

UNIT 4

PROSE

The Summit

- Edmund Hillary

Warm up

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Adventures, expeditions and explorations are always exciting. Especially when they are real and if it is the first of its kind, it is even more thrilling. The only question that comes to one's mind is what makes one take up such tasks that involve high risks. It is the spirit of formidable adventure and certain qualities which make them achieve such feats.



Tick the qualities that are required to achieve such a feat.

passion	✓	reward		determination	✓	physical fitness	✓
fame		faith	✓	courage	✓	money	
drive	✓	vengeance		inspiration	✓	self-satisfaction	✓
vision	✓	undying spirit	✓	inner urge	✓	perseverance	✓

Summary

The well-organized expedition was launched in the spring of 1953. After a pair of climbers failed to reach the top on May 27, Hillary and Tenzing set out for it early on May 29; by late morning they were standing on the summit. Hillary and Tenzing reached Everest summit. At 11:30 a.m. on May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa of Nepal, became the first explorers to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which at 29,035 feet above sea level is the highest point on earth.

Hillary and Tenzing drank lemon juice and got ready for the journey. They tested the oxygen cylinders. Hillary's boots were frozen with cold. He kept them over the fire to soften them. They put on three pairs of gloves on their hands and windproof over their body. At 6.30 they moved out of the tent with their oxygen cylinders on them. Tenzing paved steps towards the ridge and they reached the top of ridge which was about 28000 feet. The snow was soft over the ridge and it made their route dangerous. After several hundred feet they came to a hollow. There they found two oxygen cylinders which had been left by Evans and Bourdillon on their previous attempt. Hillary was happy to find that the cylinders had hundreds of liters of oxygen which they could use for the downward journey.

They continued their journey though the snow was little dangerous. With some difficulties they reached firmer snow a little higher up. They cut steps on the last steep slopes and walked on with their spike shoes to the South Peak. It was then 9 a.m. They cut a seat for themselves and removed the oxygen cylinder

which was exhausted. Now they had light weight of 20 lb. The snow was firm and they could cut it with their ice axe. It gave a hope to them. They could make a step large enough to keep their over-sized High Altitude boots. At this time they were comfortable with the rope around them.

Now they moved one by one. Tenzin was managing the rope around them and Hillary was cutting the steps. In many places they had difficulty to move because of the overhanging ice. To their east side there was a large cornice and a crack was between the cornice and the rock. Tenzing was holding Hillary with the rope and Hillary entered the crack and lifted his body off the ground. Using the power of his whole body Hillary moved backward up the crack. He moved slowly but steadily. Tenzing was leaving the rope and Hillary was moving inch by inch to reach the top of the rock. Then slowly he came out of the crack and reached a wide ledge. Now he felt that nothing would stop him from reaching the top. He stood on the ledge and signaled Tenzing to come up. Tenzing somehow came through the crack and reached the ledge.

The ridge seemed to be never ending. They had to cut hump after hump to move forward. Their original enthusiasm gave place to some great struggle. They saw a narrow snow ridge going up to the top. They made few more beating of the ice axe and they reached the top. They felt relieved from the troublesome journey. They shook hands and embraced each other. It was 11.30. They saw some unclimbed peaks like Makalu, Kanchenjunga and some more peaks in Nepal. After ten minutes he changed his oxygen set. Tenzing made a small hole and placed some small articles like a bar of chocolate, a packet of biscuits and a handful of lollies. They were meant to be gifts to gods. Colonel Hunt who was the head of the expedition had given a crucifix to Hillary to take to the top. He too made a small hole and kept the crucifix in the hole.

After a few minutes they moved down. They could not waste their time because oxygen was running out. Finally they reached the South Peak. They moved to the reserve cylinders on the ridge. They carried the extra cylinders and reached their tent at 2 p.m. Then they started descending to the South Col. George Lowe and Wilfrid Noyce met them with hot soup and emergency oxygen. They had much work to do there but it was not too much for them. They went to their tent with delight and entered their sleeping bags.

Glossary

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lb	-	pound (a unit for measuring weight, equal to 0.454 of a kilogram)
rope	-	links members of climbing party for safety; a party may be referred to as "a rope"
cornice	-	overhanging mass of snow or ice along a ridge, shaped like the curling crest of a wave
cwm	-	an enclosed arm-chair-shaped hollow situated at the head of a valley
scrambling	-	climbing hurriedly on hands and knees
wriggle	-	to move with a twist or turn
traverse	-	to cross a mountain slope horizontally or diagonally; the name given to such a crossing
tantalize	-	tease or taunt
cramponed	-	climbing on ice wearing spike shoes

Additional Words with Meanings

sardines	-	small eatable fish	shuffle	-	walk quickly
fierce	-	ferocious	levered off	-	pushed, moved
primus	-	small stove	muster	-	gather
donned	-	put on	ledge	-	a narrow piece of rock that sticks on the side of a mountain or cliff

hoisted	- raised	determination	- willpower
gear	- equipment	stance	- position
ridge	- a long area of high land especially at the top of the mountain	heaved	- pulled
crest	- top	wriggled	- crawled
bump	- a small raised area on a surface	hump	- bulge
scraped	- removed	zest	- enthusiasm
hollow	- a place at slightly lower than its surface	grim	- terrible
scraped	- removed	whacks	- blows
gauges	- instruments for measuring	tantalise	- annoy
sparingly	- using little, cautiously	encrusted	- covered with a hard layer of something
trail	- track, path	concealed	- hidden
persisted	- continued	disguising	- hiding
beat a trail up	- make a track by using the place often	grin	- smile widely
frequent	- regular	delight	- happiness
chipped	- cut	crucifix	- cross with the figure of Christ on it
cramponed	- walked with spike shoe	spurred	- prompted
exhausted	- drained	diminishing	- reducing
belay	- attaching a rope to the body and to a rock	descending	- coming down
cornice	- over hanging ice over the ridge	flapped	- vibrated
scrambling	- climbing	perpetual	- permanent



