

UNIT 5

PROSE

The Chair

- Ki. Rajanarayanan

Warm up

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a) How responsible and capable are you at home?

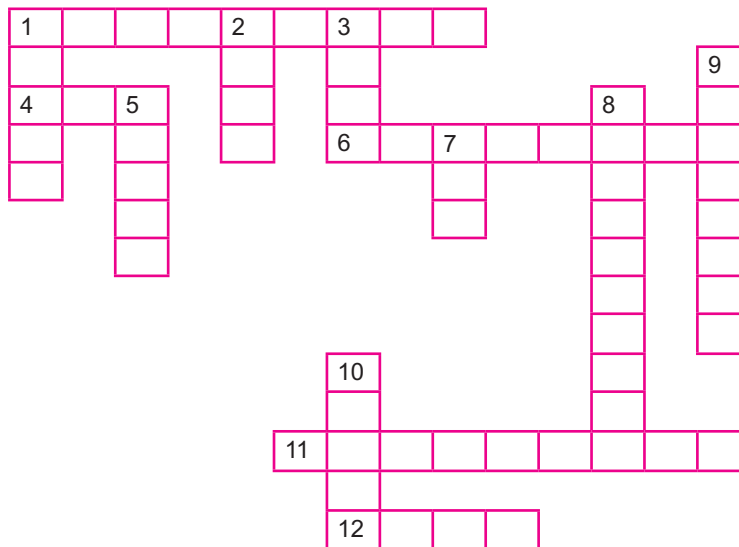
I am responsible and capable at home. I normally do not expect others to do my personal work. Moreover I help others in their work.

b) Can you iron your clothes and arrange them? Can you replace a tube light?

Yes, I can iron my own clothes and arrange them. I can replace a tube light.

We shouldn't live a life of entitlement. We must share a few responsibilities to keep our house clean and perfect.

Solve the clues given below and complete the cross word.



Answers	
Across	Down
1. Television	1. table
4. bed	2. vase
6. armchair	3. sofa
11. book self.	5. Desks
12 lamp	7. mat
	8. wardrobe
	9. mirror
	10. stool

Across	Down
1. You can watch programmes, matches and news on it.	1. You can sit around it.
4. You can lie on this and sleep.	2. You can put flowers in this.
6. You can sit on this and relax by yourself.	3. You can sit on this with two other people comfortably.
11. You can store all your books here.	5. You can do your writing work on this.
12. This can give you light when it is dark.	7. This can cover a small space and decorate the floor.

8. You can put all your clothes in here.
9. You can look into this to see yourself.
10. You can sit on this, it has 3 legs.

Summary

Rajanarayanan, popularly known as Ki. Ra is a Tamil folklorist and a prolific writer. His short story 'Naarkali' has been translated to English as 'The Chair'. In this short story he created a situation where people were not much aware of chair. The people used to squat on the floor comfortably. By the time one family wanted to have a chair for them.

In the family they had only a three footed stool. When the sub-judge visited them they had to offer only the three footed stool. He could not sit properly and he fell down with a bang. This made every one laugh. After the incident the family members decided to make a chair for the family. But they had neither a chair to take as a model nor a carpenter in the village. There was a carpenter in the neighbouring village. The carpenter was invited and he came to have a discussion about making a chair.

As the discussion was in progress their maternal uncle came to their house. He sat down on his usual place and the mother gave his favourite butter milk. He always enjoyed drinking the butter milk made from their milchcow. The cow had been given by the uncle to their mother. The young children of the family liked the cow and its calf. The uncle showed some interest in the debate about the chair. The uncle also wanted to have a chair for him. So it was decided to make two chairs in black wood.

When the chairs arrived one chair was sent to uncle's house. One by one the children took turn to sit on the chair. The aunt who lived with them wanted to have a cover over it. The news of the arrival of the chair spread around the village. People came in groups to see the chair.

After few days one night some people from neighbourhood came to their house and said that an important person died. They asked the chair to keep the dead body. Till then in the village, the dead bodies were kept only on the floor. After this incident children were afraid to sit on the chair. The chair was washed well. When a guest came he was asked to sit on the chair and he sat on it. That removed the fear from the children.

Then whenever someone died in the village the chair was taken out to keep the dead body. The family felt sad about it. The narrator was sent to his uncle's house. He enjoyed the way his uncle ate betel leaves. In his uncle's house only he could sit on the chair. He cleaned it well every day and kept it always neat. After conveying the message given by his mother to his uncle, the narrator came back home.

One night again the neighbours came to their house to get the chair for funeral. Pedanna told them that they had given the chair to his uncle. If they went there they would get the chair. After many days the narrator visited his uncle's house. He saw his uncle sitting on the floor. His uncle explained that he kept the chair for the purpose of the funeral. The narrator hurried home to convey the news to his family members. But he was not sure whether to take it positively or negatively.

Glossary

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- | | |
|------------|---|
| portly | – stocky |
| spluttered | – cackled, make a series of short sounds. |
| impudent | – disrespectful |
| expounded | – explained |

languorously	–	lethargically
hordes	–	crowd, masses
exasperatedly	–	annoyingly
splendour	–	magnificence
paraphernalia	–	things, stuffs
bereavement	–	mourning, grief
gait	–	pace

Additional Glossary

agenda	–	schedule	doted on	–	liked
churn	–	stir	thrifty	–	economical
quite	–	fairly	siblings	–	brothers and sisters
wretched	–	miserable	anticipation	–	expectation
exactly	–	accurately	enterprise	–	business
topple	–	up set	astonishment	–	surprise
caution	–	warn	detest	–	hate
thud	–	bang	gleam	–	shine
contain	–	control	languorously	–	lazily
giggles	–	laughter	frequently	–	often
chuckles	–	laughter	propped	–	supported
subsided	–	decreased	eminent	–	renowned
mimic	–	imitate	bolster	–	support
stout	–	fat	corpse	–	dead body
rejected	–	refused	fad	–	fashion
sturdy	–	strong	scared	–	afraid
dispatched	–	sent	persuaded	–	convinced
stroking	–	rubbing	retort	–	reply
maternal	–	from mother's side	instantly	–	suddenly
chop	–	cut	interpreted	–	inferred, understood
tuft	–	a bunch of hair	assumed	–	supposed
inspect	–	examine	errand	–	duty
mum	–	silent	reverently	–	respectfully
ridicule	–	mock	sniff	–	smell
seasoned	–	mixed	excess	–	additional
aped	–	imitated	sparkling	–	shining
aroma	–	smell	dented	–	spoiled
stingiest	–	miserly	chronic	–	continuous
firmlly	–	strongly	banter	–	repartee



Exercise with Answer

Choose the correct synonyms for the underlined words from the options given.

1. It measured a mere three-fourth foot to churn curd.
a) pull b) taste c) give d) stir
2. He fell down with a thud and rolled over.
a) head b) bang c) hand d) injury
3. Just as we thought our chuckles had subsided.
a) laughter b) crying c) shouting d) asking
4. My father called a worker, dispatched him to the carpenter's village.
a) wrote b) asked c) sent d) shouted
5. Chop off his head, and he'd still sit there and nowhere else.
a) shave b) cut c) call d) keep
6. Appa, unseen by her aped her movements for our benefit.
a) showed b) informed c) asked d) imitated
7. He uttered words of praise, even if he was thrifty with them.
a) economical b) lavish c) generous d) given
8. After a while, we'll begin to even detest them.
a) love b) care for c) hate d) show
9. My little sister and brother fought over it frequently.
a) always b) often c) never d) sometimes
10. He would sniff the broken are canut.
a) taste b) touch c) see d) smell
11. Even the excess lime-paste on his finger wasn't wiped off unnecessarily on other objects.
a) additional b) needed c) pleasant d) unpleasant
12. He would retort instantly, "Why don't you it and see?"
a) sit b) stand c) reply d) install
13. It was on our chair that they propped up the eminent person!
a) showed b) supported c) left d) threw
14. The vision of a highly comfortable chair – in black wood with a mirror-like gleam.
a) glum b) gum c) dull d) shine
15. The sub-judge was little portly.
a) lean b) wealthy c) stout d) righteous

