went down to the Embankment near the Waterloo Bridge in Westminster. This is where he met the mysterious man.**

1. **Why is the narrator shocked when the man talks about throwing away name, wealth and position and doing a small business ?**

**Ans: The stranger seemed hopelessly poor. He was ragged and dirty , unshaven and unkempt ; he looked as though he had been left in a dust – bin for a week. And then he started talking of the worries of a large business. This shocked the narrator who did not expect such a poor man to talk thus.**

1. **How does the man prove that he was not lying about himself?**

**Ans: The man unbuttoned his tattered coat and pulled out a little canvas bag, untied it, opened it and took out a brown pebble that he claimed was a synthetic diamond. He then went onto explain the process of its creation.**

1. **Why did the man want to keep his diamond – making business a secret ?**

**Ans: It was against government policies and it could be very dangerous . Moreover , if somebody came to know of his plans , they could steal his idea and profit from it.**

1. **Why was the man unable to sell his diamonds?**

**Ans: For a poor man to convince someone that the diamonds were genuine was very tough . The fact that he had created them himself and without the permission of government would have made anyone suspicious.**

**LONG ANSWERS :**

1. **What would you have done if you were in the narrator' s place ?**

**Ans: Had I been in the narrator’s place, I think , I would have talked to a man knowledgeable about chemistry and the processes of diamond making . I would tell him what the man told me to verify the truth of his statements.**

1. **The story shows how it is always a bad idea to access others on stereotypes rather than actions. How does he bring this out ?**

**Ans: The narrator met a ragged , unshaven, hopelessly poor man on the bridge. His talk of diamonds and how he made them was unbelievable to the narrator because of his appearance . In the story we also see how the man’s neighbor had wrongfully accused him of being an anarchist for carrying out experiments in his house. His secretive nature made him a suspicious person in the eyes of society and he had to be on the run since then.**

**SECTION – 2**

**FEATHERED FRIEND**

**NEW WORDS :**

1. **Nordic**
2. **Skyscrapers**
3. **Explode**
4. **Smuggled**
5. **Ventilating**
6. **Convenient**
7. **Dietician**
8. **Apologetically**
9. **Inexplicable**
10. **Assistant**

**WORD MEANINGS:**

1. **Regulation –law**
2. **Forbid – disallow**
3. **Curious – unusual**
4. **Skilled – trained**

**FRAME SENTENCES:**

1. **Regulation – The bus driver violated the traffic regulation.**
2. **Forbid – I forbid you to go to swimming.**
3. **Skilled – The mayor is a skilled politician.**
4. **Curious – I’m curious to know what she said.**
5. **Quietly – He came into the room very quietly.**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION :**

1. **Why did Sven keep the bird a secret from his colleagues ?**

**Ans: Although there were no rules against pets, Sven did not want to part with his pet. So he tried to hide her.**

1. **How was the presence of the bird discovered ?**

**Ans: Claribel was discovered when the narrator was working at his cubbyhole and he heard a musical whistle . He thought it was a radio transmission but was surprised to find a yellow canary.**

**Long Answers:**

**1.Why did the crew want to hide the bird from the VIPs from Earth ? How did they deal with the issue?**

**Ans: Finding a canary at a space station would have been odd , so the crew decided to hide Claribel from the VIPs. There was no dearth of hiding places in the station and when Claribel became noisy , they made up excuses for the whistling sounds.**

**2.What was the alarm meant for? What had caused it’s failure ?**

**Ans: The alarm was meant to indicate the presence of any toxic gas in the air or a reduction in oxygen levels. Due to an eclipse part of the air purifier had frozen up. The alarm that had been working failed to go off and other alarm had not been connected yet.**

**Short ANSWERS:**

1. **Did Sven do the right thing by getting a bird into the spaceship ? Why do you think so ?**

**Ans:I think Sven did the right thing because a canary not only relieves the monotony of their life but also cautions them against toxic air.**

1. **Based on your reading , justify the title of the story.**

**Ans: The title refers to Claribel , the yellow canary , who saved the astronauts lives by bringing the gas leak to their attention. She truly was a friend.**

**SECTION – 3**

**THE CHOICE ( POEM)**

**SUMMARY OF THE POEM:**

**Sometimes in the second half of the 21st century , when the earth was almost destroyed , a spacecraft visits an abandoned city between two hills. In it are captain Starglyn and Suncon, the celestial geologist. They are studying the possible causes of the destruction of this city . Having studied a meteorite that broke away from the earth in 2048, Suncon has learnt that men on the earth had themselves caused their end . Even though men knew they were destroying the earth by polluting, cutting down forests and emitting dangerous gases , they didn’t stop such activities. They knew what was right and what was evil, but fools, they choose the evil way.**