Exercise with Answer

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

- So I cooked them over the fierce flame of primus.
a) mild b) ferocious c) simple d) frank
- Over our down clothing we donned our windproof.
a) removed b) threw away c) showed d) put on
- We reached its crest where it forms a great snow bump.
a) top b) bottom c) near d) beside
- I continued making the trail on up the ridge.
a) show b) path c) time d) treat
- Our first partly-full bottle of oxygen was now exhausted.
a) filled b) strong c) drained d) thrown
- As I heaved hard on the rope, Tenzing wriggled his way up the crack.
a) lived b) heard c) laughed d) pulled

7. Our original zest had now quite gone.
a) enthusiasm b) weakness c) sickness d) strength
8. there was no disguising his grin of delight as he looked around him.
a) shock b) happiness c) sadness d) damage
9. We cramponed along our tracks, spurred by the urgency of diminishing oxygen.
a) talked b) requested c) prompted d) arrested
10. We set ourselves to the task of safely descending the ridge to the South Col.
a) going up b) ascending c) running away d) coming down

Answers

1. b	2. d	3. a	4. b	5. c	6. d	7. a	8. b	9. c	10. d
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Self-Evaluation

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

1. We crawled out of that tent into the snow, hoisted our 30 lb. of oxygen gear.
a) kept b) raised c) lowered d) threw Ans:
2. We crawled out of that tent into the snow, hoisted our 30 lb. of oxygen gear.
a) equipment b) hole c) leak d) only Ans:
3. I scraped the ice off the gauges.
a) attached b) kicked c) kept d) removed Ans:
4. They still contained several litres of oxygen – enough to get down to the South Col if used sparingly.
a) in plenty b) carelessly c) cautiously d) happily Ans:
5. We persisted in our efforts to beat a trail up it.
a) continued b) suppressed c) released d) gave Ans:
6. We made frequent change of lead.
a) seldom b) sometimes c) nowhere d) often Ans:
7. ----- then we chipped steps up the last steep slopes.
a) closed b) cut c) opened d) spoilt Ans:
8. Scrambling on the rocks and cutting hand holes on the snow, we were able to shuffle past these difficult portions.
a) walking b) talking c) climbing d) pushing Ans:
9. Scrambling on the rocks and cutting hand holes on the snow, we were able to shuffle past these difficult portions.
a) walk silently b) walk slowly c) walk sideways d) walk quickly Ans:
10. I sank the spikes of my crampons deep into the frozen snow behind me and levered myself off the ground.
a) lifted b) used c) sent d) walked Ans:

11. Talking advantages of all the forces of knee, shoulder and arm I could **muster**, I literally cramponed myself backwards up the crack.
a) ask b) give c) gather d) push Ans:
12. Fir the first time I really felt the fierce **determination** that nothing now could stop us reaching the top.
a) anger b) quickness c) happiness d) willpower Ans:
13. I took a firm **stance** on the ledge.
a) eagerness b) position c) decision d) determination Ans:
14. As I heaved hard on the rope, Tenzing **wriggled** his way up the crack.
a) crawled b) jumped c) leaped d) skipped Ans:
15. As I cut around the back of one **hump**, another higher one would swing into view.
a) spot b) dot c) ice d) bulge Ans:
16. It was turning into **grim** struggle.
a) happy b) terrible c) mild d) slight Ans:
17. A few more **whacks** of the ice axe in the firm snow and we stood on the top.
a) show b) thoughts c) blows d) intentions Ans:
18. No more humps to **tantalize** us with hopes of success.
a) annoy b) delight c) give d) send Ans:
19. all **encrusted** with all icicles – that concealed his face, there was not disguising his grin of delight.
a) appeared b) covered c) surrounded d) hit Ans:
20. all encrusted with all icicles – that **concealed** his face, there was not disguising his grin of delight.
a) appeared b) surrounded c) covered d) hit Ans:
21. all encrusted with all icicles – that concealed his face, there was not **disguising** his grin of delight.
a) appearing b) intentional c) looking d) hiding Ans:
22. all encrusted with all icicles – that concealed his face, there was not disguising his grin of **delight**.
a) sadness b) laughter c) happiness d) sorrow Ans:
23. we cramponed along our track, spurred by the urgency of **diminishing** oxygen.
a) reducing b) increasing c) availability d) presence Ans:
24. The tents **flapped** and shook under the perpetual South Col gale.
a) fell down b) blown away c) made d) vibrated Ans:
25. The tents flapped and shook under the **perpetual** South Col gale.
a) temporary b) permanent c) sudden d) late Ans:

Antonyms

frozen	×	warm	grim	×	cheerful
hoisted	×	lowered	sharply	×	gradually
narrowed	×	broadened	concealed	×	opened
hollow	×	raised	disguise	×	real
sparingly	×	carelessly	zest	×	boredom
persisted	×	stopped	urgency	×	ordinary
frequent	×	seldom	cautiously	×	carelessly
firm	×	soft	descending	×	ascending
exhausted	×	replenished	perpetual	×	temporary



Exercise with Answer

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

- they were now frozen solid.
a) cold b) iced c) fresh d) warm
- After several hundred feet, we came to a hollow.
a) barren b) fertile c) raised d) hole
- finally we reached firmer snow higher snow.
a) softer b) stronger c) based d) place
- it was turning more into grim struggle.
a) terrible b) cheerful c) barren d) fertile
- we cramponed along our track, spurred by the urgency of diminishing oxygen.
a) immediate b) quickly c) ordinary d) sure