Answers

1. a	2. b	3. c	4. a	5. b	6. d	7. a	8. c	9. b	10. d
11. a	12. c	13. b	14. d	15. c					

**Self-Evaluation****Choose the correct synonyms for the underlined words from the options given.**

1. For a while, the whole houses spluttered into giggles before things settled down.
a) laughed b) gathered c) sent d) went **Ans:**
2. One wretched thing about this stool
a) miserable b) enjoyable c) noticeable d) fine **Ans:**
3. When he expounded on the neem tree, Appa looked at him round-eyed astonishment.
a) asked b) laughed c) shouted d) explained **Ans:**
4. When he expounded on the neem tree, Appa looked at him round-eyed astonishment.
a) irritation b) surprise c) happiness d) sadness **Ans:**
5. If you did not place the weight exactly above the legs, it would topple over.
a) truly b) around c) accurately d) supportively **Ans:**
6. Our father rejected it saying that it would not be sturdy.
a) accepted b) informed c) gathered d) refused **Ans:**
7. Just as we were about to caution the sub-judge, he fell down with a thud.
a) warm b) tell c) adjust d) calm **Ans:**
8. Me, my brother and my littlest sister couldn't contain our giggles.
a) write b) see c) control d) pass **Ans:**
9.and curved back legs, yawning languorously, to match the recline of the chair.
a) happily b) lethargically c) quickly d) sadly **Ans:**
10. The anticipation of the imagined separation only increased their fondness for the calf.
a) consideration b) fascination c) botheration d) expectation **Ans:**
11. My younger brother and sister doted on the calf.
a) liked b) afraid of c) hated d) drove **Ans:**
12. Besides, we thought that our uncle was the stingiest person in the village.
a) strongest b) weakest c) miserly d) extravagant **Ans:**
13. The aroma of the buttermilk and the asafetida made us want to drink it right away.
a) sight b) smell c) touch d) mention **Ans:**
14. Then he would inspect the floor around him.
a) clear b) adjust c) examine d) clean **Ans:**
15. People arrived in hordes to see the chair.
a) happily b) sadly c) line d) crowd **Ans:**
16. It was on our chair that they had propped up the eminent person!
a) renowned b) rich c) poor d) educated **Ans:**
17. He would reverently take out his paraphernalia as if taking out things from a pooja-box.
a) dealings b) things c) sights d) notes **Ans:**
18. He would reverently take out his paraphernalia as if taking out things from a pooja-box.
a) happily b) satisfactorily c) respectfully d) lovingly **Ans:**

19. When I entered his house, there he was, sitting in **splendour** on his chair.
a) magnificence b) posture c) healthily d) strongly Ans:
20. "God knows why these wretched people have to go and die at such unearthly hours!" Anna said **exasperatedly**.
a) immediately b) slowly c) happily d) annoyingly Ans:
21. They **assumed** that we too were mourning for the dead.
a) accepted b) rejected c) supposed d) informed Ans:
22. The mourners who came **interpreted** our sadness differently.
a) inferred b) informed c) asked d) dug Ans:
23. He would retort **instantly**, "Why don't you sit and see?"
a) gradually b) suddenly c) happily d) sadly Ans:
24. The children of the house were **scared** even to look at the chair.
a) strong b) patient c) afraid d) weak Ans:
25. From where our towns people picked up this new **fad** of propping up a corpse on a chair, we had no clue.
a) fashion b) film c) fun d) final Ans:
26. A few people from a house of **bereavement** stood outside for the chair.
a) illness b) happiness c) information d) grief Ans:
27. But gradually, my step slowed to an ordinary **gait**.
a) thing b) peace c) piece d) pace Ans:
28. **Dented**, yellowing and pitiable, it looked like a chronic patient about to die.
a) improved b) spoiled c) clear d) dim Ans:
29. Amma sent me on an **errand** to Maamanaar's house one day.
a) message b) purpose c) duty d) stone Ans:
30. Dented, yellowing and pitiable, it looked like a **chronic** patient about to die.
a) continuous b) partly c) related d) neighbouring Ans:

Antonyms

broader	×	narrower	thrifty	×	extravagant
wretched	×	fine	ancient	×	modern
exactly	×	vaguely	detest	×	love
subsided	×	increased			
lengthened	×	shortened	languorously	×	industrious
			frequently	×	rarely
stout	×	thin	persuaded	×	dissuaded
rejected	×	accepted	instantly	×	gradually
sturdy	×	weak	excess	×	insufficient
praised	×	cursed			
mum	×	noisy			
stingiest	×	generous			
firmly	×	weakly			

**Exercise with Answer**

Choose the correct Antonyms for the underlined words from the options given.

- Our grandfather has asked the carpenter to make it somewhat **broader**.
a) smarter b) narrower c) bigger d) smaller
- If you didn't place the weight **exactly** above the legs, it would topple over.
a) correctly b) accurately c) precisely d) vaguely
- Our laughter only **lengthened**.
a) broadened b) narrow down c) shortened d) sharpened
-the **shout** guest was not to be seen.
a) thin b) thick c) portly d) strong
- My father rejected it, saying it wouldn't be **sturdy**.
a) strong b) weak c) tough d) robust
- He would sit **mum** with a smile.
a) happily b) silently c) noisily d) strongly
- We **firmly** believed he never gave away anything to anyone.
a) strongly b) happily c) silently d) weakly
- Appa had been talking to a farmhand about cutting an **ancient** neem tree.
a) old b) strong c) modern d) weak
- My little sister and brother fought over it **frequently**.
a) often b) rarely c) quickly d) always
- Even the **excess** lime-paste on his finger wasn't wiped off.
a) insufficient b) extra c) additional d) spare

Answers									
1. b	2. d	3. c	4. a	5. b	6. c	7. d	8. c	9. b	10. a

**Self-Evaluation**

Choose the correct Antonyms for the underlined words from the options given.

- One **wretched** thing about this stool.....
a) worthless b) inferior c) fine d) vile **Ans:**
- Just as we thought our chuckles had **subsided**.
a) decreased b) diminished c) abated d) increased **Ans:**
- He would retort **instantly**, "Why don't you it and see?"
a) gradually b) immediately c) quickly d) finely **Ans:**
- The whole family **persuaded** him to sit on the chair.
a) followed b) dissuaded c) cunningly d) slowly **Ans:**

5. curved back legs, yawning languorously to match the recline of the chair.
a) industriously b) lazily c) lethargically d) quickly Ans:
6. After a while, we'll begin to even detest them.
a) hate b) loath c) love d) refuse Ans:
7. He uttered words of praise, even if he was thrifty with them.
a) frugal b) economical c) weak d) industrious Ans:
8. Besides, we thought that our uncle was the stingiest person in the village.
a) meanest b) generous c) miserly d) strong Ans:
9. And then the governor himself had praised him.
a) appreciated b) rejected c) refused d) cursed Ans:
10. Our father rejected it saying it wouldn't be sturdy.
a) accepted b) refused c) informed d) banned Ans:

Textual Exercises

1. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each based on your understanding of the story.

- a) What was put on the family agenda?

How to get a chair was put on the family agenda.

- b) Who visited the family?

The maternal uncle visited the family.

- c) Describe the stool that the narrator's family had.

The stool measured a mere three-fourth foot. If a person did not sit properly on it, it would topple over.

- d) What was Pedanna's suggestion to their father?

Pedanna suggested to her father to buy a chair from the town.

- e) What was offered to Maamanaar by their mother?

Their mother offered to Maamanaar a tumbler of butter milk mixed with asafetida.

- f) Why were the two chairs compared to Rama-Lakshmana?

The two chairs were compared to Rama-Lakshmana because the two chairs were identical to each other.

- g) When did the children shy away from the chair?

The children were afraid to sit on the chair. A dead body of an important person was kept on the chair. So they shied away from the chair.

- h) How did Maamanaar handle the chair at home?

Every day morning Maamanaar wiped the chair neatly. If it was to be shifted from one place to another he himself carried it. He used to keep it down gently.

2. Answer the following questions in three or four sentences each.

- a) What happened to the visitor when he sat on the stool?

The visitor was the sub-judge. So he was offered the stool to sit on. He could not keep the balance well and he fell down with a thud.

b) Why did the family find it difficult to make a chair?

In the village they did not have a chair to take as a model. Moreover there was no carpenter in the village who could make a chair. So the family found it difficult to make a chair.

c) What was grandmother's suggestion of wood ? Why ?

Grandmother suggested to have teak wood for the chair. It would be light to carry and it would be sturdy.

d) How was the chair made and how did the villagers react to it?

A carpenter was called from the neighbouring village to make two chairs – one for the narrator's family and one for his uncle. When the villagers came to know about the chair they came in group to see that.

e) When did the children get over the fear of sitting on the chair?

After the chair had been used to keep the dead body the children were afraid to sit on the chair. The chair was washed well. When a guest came he was asked to sit on the chair and he sat on it. That removed the fear from the children.

f) Why did Maamanaar hand over the chair to the villagers to retain it?

The villagers used the chair to keep the dead bodies on the chair. Maamanaar thought that it would not be proper to use it after using it for the dead body. Moreover the villagers needed a chair for that purpose. So he handed over the chair to the villagers.

3. Answer the following in a paragraph of 100–150 words each.**a) Narrate the humorous incidents that happened in the author's home before and after the arrival of the chair.**

Title	The Chair
Author	Ki. Rajanarayanan
Theme	The first chair of the village

Sometimes it's the smallest decisions that can change our lives forever.

Rajanarayanan, popularly known as Ki. Ra is a Tamil folklorist and a prolific writer. His short story 'Naarkali' has been translated to English as 'The Chair'. In this short story he created a situation where people were not much aware of chair. The family members decided to make a chair for the family. But they had neither a chair to take as a model nor a carpenter in the village. The carpenter from a neighbouring village was invited to have a discussion about making a chair. As the discussion was in progress their maternal uncle came to their house. The uncle also wanted to have a chair for himself. So it was decided to make two chairs in black wood. When the chairs arrived one chair was sent to uncle's house. After a few days an important person died. The villagers asked the chair to keep the dead body. After this incident children were afraid to sit on the chair. When a guest came he sat on it. That removed the fear from the children. One night again the neighbours came to their house to get the chair for funeral. Pedanna told them that they had given the chair to his uncle. After many days the narrator visited his uncle's house. He saw his uncle sitting on the floor. His uncle explained that he kept the chair for the purpose of the funeral. The narrator hurried home to convey the news to his family members. But he was not sure whether to take it positively or negatively.