**The poem is a warning for man . It warns us to take maximum care of the planet we survive rather than lived. Tall trees and super high ways don’t mean progress – tall trees and wide stretches of forest is progress. Man well knows that the earth is burning back to a carbon ball yet he is tackled. He ignores the warnings and goes in destroying the planet. It is time to realisethat we are not inhabiting this planet , we are slowly outhabiting it.**

**POEM – 2 (THE CHOICE)**

* 1. **READ THE EXTRACT AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

**They were landing and the great thrust**

**Pressed like magnetism on their bodies**

**The great ship hovered then slowly**

**Dropped on meadows grass.**

* 1. **Who were landing and where ?**

**Ans: Starglyn and Suncon were landing on a stretch of meadow grass.**

* 1. **What do you understand about the great ship ?**

**Ans: The great ship referred to here is the spacecraft by which Starglyn and Suncon travelled to scan and study the earth from another planet**

1. **Name the poem and the poet .**

**Ans: The poem is the “ The Choice ”**

**and the poet is “ Robert Morgan”**

* 1. **Starglyn , the captain , stared**

**At the green landscape.**

**Between two hills a deserted city,**

**Crumbling and overgrown , patterned**

**The Scanning Screen. The dials**

**On a Blue Screen indicated**

**No human life present.**

1. **How does the poet present the earth without human trace?**

**Ans: The poet presents a green planet without humans. Humans were the greatest threat against the ecological balance and with them gone, the balance returned and the landscape regained its vitality and charm.**

1. **What for were Starglyn and Suncon on a visit to the earth ?**

**Ans: Starglyn and Suncon were exploring the earth for crumbled cities and traces for life.**

1. **Why is the city said to be deserted ?**

**Ans: The city here had once been a flourishing one with wonderful skyscrapers and modern technology but the same pace of development led to its decay in the long run. People had to either migrate to other cities or they were all killed.**

* 1. **‘ what? ’ asked Starglyn**

**They were allowed to choose**

**Between good and evil..**

**‘ Fools ,’ muttered Starglyn.**

1. **What did the examination of the broken meteorite reveal?**

**Ans: The examination of the broken meteorite revealed that men on the earth had themselves caused their end.**

1. **Who were allowed to choose ? What were their choices ?**

**Ans: Men were allowed to choose and they knew what was right and what was wrong.**

1. **Why does Starglyn call the human fools ?**

**Ans: Starglyn calles the human fools because they choose the evil way.**

**UNIT – 6**

**SECTION – 1**

**THE RED HEADED LEAGUE**

**NEW WORDS :**

* 1. **Detective**
  2. **Accomplice**
  3. **Investigation**
  4. **Strange**
  5. **Excited**
  6. **Pleased**
  7. **Recognized**
  8. **Thieves**
  9. **Suspected**
  10. **Appearance**

**WORD MEANINGS:**

* **Imperil – to put in danger.**
* **Suspected – feel**
* **Recognized – acknowledge**
* **Strange –unfamiliar**
* **Accomplice – associate**

**FRAME SENTENCES :**

* 1. **Investigation – The investigation continued for nearly three years.**
  2. **Accompanied – She accompanied me to the doctors.**
  3. **Pleased -He did not look pleased .**
  4. **Recognised – When he turned round I recognisedhim immediately.**
  5. **Clever – It is obvious that she is very clever.**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:**

1. **How did Mr Wilson learn of the vacancy ? What are the qualifications needed to apply for the vacancy in the Red – Headed League ?**

**Ans: Vincent Spaulding, Mr Wilson's new assistant , brought the advertisement of the Red – Headed League to his notice . All red – headed men who were sound in body and mind and above the Age of twenty – one , were eligible.**

1. **What work was Mr. Wilson expected to do for the League ?**

**Ans: Mr. Wilson had to be in the office between ten in the morning band two in the afternoon each day , and not leave for any reason. While there , he had to copy the Encyclopaedia.**

1. **What did Mr Wilson find on the door of the office after eight weeks ?**

**Ans: After eight weeks , Mr Wilson found a notice that said , 'The Red – Headed League is finished on 21 June , 1890.**

1. **Why did Spaulding and Ross hire Mr Wilson to copy the Encyclopaedia ?**

**Ans: Spaulding and Ross hired Mr Wilson because they wanted him out of their way for a few hours every day which they spent digging a tunnel from his cellar to the bank.**

1. **Why did Wilson's job come to a sudden end?**

**Ans: Wilson's job came to a sudden end because Spaulding and his partner completed digging the tunnel and did not need Mr Wilson to be out of his office any longer.**