Answers

1. d	2. c	3. a	4. b	5. c
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Self-Evaluation

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

- We crawled out of that tent into the snow, hoisted our 30 lb. of oxygen gear.
a) raised b) lowered c) threw d) kept away Ans:
- From here the ridge narrowed to a knife edge,
a) entered b) moved c) towards d) broadened Ans:
- They still contained several litres of oxygen – enough to get down to the South Col if used sparingly.
a) cautiously b) carefully c) carelessly d) daily Ans:

4. We **persisted** in our efforts to beat a trail up it.
a) stopped b) continued c) persistent d) sustained Ans:
5. We made **frequent** changes in lead.
a) regular b) steady c) fixed d) seldom Ans:
6. our partly-full bottle of oxygen was now **exhausted**.
a) lost b) stopped c) replenished d) exited Ans:
7. I then realised that the ridge ahead, instead of rising, dropped **sharply**.
a) gradually b) immediately c) soon d) fixedly Ans:
8. all encrusted with all icicles – that **concealed** his face, there was not disguising his grin of delight.
a) covered b) surrounded c) opened d) hit Ans:
9. all encrusted with all icicles – that concealed his face, there was no **disguising** his grin of delight.
a) appeared b) surrounded c) covered d) real Ans:
10. all encrusted with all icicles – that concealed his face, there was not disguising his **grin** of delight.
a) appeared b) frown c) covered d) hit Ans:
11. We scrambled **cautiously** over the rock reverse.
a) carefully b) watchfully c) carelessly d) prudently Ans:
12. we set ourselves to the task of safely **descending** the ridge to the South Col.
a) ascending b) coming down c) plunging d) sinking Ans:
13. the tents flapped and shook under the **perpetual** South Col gale.
a) permanent b) surely c) temporary d) doubtfully Ans:

Textual Exercises

1. Based on your reading of the text answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

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- a) **What did Hillary do with his wet boots?**
Hillary cooked the boots on the stove to remove the frozen ice from them
- b) **Name an equipment and a tool carried by the climbers during their expedition.**
Oxygen cylinder and ice-axe are carried by the climber during their expedition.
- c) **Why did Hillary become clumsy-fingered and slow-moving?**
The oxygen was running out so he became clumsy-fingered and slow-moving.
- d) **What did Hillary find in a tiny hollow?**
Hillary found two oxygen cylinders left by the previous climbers.
- e) **When did Hillary feel a sense of freedom and well being?**
When Hillary removed the oxygen cylinder he felt a sense of freedom and well-being.

- f) **What did Hillary mean by saying "We had had enough to do the job, but by no means too much"?**

When they reached their tent they had to do a lot of work but because of the sense of success the work did not seem to be much.

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

- a) **How did the mountaineers belay?**

The mountaineers tied a rope around all the mountaineers and the other end of the rope was attached to a rock.

- b) **Why was the original zest fading away?**

The time was passing and the ridge seemed never ending. They were a little tired. So the original zest was fading away.

- c) **What did Edmund Hillary do to escape the large overhanging ice cornices?**

To escape the large overhanging cornices, Hillary cut a line of steps down to where the snow met the rocks on the west.

- d) **What did Tenzing and Edmund Hillary gift to the Gods of lofty Summit? How did they do it?**

Tenzing gifted to God a bar of chocolate, a packet of biscuits and a handful of lollies. Edmund Hillary gifted to God the crucifix given by Colonel Hunt.

- e) **What did the photograph portray?**

The photograph portrayed the North ridge, showing the North Col and the old route which had been made famous by the struggles of those great climbers of the 1920's and 1930's.

- f) **The soft snow was difficult and dangerous. Why?**

The soft snow was not firm to get foot-hold. It might slip or it might give way under the foot. So the soft snow was difficult and dangerous.

- g) **How did the firm snow at the higher regions fill them with hope?**

The firm snow gave them good foot-hold. They could cut steps up the last steep slopes and they could walk with the crampon shoes to the South Peak. It filled them with hope.

Additional

Answer the following questions.

- a) **What did Hillary and Tenzing drink and eat before starting their expedition?**

Hillary and Tenzing drank lemon juice and ate sardines on biscuits.

- b) **What did Hillary put on before starting the expedition?**

Hillary put on the windproof jacket and wore three pairs of gloves – silk, woollen and windproof.

- c) **What was the familiar phrase used by Tenzing?**

'Just as you wish' was the familiar phrase used by Tenzing.

- d) **What was the division of work between Hillary and Tenzing?**

Tenzing was belaying and Hillary was working in the snow.

3. Based on the text, answer the following questions in a paragraph in about 100–150 words each.

a) How did Hillary and Tenzing prepare themselves before they set off to the summit?
(Para 1, 2 and 3)

Title	The Summit
Author	Edmund Hillary
Theme	Thrilling experiences of the first explorers reaching Everest

*A few good deep breaths and we were ready to go.
Still a little worried about my cold feet, I asked Tenzing to move off.*

The well-organized expedition was launched in the spring of 1953, and a high camp from which to reach the summit was established by mid-May. After a pair of climbers failed to reach the top on May 27, Hillary and Tenzing set out for it early on May 29; by late morning they were standing on the summit. Hillary and Tenzing drank lemon juice and got ready for the journey. They tested the oxygen cylinders. Hillary's boots were frozen with cold. He kept them over the fire to soften them. They put on three pairs of gloves on their hands – silk, woolen and windproof and windproof over their body. At 6.30 they moved out of the tent with their oxygen cylinders on them. They kept the cylinders on their back, connected the mask and turned the valves. They took a few good deep breaths and were ready for the expedition.