Just as we were about to caution the sub-judge, he fell down with a thud and rolled over

b) Write character sketches of Maamanaar and Pedanna.

Title	The Chair
Author	Ki. Rajanarayanan
Theme	The first chair of the village

Don't take a permanent decision for your temporary emotions.

Rajanarayanan, popularly known as Ki. Ra is a Tamil folklorist and a prolific writer. His short story 'Naarkali' has been translated to English as 'The Chair'. The family discussed the problem of making a chair with a carpenter. As the discussion was in progress their maternal uncle came to their house. He sat down on his usual place and the mother gave his favourite butter milk. He always enjoyed drinking the butter milk made from their milchcow. The cow had been given by the uncle to their mother. The uncle also wanted to have a chair for him. His love for his sister should be mentioned here. His sister respected him. He gifted the cow which he himself had bought. He always kept his dignity. At the end he kept the chair for the use of the villagers because he realised the need for it. Pedanna was the brother of the narrator. He had his opinion on any subject. He suggested that they could get a chair from the town. When the villagers came regularly to have the chair to keep the dead bodies Pedanna took the final decision. Pedanna sent the villagers to his uncle's house and their problem came to an end.

Pedanna finally thought of an idea. We kept it to the two of us.

Additional

Answer the following in a paragraph of 100–150 words each.

a) How did the author express the life of Maamnaar in the short story 'The Chair'?

Title	The Chair
Author	Ki. Rajanarayanan
Theme	The first chair of the village

Small step in the right directions can turn out to be the biggest step of our life.

Rajanarayanan, popularly known as Ki. Rs is a Tamil folklorist and a prolific writer. His short story 'Naarkali' has been translated to English as 'The Chair'. The family discussed the problem of making a chair with a carpenter. As the discussion was in progress their maternal uncle came to their house. He sat down on his usual place and the mother gave his favourite butter milk. He always enjoyed drinking the butter milk made from their milchcow. The cow had been given by the uncle to their mother. Everyone believed that he was the stingiest person in the village. He had his own way of eating betel leaves. He kept his betel box always very clean. He took additional care to open the box to take things from it. His lime past dabba was also very clean. In his house only he could sit on the chair. Every morning he wiped it neatly. If he had to shift it to another place he himself carried it and put it down carefully.

He would reverently take out his paraphernalia.

Vocabulary

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a. Find out the synonym of the underlined word in each of the following sentences.

1. Just as we thought our chuckles had subsided.

- a) diminished b) increased c) completed d) submerged

2. Our father rejected it, saying it wouldn't be sturdy.

- a) weak b) strong c) tall d) good

3. Anna would say with an impudent smile.

- a) innocent b) fake c) disrespectful d) decent

4. A silver tumbler of buttermilk seasoned with asafetida.

- a) mixed b) garnished c) filled d) loosened

5. A few people from the house of bereavement stood outside.

- a) rejoice b) celebration c) grief d) war

Answers

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. a | 2. b | 3. c | 4. a | 5. c |
|------|------|------|------|------|

b. Find out the antonym of the underlined word in each of the following sentences.

1. The anticipation of this imagined separation only increases their fondness for the calf.

- a) expectancy b) contemplation c) outlook d) ignorance

2. Fortuitously, a guest visited our house.

- a) luckily b) peacefully c) unfortunately d) happily

3. There he was sitting in splendour on his chair.

- a) magnificence b) pomp c) effulgence d) simplicity

4. Maamanaar was unmatched.

- a) inferior b) incomparable c) excellent d) supreme

5. He greeted me with his usual smile and banter.

- a) flattery b) small talk c) chitchat d) repartee

Answers

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. d | 2. c | 3. d | 4. a | 5. a |
|------|------|------|------|------|

c. Words can be combined to form compound nouns. Compound nouns often have a meaning that is different, or more specific, than the two separate words. The elements in a compound noun are very diverse parts of speech.

Some compound words from the story have been listed below.

Compound elements	Words
Noun+Noun	Storeroom, buttermilk
Noun + Adjective	Diamond-hard
Adjective+ Noun	Grandmother, milchcow
Adverb+verb	overstep

Identify the correct combination of the following compound words.

haircut	– noun + verb	public speaking	– noun + gerund
headmaster	– noun + noun	output	– adverb + verb
waterfall	– noun + verb	software	– adjective + noun
swimming pool	– gerund + noun	show cause	– verb + noun
drawback	– verb + adverb	world famous	– noun + adjective

d. Look at the following sentence from the text.

- "The whole house **spluttered** into giggles before things settled down".
- The word "**spluttered**" is the blended form of splash and sputter.
- A portmanteau is a type of blend word in which the beginning of one word is combined with the final part of another word. Let's take a look at some of the most common portmanteaus in English.

alphanumeric	=	alphabetic + numeric
brunch	=	breakfast + lunch
camcorder	=	camera + recorder
mechatronics	=	mechanics + electronics
newscast	=	news + broadcast
smog	=	smoke + fog.

Now, Blend the following words.

1. binary + digit = bit
2. electronic + mail = email
3. foreign + exchange = forex
4. motor + pedal = moped
5. parachute + troop = paratroop

e. The term euphemism refers to polite, indirect expressions that replace words and phrases considered harsh and impolite, or which suggest something unpleasant.

- When we wish to refer to a person as an old, we use the term "senior citizen" instead of 'old'.

Replace the underlined word / expressions with possibly polite forms.

- a. The culprit was sent to jail. - house of correction
- b. Dheeraj is unemployed. - in between work
- c. I saw a disabled man. - differently abled
- d. Subsidies are given to the poor. - underprivileged
- e. Elambrathi has a second-hand car. - pre-owned

Listening

After listening to the pledge played on the tape recorder carefully, fill in the following statements with the right options given.

a) The medical graduates take oath to dedicate their _____ to the service of humanity.

- i) money
- ii) talent
- iii) life
- iv) nation

Ans: iii) life

b) The _____ of the patient should be the doctor's greatest concern.

i) dignity

ii) gratitude

iii) health

iv) honour

Ans: iii) health

c) The would-be graduates promise to practise their profession with _____ and dignity.

i) conscience

ii) knowledge

iii) understanding

iv) respect

Ans: i) conscience

d) They should respect the _____ of the patients.

i) age

ii) wealth

iii) background

iv) secrets

Ans: iv) secrets

e) The pledge is also to treat the patients without any _____.

i) fee

ii) discrimination

iii) interest

iv) hatred

Ans: ii) discrimination

Speaking

Task

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a) Now it's your turn to speak against the motion "Wars create more problems than they solve." Express your views with valid points.

Wars solve problems because they end the untold agonies and indescribable hardships of the people. The tyrannical reign heaps trials and tribulations on the helpless. The people whose fundamental rights are suppressed long for peace which is denied by the despot. They are exploited and oppressed to appease him. Their inability to fight against the establishment crushes their spirit and desire to live. Won't you agree with me if I assert that the only way to terminate their torment and torture is to eliminate the repressive ruler? In this way, war solves the problems and does not create more problems. The Bangladesh Liberation war was an armed conflict sparked by self-determination movement. India supported the movement and emerged victorious by ending the 1971 Bangladesh genocide. So let me reiterate that wars solve problems by bringing back smiles on the faces of the oppressed and suppressed.

b) Conduct a debate for and against the motion, "Mobile phone – a big boon"

Supporting the motion : Mobile phone - a big boon

Mobile phone is the greatest wonder of science. It makes communication easy and instant. It is of a great help during emergency. It saves the life of the accident victims when we call for 108 ambulance service. Besides, human relationship is strengthened as well as smoothened by mobile phone. Personal requests, family invitations, sincere apologies, emergency meeting etc. are made possible.

Opposing the motion : Mobile phone - a bane

Mobile phone is a bane not a boon. It consumes our precious time as we are tempted to talk for a long time. The immense joy of personal meetings is missing and sometimes relationship becomes strained because of loss of personal touch. Speaking on the mobile phone while driving the vehicle causes accidents. Some young people use the phone while crossing the road or walking on the railway track. They run the risk of meeting with accidents. Sending misleading information, taking photos without other's knowledge and permission, threatening others, playing video games etc. are the ill-effects of mobile phone.

- c) **Organize a class debate on the motion. 'The advantages of social websites'. (Use the expressions for arguments like - First, firstly, I mean, My point is, In my opinion, Let me consider, etc.)**

For the motion : The advantages of Social Websites

Social websites are the platforms like forums where one can share pictures, videos and update texts and send them to their dear and dear ones. The subject matter or videos can go viral in a short time. We can have interactions non-stop on websites like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Let me enumerate the advantages. First, we can stay connected with friends and families. We can recall and recollect fond memories, share family photos and social events with them at the same time. Second, it enables us to come into contact entirely with new people and share our interests, concerns and joys. Third, it proves to be an attractive advertisement for companies. Actors and musicians can reach out a large number of people. No doubt information spreads fast. At times it assists the law-enforcing agency to catch the criminals.

Against the motion : The disadvantages of Social Websites

I totally disagree with the view that there are only advantages in using social websites. First of all social websites are used to spread misleading and malicious information. It may cause unnecessary problems. Secondly, it is used to ruin relationship and pave way for breaking family ties. Thirdly, cyber-crime is on the increase – especially innocent kids are targeted. Dreaded games like the Blue Whale entice them, and ultimately detaching them from the websites becomes impossible. Finally it is used to extract money through advertisements of fake jobs. In my opinion the disadvantages of social websites are greater than advantages.