**LONG ANSWER :**

**1.Why had Mr.Jabez Wilson gone to see Holmes?**

**Ans: After working for the Red Headed League for eight weeks whom Mr.Wilson went to his ‘office’ that morning at ten O’clock , he found the door locked and saw a notice announcing that the League , had been dissolved .When he made enquiries at the building next door , he was told that a man named William Morris had rented that space for a month .No one had heard of Mr.Ross or the League. Moreover , the forwarding address for Mr.Morris was a vacant lot. Mr.Wilson found all this extremely strange and suspicious and so contacted Holmes.**

**SECTION – 2**

**MR TALLENT'S GHOST**

**NEW WORDS :**

1. **Elucidate**
2. **Marshalled**
3. **Exactitude**
4. **Abominable**
5. **Rapture**
6. **Devoutly**
7. **Asylum**
8. **Exhaustive**
9. **Endurance**
10. **Treatise**

**WORD MEANINGS:**

1. **Elucidate – make clear**
2. **Liable – likely**
3. **Marshalled – arranged**
4. **Rapture – delight**
5. **Wan – pale**
6. **Abominable – unpleasant**
7. **Devoutly – sincerely**

**FRAME SENTENCES :**

1. **Elucidate – The notes helped to elucidate the most difficult parts of the text.**
2. **Liable –You will be liable for any damage caused.**
3. **Rapture – The boys gazed up at him in rapture .**
4. **Pathos – The pathos of the situation brought tears to our eyes.**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

* 1. **Where and how did the narrator meet MrTallent ? What did he expect of the narrator ?**

**Ans: The narrator met Mr. Tallent in a small inn at the top of a mountain. It had been raining and he could find nothing to do. Upon entering the parlour , he found MrTallent reading a manuscript . MrTallent expected the narrator to draw up a will for him and be the trustee of the manuscripts.**

* 1. **What was the narrator 's impression of MrTallent 's writing and narration ?**

**Ans: The narrator thought that MrTallent's narration was slow, monotonous and expressionless . He compared it to a voice on the loudspeaker on a dull subject. His writing was equally boring . The characters , story and scenery was undramatic. He found the book flat, formless and predictable.**

* 1. **When was the second time that the narrator heard of MrTallent ?**

**Ans: The second time he heard of MrTallent was after ten years when he read about his death in the newspaper**

1. **Who was Johnson? What did the narrator expect of him ?**

**Ans: Mr. Tallent's relatives were angry with the narrator because they were in sore need of money. They did not want MrTallent’s money to be wasted on publishing manuscripts and thought it should be divided amongst them.**

**LONG ANSWERS:**

1. **There is a gradual build – up of suspense throughout this story. How does the writer do this ?**

**Ans: The events of the story are arranged in a climatic manner to heighten suspense. The recurrent appearance of MrTallent's ghost build up anticipation. The easy narrative style and the vivid use of imagery makes this an interesting read.**

1. **A plot twist is a major change in the expected outcome of the plot. It is used to keep the interest of an audience , usually surprising them with a revelation. Discuss the plot twist in this story.**

**Ans : The plot twist occurs at the very end of the story when the ghost of MrTallent is revealed to be MrTallent himself. His quest for data for his experiments is the reason for his unique behaviour.**

**SECTION – 3**

**HAUNTED HOUSES**

**SUMMARY OF THE POEM:**

**This is a captivating poem about the connection between the spirit world of ghost and the present world of the living.**

**Initially , I thought the narrator was a ghost, but now I am not so sure. I was also approaching this poem with the logical mind that says ‘ ghostaren't real so there must be a deeper meaning, but what exactly is that deeper meaning Longfellow trying to say? I thought the idea he was trying to convey was that those ghost who longer ,symbolise the lives of those who lived and their spirits remain with us for some reason, may be as reminders of the past . However, this is a poem about ghosts or spirits and the bridge of light that descends in order to connect world’s .so just where does this bridge of light “ descend from and what is the purpose ? could it simply be that we are to be aware of world beyond this one? Could it be an inducement to remember the past and those who lived before? I am not sure , but this poem keeps me thinking.**

**POEM – 3**

**HAUNTED HOUSE**

**Read the extract and answer the following question:**

* 1. **All houses wherein men have lived and died**

**Are haunted houses. Through the open doors**

**The harmless phantoms on their errands glide,**

**With feet that make no sound upon the floors.**

1. **Which type of houses does the poet describe in these lines?**

**Ans: Haunted Houses**

1. **What makes the house haunted ?**

**Ans: Men lived and died and became ghosts this made the house haunted.**

1. **Write the synonym of errand ?**

**Ans: assignment/ task.**

* 1. **Our little lives are kept in equipoise**

**By opposite attractions and desires;**

**The struggle of the instinct that enjoys**

**And the more noble instinct that aspires.**

1. **Whose lives are kept in equipoise?**

**Ans: Men's lives are kept in equipoise.**

1. **Write the antonym of equipoise?**

**Ans: imbalance**