Life begins at the end of comfort zone..

b) Give an account of the journey to the South Col from 28,000 feet. (Para 4 to 8)

Title	The Summit
Author	Edmund Hillary
Theme	Thrilling experiences of the first explorers reaching Everest

*I continued making the trail on up the ridge,
leading up for the last 400 feet to the southern summit.*

The well-organized expedition was launched in the spring of 1953, and a high camp from which to reach the summit was established by mid-May. After a pair of climbers failed to reach the top on May 27, Hillary and Tenzing set out for it early on May 29; by late morning they were standing on the summit. Tenzing paved steps towards the ridge and they reached the top of ridge which was about 28000 feet. The snow was soft over the ridge and it made their route dangerous. After several hundred feet they came to a hollow. There they found two oxygen cylinders which had been left by Evans and Bourdillon on their previous attempt. Hillary was happy to find that the cylinders had hundreds of liters of oxygen which they could use for the downward journey. They continued their journey though the snow was a little dangerous. With some difficulties they reached firmer snow higher up. They cut steps on the last steep slopes and walked on with their spike shoes to the South Peak. It was then 9 a.m.

If it scares you, it might be a good thing to try.

- c) Describe the feelings of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing as they reached the top of the Summit. (Para 18)

Title	The Summit
Author	Edmund Hillary
Theme	Thrilling experiences of the first explorers reaching Everest

My first feelings were of relief— relief that there were no more steps to cut, no more ridges to traverse, and no more humps to tantalize us with hopes of success.

The well-organized expedition was launched in the spring of 1953, and a high camp from which to reach the summit was established by mid-May. After a pair of climbers failed to reach the top on May 27, Hillary and Tenzing set out for it early on May 29; by late morning they were standing on the summit. The ridge seemed to be never ending. They had to cut hump after hump to move forward. Their original enthusiasm gave place to some great struggle. They saw a narrow snow ridge going up to the top. They made few more beating of the ice axe and they reached the top. They felt relieved from the troublesome journey. They shook hands and embraced each other. It was 11.30. They saw some unclimbed peaks like Makalu, Kanchenjunga and some more peaks in Nepal.

Fill your life with adventures not things that have stories to tell, not stuff to show

- d) The ridge had taken us two and half hours, but it seemed like lifetime. Why? (Para 15 to 17)

Title	The Summit
Author	Edmund Hillary
Theme	Thrilling experiences of the first explorers reaching Everest

Our original zest had now quite gone, and it was turning more into a grim struggle.

The well-organized expedition was launched in the spring of 1953, and a high camp from which to reach the summit was established by mid-May. After a pair of climbers failed to reach the top on May 27, Hillary and Tenzing set out for it early on May 29; by late morning they were standing on the summit. To their east side there was a large cornice and a crack was between the cornice and the rock. Tenzing was holding Hillary with the rope and Hillary entered the crack and lifted his body off the ground. Using the power of his whole body Hillary moved backward up the crack. He moved slowly but steadily. Tenzing was leaving the rope and Hillary was moving inch by inch to reach the top of the rock. Then slowly he came out of the crack and reached a wide ledge. Now he felt that nothing would stop him from reaching the top. He stood on the ledge and signaled Tenzing to come up. Tenzing somehow came through the crack and reached the ledge. The ridge seemed to be never ending.

Life is made for good friends and great adventures.

- e) Describe the view from the top. What was the most important photograph? (Para 19 and 20)

Title	The Summit
Author	Edmund Hillary
Theme	Thrilling experiences of the first explorers reaching Everest

After ten minutes, I realized that I was becoming rather clumsy-fingered and slow-moving.

The well-organized expedition was launched in the spring of 1953, and a high camp from which to reach the summit was established by mid-May. After a pair of climbers failed to reach the top on May 27, Hillary and Tenzing set out for it early on May 29; by late morning they were standing on the summit. They saw in the east the unexplored and unclimbed Makalu. The great part of Kanchenjunga was seen in the horizon. To the west they could see the unexplored ranges of Nepal. The most important photograph showed the North ridge, showing the North Col and the old route which had been made famous by the struggles of those great climbers of the 1920's and 1930's.

Life is meant to taste the daring adventure.

- f) 'There is no height, no depth that the spirit of man, guided by higher spirit cannot attain'. Discuss the above statement in the context of the achievement of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing.

Title	The Summit
Author	Edmund Hillary
Theme	Thrilling experiences of the first explorers reaching Everest

For a few moments I lay regaining my breath, and for the first time really felt the fierce determination that nothing now could stop us reaching the top.

The well-organized expedition was launched in the spring of 1953, and a high camp from which to reach the summit was established by mid-May. After a pair of climbers failed to reach the top on May 27, Hillary and Tenzing set out for it early on May 29; by late morning they were standing on the summit. From 1920 onwards many famous climbers tried to climb Mount Everest. They went closer to the goal but they did not achieve this. But Hillary and Tenzing reached Everest summit. At 11:30 a.m. on May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa of Nepal, became the first explorers to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which at 29,035 feet above sea level is the highest point on earth. They too had the same difficulty and danger faced by the previous climbers. Hillary and Tenzing with full hope moved forward facing all the hardships. In some places they had soft snow and they might give way under their foot. But they proceeded further and reached the top. This shows that if man has high spirit he can achieve anything in this world.

Life is meant to taste the daring adventure.