Reading

- a) **Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions.**

1. **What is meant by pollution? Mention the different kinds of pollution.**

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Pollution is the introduction of contaminants into the environment. The different kinds of pollution are air pollution, water pollution and land pollution.

2. **How does Particulate matter cause air pollution?**

Particulate matter is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets that get into air. If inhaled, the particles can affect health.

3. **Identify three major causes of pollution in air.**

Burning waste in the open, power production industries, public and private vehicles are the three major causes of pollution in air.

4. **Name the types of pollution we encounter now.**

Air pollution, water pollution and land pollution are the types of pollution we encounter now.

5. **What sort of health issues do people face due to air pollution?**

Due to air pollution people face lower respiratory disorders with symptoms like dry cough, breathlessness, wheezing, chest discomfort, serious lung infections and cardio vascular diseases.

6. **How can we protect ourselves outdoor from air pollution?**

We can protect ourselves from air pollution by wearing air masks.

7. **Suggest a suitable title to the passage.**

Air Pollution and Wearing Masks.

8. Identify the meaning of the word similar to the one used in the fourth para:

- a) emerging – growing
 b) filtering – cleaning
 c) floating – suspended
 d) falling – droplet

b) Read the following information given in the table below and answer the questions.

A nice choice from Chennai to the National capital			
RAJADHANI EXPRESS TIMETABLE			
Shortest Route between Chennai and Hazrat Nizamuddin 8 Halts & 324 intermediate stations in between			
Station Name	Departs	Day	Speed
Chennai Central	06.05	1	75
Vijayawada	11.55	1	76
Warangal	14.40	1	77
Balharshah	18.00	1	78
Nagpur	20.45	1	74
Bhopal	02.10	2	89
Jhansi	05.31	2	99
Gwalior	06.32	2	85
Agra Cantt	07.57	2	76
Hazrat Nizamudin	10.25	2	-

a) The number of stations between Chennai Central and Hazrat Nizamudin is _____.

- i) five
 ii) ten
 iii) eight
 iv) eleven

Ans: iii) eight

b) The train is expected to reach _____ around 8.45 PM.

- i) Warangal
 ii) Vijayawada
 iii) Bhopal
 iv) Nagpur

Ans: iv) Nagpur

c) Between _____ the train runs at its maximum speed.

- i) Bhopal and Gwalior
 ii) Bhopal and Jhansi
 iii) Bhopal and Hazrat Nizamudin
 iv) Bhopal and Agra

Ans: ii) Bhopal and Jhansi

d) Almost _____ the train reaches Vijayawada.

- i) the day after
 ii) around early morning
 iii) late night
 iv) around noon

Ans: iv) around noon

e) People prefer the Rajadhani Express to travel from Chennai to reach the capital because _____.

- i) it reaches the destination on the same day.
 ii) the charge is reasonable.
 iii) the train halts at ten stations.
 iv) it is the shortest route from Chennai to New Delhi.

Ans: iv) it is the shortest route from Chennai to New Delhi.

f) The destination of Rajadhani Express is _____.

i) Hazarat Nizamudin

ii) New Delhi junction

iii) Old Delhi

iv) Rajkot

Ans: i) Hazarat Nizamudin

Grammar

Non-finite Verbs

Non-finite verb (also known as a verbal) is the term to describe a verb that does not show tense. In other words, it is a verb form, which does not function as a verb.

There are three verbals– gerunds, infinitives and participles.

All these are formed from verbs, but are never used alone as action words in sentences. Instead verbals function as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.

- The **gerund** ends in –ing and is actually a verb form but it functions as a noun too.
 - Jumping** is fun. (subject to a verb)
 - My son enjoys **skiing**. (Object to a verb)
 - Mrs. Kala has a unique way of **teaching**. (Object to a preposition)
 - It is no use **crying**. (In Opposition to a pronoun)
- The **Infinitive** is the base form of a verb with 'to' –(to + verb). Usually it functions as a noun, although it can also function as an adjective or an adverb.
 - To jump** is fun. (noun : Subject of the verb 'is')
 - My son likes **to ski**. (noun : direct object of the verb 'like')
 - I have a suggestion **to offer**. (adjective modifying suggestion)
 - The manager called her **to give** a last warning. (adverb modifying the verb 'called')
- A **participle** is a verb that ends in –ing (Present particle) or-ed, _d, _t, _en, _n, (past particle). Participles may function as adjectives, describing or modifying nouns.
 - The **dancing** parrots entertained the crowd.
 - The **wrecked** sailboat washed up on shore.

Task 1

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Underline the gerunds in the following sentences.

- Boys love playing cricket.
- I love eating ice creams.
- Jessie enjoys bothering others.
- Painting is an interesting hobby.
- Dancing gives me joy.

Task 2

Use the gerundial form of the verb in the brackets and fill in the blanks.

- Exercising (exercise) is good for health.
- Flying (fly) a kite is fun.
- Shopping (shop) is my favourite hobby.

4. My friend waited for the meeting (meet).
5. Huckleberry Finn was responsible for signaling (signal).

Task 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct infinitives.

1. Deva forgot to post the letter.
2. The doctor advised the patient to take his medicines without fail.
3. Rajesh went to the airport to receive his friend.
4. The bear climbed up the tree to drink the honey.
5. The boys went to the forest to watch birds.
6. I tried hard to make both ends meet.
7. The archaeologists are trying to study the ruins of Keelady.
8. Solar energy is used to generate electricity.
9. To get concession, you have to apply well in advance.
10. We have plans to go to London during summer vacation.

Task 4

Combine each of the following pairs of sentences using participles. The first one is done for you.

Example: I didn't know what to do. I phoned the police.
 Not knowing what to do, I phoned the police.

1. **The baby cried. She was feeling sleepy.**
 Feeling sleepy the baby cried.
2. **He lived alone. He had forgotten everybody.**
 Having forgotten everybody he lived alone.
3. **She walked out. She was smiling.**
 She walked out smiling.
4. **The child says he needs attention. He shouts loudly.**
 Shouting loudly the child says she needs attention.
5. **I threw the pen. It was broken.**
 Throwing the pen caused it to break.
 I threw the broken pen.
6. **His coat is tattered. It needs mending.**
 His tattered coat needs mending.
7. **I heard the noise. I turned around.**
 Hearing the noise I turned around.
8. **He was dissatisfied. He quit his job.**
 Being dissatisfied he quit his job.

9. **The politician entered the campus. He was accompanied by many comrades.**

Accompanied by many comrades the politician entered the campus.

10. **The girl entered the room. She was singing a song.**

Singing a song the girl entered the room.

Articles and Determiners

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Articles

Task 1

Complete the following exercise using a / an / the / 'o' (no article) in the underlined space where appropriate. Change capital letters to small letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.

According to (1) the National Weather Report, cyclones are winds circulating (2) 'o' counter clockwise in (3) the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in (4) the southern Hemisphere. Cyclones are usually accompanied by (5) 'o' stormy weather. Tornadoes and hurricanes are types of cyclones. (6) The hurricane is (7) a cyclone that forms over (8) the tropical oceans and seas. (9) The hurricane rotates in (10) the shape of (11) an oval or a circle. (12) The Hurricane Andrew, which hit (13) the coasts of Louisiana and Southern Florida in August 1992, caused (14) 'o' extreme devastation. It was one of (15) the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit (16) the U.S. Fourteen people died of (17) the Andrew's effect.

Task 2

Complete the following sentences using appropriate determiners.

- Only a few people can afford to buy a flat in Chennai.
- She earns so little that she could not make a decent living.
- Some information that she gave proved false.
- How much sugar do you want?
- I am very tired today, as I had many guests today.
- Some of my students have become doctors.
- Little do I know about his personal life.
- How many pages did you read?
- Some fertilizer used these days spoils the soil.
- During my student life I used to give little trouble to my teachers.

Degrees of Comparison

Task 1

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Transform each of the following sentences using the comparative degree without changing the meaning.

- Very few Indian languages are as ancient as Tamil.**
Tamil is more ancient than many other Indian languages.
- Hurricanes are as dangerous as tornadoes.**
Tornadoes are not more dangerous than hurricanes.
- This is the most challenging task I have ever undertaken.**
This is more challenging than any other task I have ever undertaken.

4. E-mail is the fastest means of communication.

E-mail is faster than any other means of communication.

5. Compulsive gambling is the worst habit a man can develop.

Compulsive gambling is worse than any other habit a man can develop.

Task 2

Rewrite each of the following sentences using the superlative degree retaining the meaning.

1. Shakespeare is greater than many other dramatists of the world.

Shakespeare is one of the greatest dramatists of the world.

2. Some people think that nothing is as important as money in life.

Some people think that money is the most important thing in life.

3. The peacock is more colourful than any other bird found in India.

The peacock is the most colourful bird found in India.

4. Very few people in this town are as generous as Mr. Mohan.

Mr. Mohan is one of the most generous people in this town.

5. No other planet in our solar system is as cold as Neptune.

Neptune is the coldest planet in our solar system.

6. I cannot do anything better for you than this.

This is the best thing I can do for you.