Additional

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

1. How did Edmund Hillary and Tenzing achieve their goal of reaching Mt. Everest?

Title	The Summit
Author	Edmund Hillary
Theme	Thrilling experiences of the first explorers reaching Everest

In a number of places the overhanging ice cornices were very large indeed, and in order to escape them I cut a line of steps down to where the snow met the rocks on the west.

The well-organized expedition was launched in the spring of 1953, and a high camp from which to reach at the summit was established by mid-May. After a pair of climbers failed to reach the top on May 27, Hillary and Tenzing set out for it early on May 29; by late morning they were standing on the summit. They drank lemon juice and got ready to leave their camp with the oxygen cylinders. Following a ridge they reached a bump at 28000 feet. They continued their path on the ridge leading to the 400 feet to the southern summit. They had to cross many overhanging ice cornices. Then they came to a crack and Hillary entered the crack. With difficulty he moved in the crack and came out. Then he signaled Tenzing to come through it; he too did it. With a few more steps they reached the top at 11.30 am on May 29, 1953.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

Vocabulary

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a) Idioms

i) Given below are some idiomatic expressions with their meanings. Understand the meaning

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a) wait for the dust to settle | - to wait for a situation to become clear or certain |
| b) get/have all your ducks in a row | - to have made all the preparations needed to do something / to be well organized |
| c) fetch and carry (for somebody) | - to do a lot of little jobs for somebody as if you were their servant |
| d) do the math | - to think carefully about something before doing it, so that you know all the relevant facts or figures |
| e) round the corner | - very near |

ii) Fill in the blanks with the right idioms. Choose from the above given idioms.

- The Sherpas are cheerful, gallant men, who fetch and carry tents, oxygen, food etc., for climbers during their ascent of the summit.
- The team does the math carefully so as to reach the summit successfully.
- When they had to climb through deep new snow the party sometimes had to wait for the dust to settle.
- Each member of the team had all their responsibility to get all their ducks in a row.
- We could not believe that with a few more whacks of the ice axe in the firm snow we were round the corner to the top.

iii) Understand the meaning of the given idiomatic expression and choose the right one to complete the sentence.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| the icing on the cake | - something extra and not essential, but is added to make it even better |
| break the ice | - to make people more relaxed, especially at the beginning of the meeting |

- a) The conference room was silent though packed. The chairman introduced an interactive session to break the ice.
- b) Our headmistress not only promised us to take us for an excursion, but also announced that on return we would get a holiday. It was like the icing on the cake.

b) Phrasal Verbs

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- i) Given below are the phrasal verbs with their meanings. Use the given phrasal verbs in sentences of your own.

turn on	- to open
took over	- took lead
set off	- start a journey
put off	- postpone

1. My manager turned on a new account with the bank.
2. The son took over the company from his father.
3. During our last summer we set off to Ooty.
4. The match was put off due to rain.

- ii) Given below are some Phrasal Verbs which are frequently used in connection with travelling. Guess the meaning and match.

see off	- start off / to begin a journey
stop over	- to go to station or airport to say good bye to someone
set off	- to stay at a place for a short period of time when travelling to another destination

Answer

- see off** – to go to station or airport to say good bye to some one
- stop over** – to stay at a place for a short period of time when travelling to another place
- set off** – start off / to begin a journey

get in	- leave a bus, train etc.
get off	- to go away from home for a vacation.
get on	- arrive inside train, bus etc.
get away	- enter a bus, train, plane.

Answer

- get in** – enter a bus, train, plane.
- get off** – leave a bus, train etc.
- get on** – arrive inside train, bus etc.
- get away** – to go away from home for a vacation.

check in	- pay the bill when leaving a hotel
check out	- arrive and register at airport or hotel

Answer

- check in** – arrive and register at airport or hotel
- check out** – pay the bill when leaving a hotel

c) Compound Words

i) Here are some compound words chosen from the text.

ice-fall	knife-edge	wind-proof	sleeping-bags
half-way	never-ending	partly-full	ice-axe

Let us learn a few more with their meaning.

ice-berg	-	an extremely large mass of ice floating in the sea
ice-cap	-	a layer of ice permanently covering parts of the earth, especially around North and South Poles
ice-floe	-	a large area of ice floating in the sea
ice-sheet	-	a layer of ice that covers a large area of land for a long period of time
ice-rink	-	specially prepared flat surface of ice, where you can ice-skate;

d) Semantic Network

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i) Match the following with their right field, choosing appropriately from the box given.

Machinery	Sports	Transportation	Geography	Weather	Travel
snow-board	— sports		snow-storm	— weather	
snow-mobile	— transportation		snow-bird	— travel	
snow-chains	— machinery		snow-belt	— geography	

Listening

First, read the following statements. Then, listen to the passage read aloud by your teacher or played on the recorder and complete the statements. You may listen to it again, if required.

Complete the following.

- List any three aspects which contributed to the success of the ascent of the summit.
 - work of previous climbers
 - careful and thorough planning
 - excellence of our equipment
- Without the help of Sherpas nothing would have been possible.
- The main idea of the passage is requirement of mountain climbing.
- The biggest thing of all is working together.
- Edmund Hillary and Tenzing were cheerful and gallant men.

Speaking

a) Group activity

i) Have you ever been on an adventurous trip? If so, share your success story with your friends.

I am very much interested in adventurous trip. As I am a school student I cannot have big adventures. Once I had a chance to go on trekking to Yercaud. From Salem it is a 10 kilometre trip and the height is 3000 feet. We had to walk through the forest area so we had to get permission

from the Forest Department. 15 students with one of our teachers started our trip at 8. O'clock in the morning. Certain area was tough to climb. It was very exciting to go through the forest. On the way we came to a small falls and we took a bath. We all reached the top at 1pm. We had lunch there and came down in the bus.

ii) How will you organise or plan for a trip or an event? Do you have the habit of preparing a check-list? Discuss.