Task 3

Replace the comparative adjectives in the following sentences with their positive forms.

1. Rural life is certainly more peaceful than urban life.

Urban life is certainly not so peaceful as rural life.

2. The pen is mightier than the sword.

The sword is not so mighty as the pen.

3. Train journey is more comfortable than bus journey.

Bus journey is not so comfortable as train journey.

4. My mother can speak more sweetly than anyone else.

No other person can speak so sweetly as my mother.

5. Gold is not more useful than iron.

Iron is as useful as gold.

Writing

Slogan Writing

Look at the pictures given below, and write slogans to advertise the products. Suggest your own brand name for each of the products.

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Toothpaste	Water purifier
 <p>SMILEY TOOTHPASTE Whitens teeth, Freshens breath.</p>	 <p>GANGA WATER PURIFIER For germ free drinking water Your health is our concern.</p>
Camera	Laddus
 <p>CAMMY DIGITAL CAMERA Nourish live memories Cherish sweet memories.</p>	 <p>YUMMY LADDUS Pure ghee; no preservatives A delight for the young and the old.</p>

Write slogans to create awareness of the following topics using the tips given above.

- Junk food - Ready to feed doctor's pocket, Take junk food.
- Labour Day - Salute those who toil and soil for us.
- Save Water - Water is a boon of nature, Save it to fight drought.
- Yoga - For a healthy, brisk and bustling life.
- Blood Donation - Donate blood to save precious life.

Paragraph Writing

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Write a paragraph of about 150 words on the following topics.

a) The teacher I like the most

Our teachers are all our role models whom we are fortunate to follow. Among them is our English teacher, Ms. Gita who is patience personified. She radiates confidence and compassion. Her command over English is outstanding and we are spell-bound by her oratorical skill. She teaches us English adopting innovative techniques. She teaches grammar using audio-visual aids that make us understand difficult concepts easily. Her smile is infectious and our dullness and tiredness will vanish the moment she enters our class room. She is pro-active and guides us. She handles the late bloomers patiently. Many a time I have seen her helping some poor boys by rendering financial support. She actively involves herself in community service programme. She talks to the parents politely and gives them tips to improve their children's knowledge. In the evenings, she plays tennis with the girls. She encourages girls to participate in competitions. So I like my English teacher the most as she is an inspiration to the students.

b) The values of discipline

Discipline is observance of strict rules that control an activity or situation. It is essential in any atmosphere for maintaining orderliness. The objectives of any institution or organisation can be realised only through a disciplined approach. There will arise utter chaos if discipline is thrown to the winds. Discipline makes learning smooth in educational institutions. It makes the subordinates perform their duties in accordance with the directions of their senior officers. The progress of the country depends on its disciplined citizens. Law and order is maintained by the disciplined police. The army should carry out the order of the commanders in a disciplined way. It is essential for stress-free family life. There is no doubt that discipline builds harmony, strengthens unity and fosters co-operation.

c) Need for Moral Education in schools

The decay and degeneration being witnessed in the present day society is mainly due to lack of moral values among people. Disregard for law, disrespect for the elderly, selfishness, greed, corruption etc. are eating into the vitals of a civilized society. To remove all these negative qualities from the society, it is important that the schools come forward to inculcate moral values in the children. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens. So, they must learn moral values and adopt them in their day-to-day life so that others will be put to shame and change their way of life. As parents and other agencies have little patience to teach them moral values, the need should be felt by the schools only. Since in the formative years it is easy to impress the children, schools should explore all the avenues to prioritise moral education.

d) The importance of good health

'Sound mind in sound body' goes the saying. Without good health we cannot lead our lives happily. Ill-health brings pain and suffering. It prevents one from achieving one's goal because all the time worrying about health will be spoiling one's health. We become mentally depressed when we are ill. Even day-to-day activities cannot be taken up on account of failing health. Good health is an asset to a person who may be hit with financial problems. Swami Vivekananda says that we can be nearer to God by playing football rather than by reading the BhagavatGita. Inner peace can be attained out of good health. Good health creates a positive outlook and instills confidence. It builds up stamina, agility and vigour and vitality. Good health leads to a brisk and bustling life. To keep the body in good health is a duty otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind and body strong.

e) The importance of Reading

"Think before you speak but read before you think" is a famous quote on the importance of reading. Books are our never failing friends. They make us cheerful, enthusiastic and energetic. We wipe out our ignorance by reading books. We become better informed and make wise choices. Reading books makes us effective communicators. We acquire problem-solving and decision – making skills. They motivate us to do our best in everything. Creativity is stimulated by reading the books of great minds. Our sorrows and sufferings are lessened by reading books. We come into communion with great souls and our character is elevated and ennobled. Margret Fuller says, "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." The book titled 'Civil Disobedience' changed the thinking of Gandhiji and gave him the most potent weapon, non-violence. Reading has been instrumental in social transformation over the years. As Bacon says, 'Reading makes a man.'

Observe the following pictures and write a paragraph in about 150 words about each one of them.

a) The fury of Nature

No pleadings or prayers can stand before the fury of nature. Shakespeare says, 'Inscrutable are the ways of God.' Similarly inexplicable are the forces of nature that destruct and decimate the lives and properties of human beings. Storm, cyclone, torrential rain, scorching sun, monsoon failure etc. are the different expressions of nature which is angry with man. The storm that hit the coastal districts has snapped the livelihood of farmers as well as other people. The poor woman looks at the trail of destruction and disaster. The coconut trees have been uprooted. Government and NGOs may talk a lot about rehabilitation. But it is not that easy. This is because it will take a long time for restoring normalcy. Restoring the sources of livelihood will be gradual. The government and voluntary organisations have tough time bringing financial support and mental strength to the starved people. Time and patience will heal every wound.

**b) War and Peace co-exist**

Peace and fight cannot go hand in hand. They are opposite to each other. But in this picture we come across the symbols of peace and fight in harmony with each other. It is paradoxical. The pigeon is a symbol of peace and the caged tiger is a symbol of uncontrolled fury and ferocity. It does not reason out; the instant it sees a prey, it pounces on it and tears it into pieces. But the bird is timid. Both the opposites are brought together in this picture. The timid bird which is not a danger to anybody is free but the ferocious animal is caged. It does not have freedom to move but the bird has freedom. They show the two sides of human beings – innocence and ferocity, peace and destruction. As the ferocity and destructive nature is caged or controlled, the human destructive quality should be kept within our control.



UNIT 5

POEM

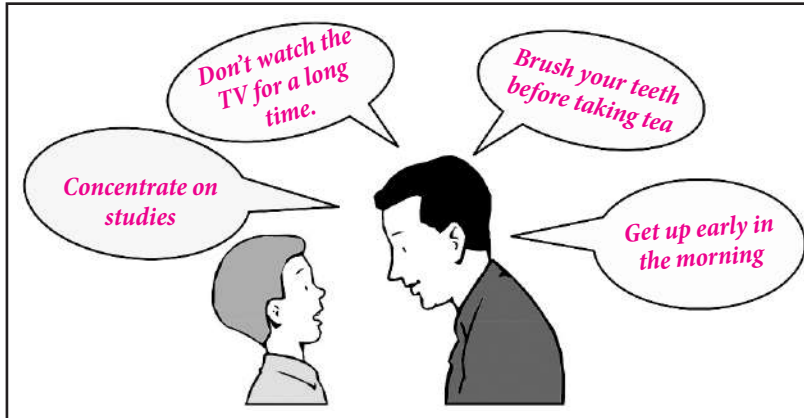
A Father to his Son

- Carl August Sandburg

Warm up

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Every parent is anxious about the welfare of his / her children. Parents express their anxiety by advising them almost all the time. What kind of advice do you frequently receive from your parents? Fill in the bubbles. Tick the ones you like to follow implicitly and give reasons for the ones you don't like to follow.



- Wash your fingers before eating.
- Don't stay awake till late night.
- Who are you talking to over the phone for a long time?

Summary

The poet Carl August Sandburg describes how an affectionate and concerned father directs his son who is reaching manhood. The loving father wants him to be like a rock and face the storms of life and betrayals. Life is like soft soil and so he directs him to go easy. When punishment fails, cruel people can be mended through a gentle approach. The growth of a flower can split a rock. He expects his son to have a tough will to achieve. He warns his son about greed for money because too much money has left the people dead before their burial. Being called a fool is not a matter of shame but he should learn from his mistakes and never repeat them.

He wants his son to avoid white lies and tells him that solitude is creative. Final decisions are made in silent rooms. It would be better to be different from others. The son may have his lazy days to seek his inner motives and find his talents. Free imaginations bring changes to the world. He must work to achieve like Shakespeare, Wright Brothers, Pasteur, Pavlov and Michael Faraday.

Glossary

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humdrum monotony	– boring routine
soft loam	– fertile soil
lashes	– whips
thwarted	– frustrated
white lies	– lies told to avoid hurting one's feelings
quest of lucre	– money gained in a dishonourable way
resenting	– disliking

1. Fill in the blanks choosing the words from the box given and complete the summary of the poem.

Lines 1-25

The poet Carl Sandburg gives a vivid description of a father's worldly (1) wisdom in directing a son who is at the threshold of his (2) manhood. Here the father motivates his son to be like a hard (3) rock and withstand life's (4) challenges and sudden betrayals. (5) Life is like a fertile soil. We can make our life fruitful if we are gentle, and take life as it comes. At times (6) gentleness overtakes harshness. The growth of a (7) tender-flower can split a rock. One should have a (8) deep desire and strong will to achieve. Greed for (9) money has left men dead before they really die. Good men also have fallen prey in quest for (10) easy money. Time for (11) leisure is not a waste. When you seek knowledge never feel ashamed to be called a (12) fool for not knowing, at the same time learn from your (13) mistakes and never (14) repeat it.

deep desire	manhood	gentleness	mistakes	easy	leisure	fool
life	money	repeat	tender-flower	rock	challenges	wisdom

Lines 26-44

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Do (15) introspect often, and do not hesitate to accept your shortcomings, avoid (16) white lies to protect self against other people. Solitude helps to be (17) creative and (18) final decisions are taken in silent rooms. Instead of being one among many, be (19) different if that is your nature. The son may need lazy days to find his (20) inherent abilities, to seek what he is born for. He will then know how free imaginations bring (21) changes to the world, which (22) resents change. During such resentment, let him know that it is time for him to be on his own, and (23) work to achieve like Shakespeare, the Wright brothers, Pasteur, Pavlov and Michael Faraday.

changes	introspect	inherent	work	resents
white lies	creative	final decisions	different	

2) Based on your understanding of the poem answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

a) How would the poet's advice help his son who is at the threshold of the manhood?

The poet's advice would help his son face life's challenges and sudden betrayals confidently.

b) 'A tough will counts.' Explain.

One should have a deep desire and strong will power to achieve.

c) What happened to the people who wanted too much money?

The people who wanted too much money were dead years before their burial.

d) What has twisted good men into thwarted worms?

The search for more in a dishonourable way has twisted good men into thwarted (frustrated) worms.

e) How would his being alone help the boy?

Being alone will help him to be creative and make final decisions.

f) Where are the final decisions taken?

The final decisions are taken in silent rooms.

g) What are the poet's thoughts on 'being different'?

The poet says that instead of being one among many, his son should be different if it is easy and natural.

h) Why does the poet advise his son to have lazy days?

The son may need lazy days to seek his deeper motives and find his inherent talents.

i) The poet says

'Without rich wanting nothing arrives' but he condemns 'the quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs.'

Analyse the difference and write.

One should earn money honestly. He should be satisfied with sufficient money to lead his life. Without the desire for earning money, one cannot satisfy one's basic needs. But the search for money dishonestly should be discouraged. One should not accumulate money beyond essential needs.

4. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow.**a) "Life is hard; be steel; be a rock."****i) How should one face life?**

One should face life by being like a rock.

ii) Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

Metaphor.

**b) Life is a soft loam; be gentle; go easy,
And this too might serve him."****i) Why does the poet suggest to take life easy?**

Life is like a fertile soil. We can make our life fruitful by being gentle and taking life easy.

ii) Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

Metaphor.

**c) Tell him solitude is creative if he is strong
and the final decisions are made in silent rooms.****i) Can being in solitude help a strong human being? How?**

Yes. Being in solitude helps a strong human being to introspect and make final decisions.

ii) Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

Transferred Epithet.

**d) Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.
Tell him to be a fool every so often****i) Why does the poet suggest that time can be wasted?**

Time can be wasted for leisure.

ii) Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

Repetition.

- e) *Tell him to be a fool ever so often
and to have no shame over having been a fool
yet learning something out of every folly
hoping to repeat none of the cheap follies*

i) Is it a shame to be a fool at times?

No, it is not a shame to be a fool at times. But follies should not be repeated.

ii) What does one learn from every folly?

One learns some lessons from every folly and hopes not to repeat anyone of the follies.

- f) *----- Free imaginations
Bringing changes into a world resenting change.*

i) How does free imagination help the world?

Free imagination helps the world by introducing changes.

ii) Identify the figure of speech.

Transferred epithet.

g) Pick out the alliterated words from the poem and write.

And this might stand him for the storms

stand – storms.

Additional

Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow.

- a) *And this might stand him for the storms
and serve him for humdrum monotony*

i) What might stand the poet's son for the storms?

Being like a hard rock might stand for the poet's son while facing the challenges of life.

ii) Give the meaning of the phrase 'humdrum monotony'.

The phrase 'humdrum monotony' means boring routine.

- b) *The growth of a frail flower in a path up
has sometimes shattered and split a rock*

i) What has sometimes split a rock?

The growth of a tender flower has sometimes split the rock.

ii) Write the words in alliteration in these lines.

frail – flower ; sometimes – shattered – split.

- c) *So does a rich soft wanting
Without rich wanting nothing arrives*

i) What does the poet mean by the second line?

Without the desire to earn sufficient money, one cannot satisfy one's basic needs for survival.

ii) Identify the figure of speech.

Repetition.

- d) *Tell him too much money has killed men
And left them dead years before burial*

i) What happened to the people who wanted too much money?

Too much money has left men dead before their burial.

ii) Write the words in alliteration in the above lines.

much – money – men ; before – burial

- e) *Tell him to be different from other people
if it comes natural and easy being different*

i) What are the poet's thoughts on being different?

The poet thinks that instead of being one among many, his son should stand different if it is natural and easy.

ii) What condition does the poet lay for being different?

The poet's son can be different if that is his nature.

- f) *Let him have lazy days seeking his deeper motives
Let him seek deep for where he is born natural*

i) Why does the poet advise his son to have lazy days?

The poet advises his son to have lazy days for finding his deeper motives and inherent talents.

ii) What is the figure of speech employed in the first line?

Transferred Epithet.

5. Explain the following lines with reference to the context. (ERC)

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- a) *and guide him among sudden betrayals
and tighten him for slack moments.*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context :

This is in the beginning of the advice given by a father to his son.

Explanation:

The poet wants to direct his son who is reaching manhood. He motivates his son to be like a hard rock. He can face life's challenges and untoward breach of trust by being firmly resolved. 'Slack moments' refers to a state of depression.

- b) *Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.*

Reference :

This line is taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context :

This line comes when the poet wants to say that life is sometime soft and we may need to be gentle.

Explanation:

The poet motivates his son reaching manhood to be steely resolved. This will make him face the challenges of life and sudden betrayals. At times gentleness overtakes harshness. Thrashing may fail to change a man. But a gentle approach will make a brute good-natured.

- c) *Yet learning something out of every folly
hoping to repeat none of the cheap follies*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context :

In the course of giving advice to his son, the father utters these words.

Explanation:

The poet directs his son who is reaching manhood to be a successful person. From his experience he advises his son to be careful in certain areas. Here he says making mistakes is not something to feel ashamed of. We can learn many things from our mistakes. But we should be careful not to repeat the mistake.

- d) *He will be lonely enough
to have time for the work*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context :

The poet wants to say that being in solitude, his son will make some changes.

Explanation:

The poet wants his son to know how free imaginations bring changes to the world which resents change. During such resentment he will know that it is time for him to be his own and try to achieve like great people.

Additional**Explain the following lines with reference to the context. (ERC)**

- a) *A tough will counts, so does desire*

Reference :

This line is taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context :

The poet emphasizes the importance of firm determination.

Explanation:

The poet wants to direct his son reaching manhood. He motivates him to be like steel. He says one must have a tough will power and deep desire to achieve.

- b) *the quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs
has twisted good enough men
sometimes into dry thwarted worms*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context :

The poet utters these words to stress that desire for huge money will destroy people.

Explanation:

The poet wants his son to earn sufficient money to satisfy his basic needs. But at the same time, money earned dishonestly beyond one's need will leave him frustrated. Good men have fallen prey to quest for easy money. So he warns his son not to run after easy money.

- c) *Tell him solitude is creative if he is strong
and the final decisions are made in silent rooms*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context :

The poet explains the importance of solitude.

Explanation:

The poet directs his son who is at the threshold of manhood. He wants him to enjoy solitude because it is creative. Being alone will help him make final decisions. The calm atmosphere will enable him to study the pros and cons and to come out with wise decisions.

- d) *Then he may understand Shakespeare
and the Wright Brothers, Pasteur, Pavlov*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context :

The poet wants his son to work with firm determination to achieve something great.

Explanation:

The poet wants his son to be on his own and work to achieve like great people. By seeking his inner motives and inherent talents, he can understand and emulate Shakespeare, Wright Brothers, Pasteur and Pavlov.

Shakespeare	–	the famous playwright
Wright Brothers	–	they built and flew the first plane
Pasteur	–	a French scientist who established the study of Microbiology
Pavlov	–	a Russian scientist who proved the existence of conditional reflex

6. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 100 words each.

- a) Explain how the poet guides his son who is at the threshold of manhood, to face the challenges of life.

Poem	A Father to his Son
Poet	Carl August Sandburg
Theme	A father's advice to his son for his better future

"Life is hard; be steel; be a rock." And this might stand him for the storms

The poet, Carl August Sandburg motivates his son to be like a hard rock to face the challenges of life and betrayals. He can make his life fruitful if he is gentle and takes life easy. He must have a firm will power and deep desire to achieve. He should earn sufficient money to satisfy his basic needs. But he must remember that too much money has killed men and left them dead before their burial.