I have to consult the people concerned and decide the place and date. Then I should get permission from the authorities concerned. First I should talk to my principal about the trip and convince him to give permission. If I go into the sea I should get ready with proper dress and foot wear. I have to get the boat of the required size for the trip. At least one or two good swimmers should accompany us. Not to miss any small item I will prepare a check list as per the need of the trip. One day before the trip I will check the list to my satisfaction.

b) Individual Activity

Given below are a few proverbs. Prepare a short speech of two minutes on one of the proverbs.

a) Nothing is impossible

The word 'impossible' itself spells, 'I'm possible'. Napoleon Bonaparte once remarked that the word 'impossible' is found only in the dictionary of fools". In this world, everything is possible on the basis of will power, dogged determination and sacrifice. To accomplish the most difficult tasks, you need to put in a lot of hard work, extra perseverance and concentration on a single objective. You should have patience and faith in yourself. You should have determination, dedication and devotion to attain success. Never bother about the results. Keep on going even if the pace is slow. Just ensure it remains steady. You are bound to face obstacles en route to success, but with courage and perseverance, you can master them. Your positive attitude and clear frame of mind determine your future. In this world, there is no such thing as CHANGE. By your own ideas, will and ability, you can create a number of chances, circumstances and the desired atmosphere to achieve the toughest goal.

b) Where there is a will, there is a way.

Generally, all of us have a goal in life which we work to achieve; however, the final goal is achieved only by the people who have strong will power and work hard with complete dedication. Will power is necessary to create a way of surety of achieving the goal in life. Most of the people do not succeed in life as they don't have strong determination and will towards achieving the goal. The meaning of this English proverb 'Where there is a will there is a way' is when we have strong will to get something in life surely we get that in future. Most of the people who are not determined towards their goal generally tend to curse their fate or misfortune. But the fact of getting failure in life is that we don't have will and dedication towards the task. We should blame ourselves and our negligence only and not our fortune. Having wish to get something is not enough; we have to work actively in right direction with strong will power.

c) Together we can achieve more

"Together we can achieve more"... This adage holds true to any organization. You might say it is a simple phrase, but there is so much more to it. Let me tell you how we can achieve success. A team with good communication, commitment, and excellent teamwork will certainly succeed. There is no doubt. First, we have to envision our goals and make each member of the team understand the common goal. Communication is vital in every step. We should collaborate with others. Every member will be delegated a task. In delegating tasks, we focus on individual strengths and expertise. Each person puts his heart in his tasks and builds good working relationship along the way. As long as we have the 4 C's - Communication, Commitment, Collaboration and conviction, we will continue to succeed and deliver quality service.

Giving Instructions

Here are a few instructions given by a Health Inspector to a group of students, in order to prevent malaria and dengue. Complete the series adding some more important instructions.

1. Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your house.
2. Keep your surroundings clean.
3. Wear long-sleeved shirts / blouses and long pants / skirts that cover your arms and legs.
4. Do not litter the place with wastes.
5. Divide the waste into perishable and non-perishable and put them in the proper place.

Now, write a set of 8 to 10 instructions for the following situations.

1. A doctor instructing a patient regarding a healthy diet and proper care after a surgery.

- Take vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat dairy products.
- Include lean meat, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts.
- Limit saturated and trans fats, sodium, and added sugars.
- Avoid canned food items.
- Eat grains that contain 1,200–1,500 calories each day which will help most women lose weight safely.
- Eat grains that contain 1,500–1,800 calories each day suitable for men and for women who weigh more or who exercise regularly.
- After surgery closely follow the doctor's advice.
- Do not eat spicy food.
- Control your movements on the cot.
- Take prescribed medicine properly.

2. A traffic police personnel to the public, as to how to move around in safety, in crowded public places during festival seasons.

- Make sure you know where the exits are.
- Don't wear loose clothes or accessories that could become tangled.
- Avoid standing on or near structures that could collapse.
- Walk around the crowds rather than pushing through them.
- Leave early or late to avoid the rush when the event is over.
- If you're caught in a moving crowd, walk sideways or diagonally across it to work your way.
- Try to carry only your identification, cash, and one credit card.
- Choose a purse with zipper, button, or clasp closures, and a strap that hangs across your body.
- Keep a diligent eye on your children.
- Dress your group alike or in bright-colored, unique clothing.
- Remind younger children to avoid strangers, and help them identify police officers or officials to go to when lost.
- Place your phone number in your child's pocket in case you're separated.
- Keep your phone charged and on. Program it to vibrate as well as ring.

3. A mother to her children, on safety measures to be taken before leaving home on vacation.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Close the doors properly. | • Leave one or two lights on. |
| • Clean your garbage disposal. | • Mute your phone's ringer. |
| • Unplug small appliances. | • Do a faucet check. |
| • Clean standing toilet water. | • Leave the kitchen clean. |

Reading

Note Making

On the basis of your understanding of the given passage, make notes in any appropriate format.

Life of Sherpas

I. Nomadic Sherpas migrated from Tibet to Nepal

- a) 600 years ago
- b) Shyarkhamba
- c) 4 Sherpa clans – Minyaagpa, Thimmi, Sertawa, Chawa

II. Little contact beyond mountains

- a) have their own language
- b) have no opportunity to reach the top
- c) carry things for others
- d) Edmund Hillary the 'Sherpa King'

III. Sherpas die in mountain casualties

- a) carry heaviest loads
- b) earn money from climbers
- c) 1990s commercial guiding on Everest

Grammar

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Kinds of sentences.

a) Simple Sentence

Task 1

Pick out the finite verbs in the following sentences.