He must know that it is not a shame to be called a fool. At the same time, he must learn lessons from the mistakes and avoid repeating the follies. He must introspect often and accept his weaknesses. He must not tell white lies to protect himself. Being alone will help him make wise decisions. He can be different if that is his nature. Finding his inherent talents and deeper motives, he must work to achieve like Shakespeare, Wright Brothers, Pasteur and so on.

*Tell him to be different from other people
If it comes natural and easy being different*

- b) How according to the poet is it possible for his son to bring changes into a world that resents changes?

Poem	A Father to his Son
Poet	Carl August Sandburg
Theme	A father's advice to his son for his better future

Bringing changes into a world resenting change.

The poet directs his son who is reaching manhood. He motivates him to be as hard as steel to face the challenges of life and sudden betrayals. He tells his son that he may need lazy days to seek his deep motives and find his inherent abilities. He will then know how free imagination can bring changes to the world. It is indeed that the world may disagree to the changes suggested. It may repel them. But with his firm will power and gentle ironical approach, he can convince the world of desirable changes for a better and brighter tomorrow. The growth of a frail flower can shatter and split a rock. At times gentleness overtakes harshness. Thus according to the poet, it is possible for his son to bring changes into a world that resents changes.

He will be lonely enough to have time for the work, he knows as his own.

Listening

Listen to the poem read by the teacher or to the recorded version and write a synopsis in about 100 words. The teacher can choose any three stanzas.

The first three stanzas

Abraham Lincoln writes a letter to his son's teacher in which he expects the teacher to guide him to face the world confidently. He wants his son to learn that all men are not honest. But at the same time, the teacher can tell him that for every scoundrel, there is a hero who is upright and honest. There is a dedicated leader among greedy politicians. There is a friend who will stand by him when he is surrounded by enemies. Let his son avoid envy and learn how to laugh quietly. He should know that it is easy to win over bullies. Let him know the value of reading books. But he must have free time to think deep on the eternal mystery of nature.

Speaking

*"Tell him too much money has killed men
And left them dead years before burial:"*

These are the lines you have just read from the poem.

Given below is a well-known quotation.

"Cowards may die many a times
before their death".

Study the quotation and identify the adverse human qualities that are worse than 'death' and discuss the underlying message conveyed.

An aimless life is more than death. One should live for one's family and society. So, life without aim or ambition is worse than death. There are some people who flatter and praise those with power or wealth and they die before their burial. Similarly, the parasites – those who live on others – are a burden on a civilized society. Such people's life is worse than death. Inability to fight against despotic rule and bearing with the bestial cruelties of the oppressor are worse than death. Those who indulge in terrorism and cowardly act of killing the innocent people are dead before their burial.



UNIT 5

SUPPLEMENTARY

All Summer in a Day
- Ray Bradbury

Warm up

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a) What makes the earth the one and the only living planet?

Availability of oxygen, proper gravitational pull and presence of water are the main reasons that make the earth the one and only living planet.

b) Name a few things that make the earth a unique planet.

rivers

animals

birds

trees

sun light

rain

ozone layer

seasons

c) Do you enjoy watching movies? What type of movies do you like to watch? Here are the pictures of a few blockbuster movies.



Classify the movies based on the following categories; Historical / Comedy / Horror / Cartoon / Science Fiction

- Lion King – cartoon
- Mr. Bean – comedy
- Gravity – science fiction
- Pearl Harbour – war movie
- IT – horror movie

Discuss:

Gravity is a science fiction movie. Which aspect of the movie is real science? Which aspect of the movie is fictional?

Dr. Ryan Stone, an engineer on her first space mission, performs a set of hardware upgrades on the Hubble. During a spacewalk, Mission Control in Houston warns about a Russian missile on a different satellite. They order the crew to return to the earth immediately. This is real science.

High-speed debris strikes the Hubble tearing Stone from the Shuttle and leaving her tumbling through space. The events leading to her miraculous escape are fictional.

Summary

'All Summer in a Day' is a science fiction that explores the theme of life on Venus. This science fiction has been written by Ray Bradbury. The children in the classroom on the planet Venus are getting ready to see the sun that appears once in seven years. It has been raining for seven years. There have been tidal wave over the islands. A thousand forests were crushed under the rain and grown up a thousand times to be crushed again. This is the way of life on the Venus.

Seven years ago, the sun came out for an hour. The children remembered a warmth like a flushing in the face. They read about the sun and wrote small stories and poems on it. Margot wrote a poem about the sun but others did not like it. They teased her. Margot would play no games with them. The moment they sang about the sun, her lips moved. She had come to the Venus five years ago. She remembered the way the sun was when she was four in Ohio, USA.

Once a month ago, she had refused to shower in the school shower rooms. She screamed that the water must not touch her. There was a talk that her parents would take her back to the earth next year. So the children hated her for all these reasons. That day they lock her in a room

They go back to the class when the teacher arrives. They are wonderstruck to see the sun coming out. It is the colour of the flaming bronze. The children rush out of the classroom, turning their faces up to the sky. They feel the sun on their cheeks like a warm iron. They run among the trees, push each other and play hide and seek. In the midst of their running, one of the girls wails. She holds out the hand with the rain drop. The sun having faded, a few cold drops fall on their faces. Their smiles vanish away as they return to the classroom.

At once, one of the girls remembers Margot and shouts for her. They walk over to the closet door slowly. They unlock the door and let Margot out.

Glossary

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weeds	– unwanted wild plants	slammed	– banged
peering	– looking	muffled	– muted
concussion	– confusion for a short time	avalanche	– snow slide
tidal waves	– large ocean waves	repercussions	– unwelcomed effects
slackening	– gradually slowing down	tremble/tremor	– shake
shove	– rough push	spell	– magical situation
Ohio	– a mid western state of the US	tumultuously	– disruptively
patterning	– regular	octopi	– plural of octopus
clutch	– hold tightly	resilient	– recover from difficult conditions
savagely	– aggressively	squinted	– looked
whispered	– spoke in a very quiet and low voice	solemn	– serious
predict	– anticipate		
surged	– moved suddenly		

Textual Exercises

1. Based on your understanding of the story, answer the following questions in a sentence or two.

a) What do children get ready for at the beginning of the story?

At the beginning of the story the children get ready to see the sun.

b) How is life in the planet Venus described?

It had been raining for seven years. A thousand forests had been crushed under the rain and grown up a thousand times to be crushed again.

c) Who is Margot? How is she different from the rest of the children?

Margot is a girl from U.S. She is thin and her face is pale like snow.

d) What does Margot like the most - the sun or the rain?

Margot likes the rain most.

e) What was Margot waiting for? Why did William say that it was a joke?

Margot was waiting for the sun. As she said that it was the day predicted by the scientists about the arrival of the sun, William did not believe her and called it a joke.

f) Why does Margot wish to return to the earth?

Margot is different from other children and they keep her away. So she wishes to return to the earth.

g) Why did the children lock Margot in a closet?

The children did not like Margot who was different from them. They did not like her to join them to see the sun.

h) Margot could recall what the sun looked like while the other children could not. Why?

Margot was in U.S. and she had seen the sun but the other children were just two years old when the sun last came out. They had forgotten the colour and the heat of it.

i) How long did the sun shine on Venus?

The sun shone on Venus for an hour.

j) Why did one of the girls wail?

A rain drop fell on her palm and she was afraid that the sun would soon disappear.

2. Based on your understanding of the story, answer the following in three or four sentences.

a) What is the significance of the particular day described in the story "All Summer in a Day"?

The sun had appeared seven years ago in Venus. So the children longed to see the sun. That day, the teacher asked them to get ready to see the sun.

b) What happens to Margot while the teacher is out of the classroom?

Margot is teased by William, who pushes her. The boys ask her to get away as they hate her pale snow face, her silence and her thinness. They do not accept her to play any game with them.

c) How did Margot describe the sun to others?

She describes the sun as a penny. She says that it is like a fire in the stove.

d) How did the children react when the sun came out after seven years?

The children rushed out shouting happily. They were running and they were turning their faces up to the sky and were feeling the sun on their cheeks. They were taking off their jackets letting the sun burn their arms.

e) Why did William and the other children bully Margot?

They hated her pale snow face, her waiting silence, her thinness and her possible future. She would play no games with them. She was different from them. So William and other children bullied her.

f) What were their feelings towards Margot at the end of the story?

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They took pity on her as they had denied her joys of watching the sun and playing in the sunlight. They felt sorry for the act of locking her in the room.

g) What does the title of the story convey?

The title of the story 'All Summer in a Day' highlights the significance of the presence of the sun in a day in Venus. This is because the sun appears after a gap of seven years. The entire summer is condensed to a day when the sun appears.

3. Answer in a paragraph of about 150 words the following questions.

a) What is the conflict between Margot and the other children in the story, "All Summer in a day"?

Margot from US – remembers the sun – the sun appeared two years back – others forgot the sun – others said Margot is lying – others hate Margot – different from others – so conflict

Title	All Summer in a Day
Author	Ray Bradbury
Genre	The rare presence of the sun on the Planet Venus

Margot has come from US to Venus. She remembers the sun and the way the sun was and the sky was when she was four in Ohio. But the other children were only two years old when the sun last appeared. They have totally forgotten the colour and the heat of it. Margot remembers and recalls that is like a penny. But the other children cry that it is not so. Margot says that the sun is like a fire in a stove. But the children cry that she is lying and she does not remember. But she remembers it very well. The children hate her pale snow face, her waiting silence, her thinness and her possible future. She would play no game with them. She is different from the other children. Hence there is a conflict between Margot and the other children.

Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows.

b) How do the children react to the long awaited event in the story?

children thrilled seeing the sun – rush out of the class – turn up to sky – feel the sun on the cheeks – allow the sun to burn their body – run among the trees – slip and fall – play hide and seek – look at everything wildly – ran non-stop

Title	All Summer in a Day
Author	Ray Bradbury
Genre	The rare presence of the sun on the Planet Venus

The children are just thrilled seeing the sun comes out. They rush out of the classroom shouting happily. They run and turn their faces up to the sky. They feel the sun on their cheeks like

a warm iron. They take off their jackets and allow the sun to burn their arms. They lie out on the jungle mattresses with laughter. They run among the trees, slip and fall. They push each other and play hide and seek. They squint at the sun until tears roll down their faces. They put their hands up to the yellowness and the amazing blueness. They keep on listening in silence. They look at everything wildly like the animals that escaped from their caves. They keep on running and shouting in circles. They run for an hour non-stop.

Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.

c) The sun brought about a positive change in the attitude of the children. Illustrate.

children anxious to see the sun – seven years ago – locked Margot – rushed out to see the sun – ran here and there – the sun faded – returned to classroom – remember Margot was in the closet – they were serious – realised their unkindness – unlocked the door – change in the attitude

Title	All Summer in a Day
Author	Ray Bradbury
Genre	The rare presence of the sun on the Planet Venus

The children were anxious to see the sun that had appeared seven years ago. They locked Margot one of their classmates in a room. The moment the sun appeared they rushed out happily. They kept on running and turning their faces up to the sky. They were taking off their jacket and letting the sun burn their arms. Their innocence came to the fore. When the sun faded, they returned to the classroom. Giving a little cry, one of the girls said that Margot was still in the closet where they had locked her. All the children stood as if one had driven them into the floor. They glanced out at the world that was then raining steadily. They could not meet each other's glances. Their faces were pale. They looked serious. They looked at their hands and feet, their faces down. They gradually realised their unkind act and repented in their heart. They walked over to the closet. They unlocked the door slowly and let Margot out. Indeed, the sun brought out a positive change in the attitude of the children.

If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm, you'll never enjoy the sunshine.

d) Did the children regret having locked Margot in a closet? Answer citing relevantly from the story.

regretted – the sun faded – returned to classroom – Margot in the closet – very serious – realised their unkindness – unlocked the closet – Margot came out – felt sorry – a classmate did not get the chance to see the sun

Title	All Summer in a Day
Author	Ray Bradbury
Genre	The rare presence of the sun on the Planet Venus

Yes, the children regretted having locked Margot in a closet. When the sun faded, they returned to the classroom. Giving a little cry, one of the girls said that Margot was still in the closet where they had locked her. All the children stood as if one had driven them into the floor. They glanced out at the world that was then raining steadily. They could not meet each other's glances. Their faces were pale. They looked serious. They looked at their hands and feet, their faces down. They gradually realised their unkind act and repented in their heart. They walked over to the closet. They unlocked

the door slowly and let Margot out. They regretted that they had denied their classmate the rarest opportunity to see the sun and play with them.

A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition.

Additional

Answer in a paragraph of about 150 words the following question.

a) What do you know about Margot through the story?

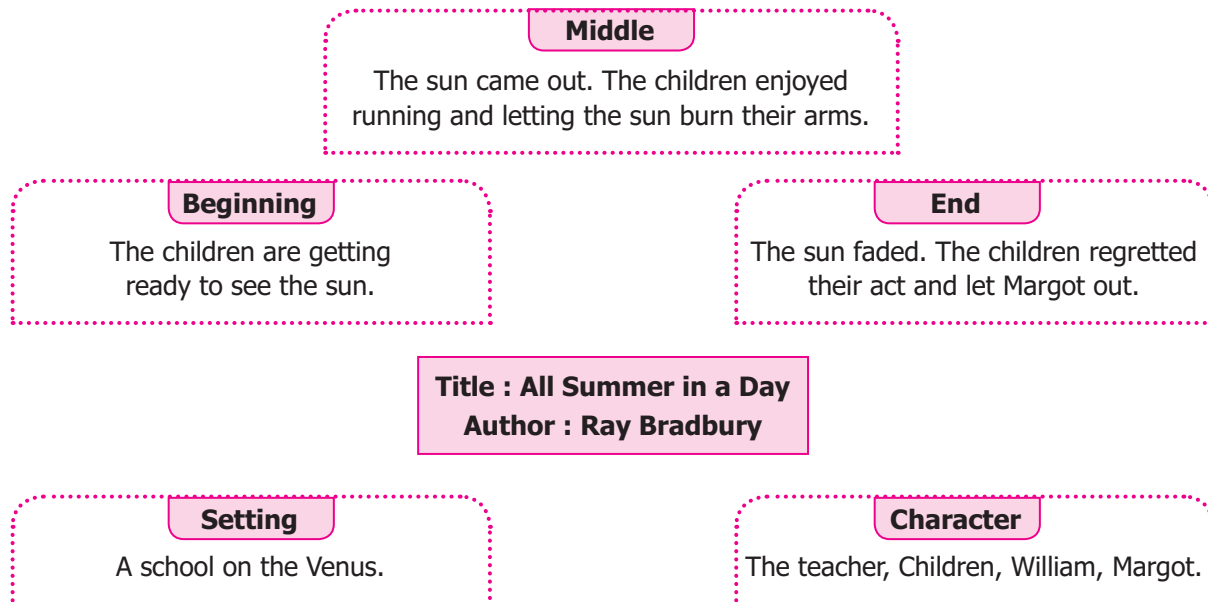
Margot studied in Venus – frail girl – came from US – voice was like a ghost – was bullied – play no games – stood away from others – did not believe her explanation about the sun – called her liar – refused to shower – different from others – looked alien

Title	All Summer in a Day
Author	Ray Bradbury
Genre	The rare presence of the sun on the Planet Venus

Margot was one of the children studying in a school on the Venus. She was a frail girl. She had come to the Venus from US five years ago. She looked like an old picture dusted from an album. If she spoke at all her voice would be like that of a ghost. She was bullied by others, especially a boy by name William. She would play no games with them. If they tagged her and ran she stood silently and blinked at them. When the class sang songs about happiness, life and game her lips barely moved. When she described the sun as a fire in a stove, she was called a liar. Once a month ago she refused to shower in the school shower room. She was different from others. They hated her pale snow face, her waiting silence, her thinness and her possible future. She looked like an alien on Venus.

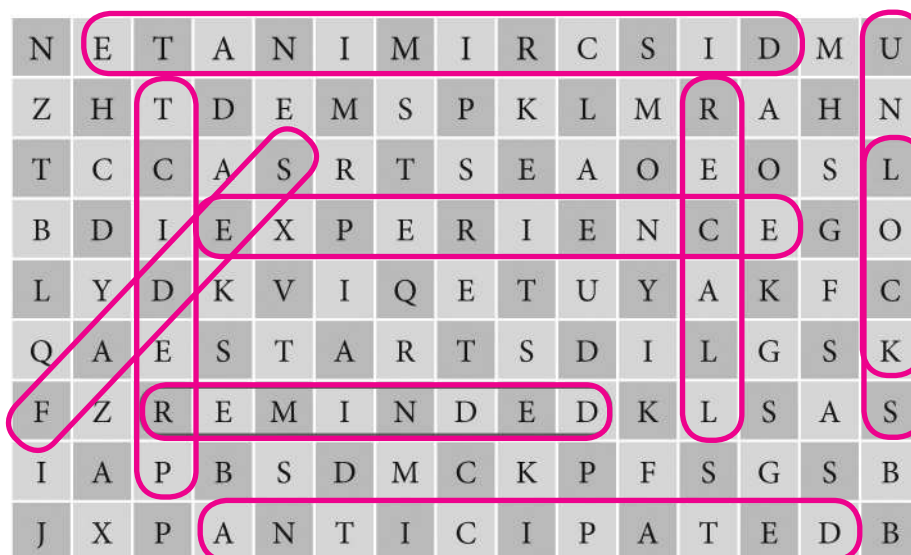
To be happy, you must be your own sunshine.

4. Based on your understanding of the story, complete the story map.



Find out and encircle the following words in the word grid. (The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even back to front)

fade	predict	discriminate	lock	remind
experience	anticipate	unlock	recall	



Now read the sentences below. Complete them appropriately with the words you identified from the grid.

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- The scientists predicted that the Sun would come out on Venus that day after seven years.
- The children are getting ready for the anticipated event.
- The children discriminated Margot as she recalled the Sun.
- William and other children have bullied her and locked her in a closet.
- When the Sun comes out, the children experience the sun.
- The Sun faded behind a stir of mist. Again it started raining on Venus.
- The children are reminded of Margot and unlock the door and let her out.

Speaking

Pair Work.

Ray Bradbury's "All Summer in a Day" is a piece of science fiction. Discuss plots of similar stories with your partner and share your ideas with the class.

- Alien invasion, abduction, and first contact.
- Changing ages, bodies, size, sex, and species.
- Cloning, genetic engineering, mutations, and evolution.