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- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| a) You can solve this problem in different ways. | – can solve |
| b) The professor has been working on the last chapter of the book since March. | – has been working |
| c) Despite being a celebrity, Ravi mingles easily with everyone. | – mingles |
| d) You must speak clearly to make yourself understood. | – must speak |
| e) The chairman being away, the clerk is unable to approve the proposal. | – is |
| f) Getting down from the car, the Chief Guest walked towards the dais amidst applause. | – walked |
| g) The old man struggled to walk without support. | – struggled |
| h) In case of emergency, please contact this number. | – contact |
| i) The sun having set, the temperature fell rapidly. | – fell |
| j) But for your help, I could not have completed the assignment. | – could not have completed |

Task 2

Read the following passage and identify the simple sentences.

Sunflowers turn according to the position of the sun. In other words, they 'chase the light'. Have you ever wondered what happens on cloudy, rainy days when the sun is completely covered by clouds? If you think the sunflower withers or turns its head towards the ground, you are completely mistaken. Do you know what happens? Sunflowers turn to each other to share their energy. Learning from Nature, we too should support and empower each other.

b) Complex Sentence

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Task 1

Look at the following complex sentences. Circle the Main clauses and underline the Subordinate clauses.

- Nobody knows when the power supply will resume.
- Please tell me what the time is.
- The man who directed the film was my schoolmate.
- I believe that all men are basically good.
- No one knows when he will return.

Task 2

Pick out the complex sentences in the following passage.

A man saw a lion in the bush, as he was walking through the forest. He did not know what to do. He was helpless. He was too scared to turn around and run. He just knelt down as if he were getting ready to pray. He closed his eyes, thinking that the lion would pounce on him anytime. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw the lion on its knees too. Shocked, he asked the lion what it was doing. The lion replied that he was praying before he started his meal.

c) Compound Sentence

Two Main clauses connected by a conjunction form a compound sentence.

Task 1

Identify the two Main clauses and conjunction in each of the following sentences.

- It started raining suddenly and people ran for shelter.
 - It started raining suddenly
 - people ran for shelter
 - conjunction – and
- Understand the concept well, otherwise you cannot solve the problem.
 - understand the concept well
 - you cannot solve the problem
 - conjunction – otherwise
- Fifty candidates appeared for the interview, but only five were selected.
 - Fifty candidates appeared for the interview
 - only five were selected
 - conjunction – but

d) Ramesh did not know Spanish, so he wanted a translator.

- Ramesh did not know Spanish
- he wanted a translator
- conjunction – so

e) He is a good actor, still he is not popular.

- He is a good actor
- he is not popular
- conjunction – still

Task 2

Pick out the compound sentences in the following passage.

The food we eat has to be digested and then thrown out of the body. The air we breathe in, has to be thrown out, to help us survive. But we hold negative emotions like insecurity, anger and jealousy within ourselves for years. If these negative emotions are not eliminated, the mind grows corrupt and diseased. Let us do away with hatred and lead a healthy life filled with peace and joy.

Task 3

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Complete the sentences choosing the right endings.

We were thoroughly disappointed	–	to find out his address
Hardly had he stepped out	–	we could not go further
They wanted	–	since our team did not get a prize
Since we had run out of petrol	–	was his reckless driving
The cause of his injury	–	when it began to rain

Answer

We were thoroughly disappointed **since our team did not get a prize.**

Hardly had he stepped out **when it began to rain.**

They wanted **to find out his address.**

Since we had run out of petrol **we could not go further.**

The cause of his injury **was his reckless driving.**

Conditional Clauses**Task 1**

Read the following sentences and fill in the blanks.

- If I **were** (be) a spider, I **would weave** (weave) webs.
- If Raj **were** (be) a sculptor, he **would make** (make) beautiful idols.
(or) If Raj **is** a sculptor he **will make** beautiful idols.
- If Mary had an umbrella, she **would lend** (lend) it to me.
- Rex would have played with me, if he **had had** (has) time.
- If I were you, I **would accept** (accept) this offer.
- We **will select** (select) story books for kids, if we allot time for storytelling.

- g. The Education Minister **will visit** (visit) our school tomorrow, if he goes by this way.
- h. You will be rewarded by the wise, if you **stand** (stand) for truth.
- i. If my mother **knows** (know) of my poor performance in the exam, she will not allow me to watch a movie.
- j. If I had won the lottery, I **would have donated** (donate) relief materials for the flood victims.

Task 2

Rewrite the following sentences using 'If' without changing the meaning.

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Example : Unless you go for a walk regularly, you cannot reduce your weight. (Use 'If')

If you do not go for a walk regularly, you cannot reduce your weight.

- a) Sindhu would not have won the world championship, unless she had had single-minded devotion.**

Sindhu would not have won the world championship if she had not had single-minded devotion.

- b) You will not reach your goal, unless you chase your dream.**

You will not reach your goal, if you do not chase your dream.

- c) Unless we plant more trees, we cannot save our planet.**

If we do not plant more trees, we cannot save our planet.

- d) The rescue team would not have saved the victims unless they had received the call in time.**

The rescue team would not have saved the victims if they had not received the call in time.

- e) The palace cannot be kept clean, unless we appoint more people.**

The palace cannot be kept clean if we do not appoint more people.

- f) The portraits would not have been so natural unless the artist had given his best.**

The portraits would not have been so natural if the artist had not given his best.

- g) The manager would not have selected Nithiksha unless she exhibited good accounting skill.**

The manager would not have selected Nithiksha if she had not exhibited good accounting skill.

- h) The policeman would not have arrested the man unless he had violated the rules.**

The policeman would not have arrested the man if he had not violated the rules.

- i) Mr Kunaal would not sponsor my higher education unless I studied well.**

Mr Kunaal would sponsor my higher education if I did not studied well.

- j) Kavin will not stop flying kites unless he understands the risk involved in it.**

Kavin will not stop flying kites if he does not understand the risk involved in it.

- k) Tanya would not know the answer unless she referred to the answer key.**

Tanya would know the answer if she refer to the answer key.

- l) My village cannot achieve 100 % literacy rate, unless the elders of the village cooperate with the education department.**

My village cannot achieve 100 % literacy rate, if the elders of the village do not cooperate with the education department.

Writing

Summarizing

- Summarizing is to briefly sum up the various points from the notes made from the original passage.
- Refer to the reading passage. You must have completed reading. Now go through the passage once again and refer to the notes made and do the summarizing.

Summary

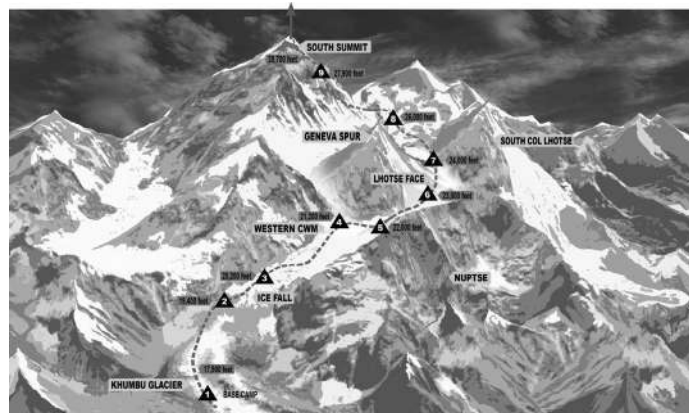
The Sherpas

The Sherpas were the first to migrate from Tibet and get settled in the Solukhumbu District, Nepal. During 14th century, Sherpa ancestors migrated from Kham. The group of people from the Kham region were called "Shyar Khamba" and the inhabitants of ShyarKhamba were called Sherpas. Sherpas had little contact with the world beyond the mountains. They were not allowed to go to the top. They got a low salary. Today Sherpas get good pay. The transformation began when the Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and Hillary reached Everest in 1953. Life in Khumbu improved thanks to the efforts taken by Hillary and hence he was known as Sherpa King. Sherpas working on the Everest perish one by one because of natural disasters. In some ways Sherpas have benefitted from commercialisation of the Everest. They have taken up jobs as guides.

Interpreting non-verbal presentation

Trace the trekking trail to reach the summit with the given detail and write an interesting paragraph in about 100 words.

The Summit of Mount Everest



Khumbu Glacier was the base camp. It is at a height of 17500 feet. They had a short stop at 19400 feet and then proceeded to 20200. On the way they had ice fall and it gave some trouble to them. They continued their trekking and reached Western CWM which is at a height of 21200. This was their 4th stop. Then they took right turn and reached 22000. This led to their 6th place which is at a height of 23000 feet. To reach the 7th place they crossed Lhotse face. The 7th stop was 24000 feet high. They proceeded further and crossed Geneva Spur and reached the height of 26000 feet. Then they further moved and reached 27500. With great difficulty they reached South Summit which is at a height of 28700. Now they were closer to our goal. Then they reached the top which is above 29035 feet. They were successful in their mission.

UNIT 4

POEM

Ulysses
- Alfred Tennyson

Summary

"Ulysses" was published in 1842 in the collection of poetry that secured Tennyson's literary fame. It had been written nine years earlier, when he was 24 years old, following the death of his closest friend, Arthur Henry Hallam. This poem has been written as a dramatic monologue: the entire poem is spoken by a single character, whose identity is revealed by his own words.

Ulysses complains that he is "idle" as a king, being at home with his elderly wife, stuck passing enlightened laws for a "savage race" that sleeps and eats but does not know him. He does not want to cease his travels; he has made the most of his life, having suffered and experienced pleasure both with others and alone and both at sea and on the shore. He is a famous name; he has seen the world and has been honored everywhere. He also has enjoyed battling at Troy with his fellow warriors.

He is "a part of all that I have met," but this is not the end, for his experience is an archway to new experiences, with the horizon always beyond reach. It is boring to stop and wither away and be useless in his old age; simply breathing is not life. Multiple lives would be too little to get the most out of existence, and little of his one life remains, but at least he is alive and there is time for "something more." It would be a shame to do nothing for even three days; he does not want to store himself away. His "gray spirit" yearns to attain knowledge and follow it "like a sinking star,"

In contrast, his son Telemachus, who will succeed him as king, seems content to stay put and simply rule the people. Ulysses loves him and knows that he will use his prudence to govern wisely, turning the "rugged" people "mild," and he is "blameless" and "decent" in his "common duties." He honors the family's gods. Yet, Telemachus does not have his father's energy; "He works his work, I mine."

Ulysses looks at the port and the sea beyond, calling to him. He recalls "the thunder and the sunshine" of his mariners' exciting travels together, their "free hearts" and free minds, and understands that he and they are old now. Yet, they still can do something noble and suited to their greatness, especially as they are men who once fought with gods.

Light fades, and the day wanes. Ulysses calls out that it is not too late to discover a "newer world." They can leave this shore and sail beyond the sunset, exploring until he dies. Perhaps they even will reach the Happy Isles and meet Achilles. Although they are weak in age, much vigor remains; they still have "heroic hearts" which are "strong in will" and want to persevere, explore and discover and never give up.

Glossary

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drink life to the lees	– drink to the very last drop; here 'live life to the fullest'
scudding	– moving rapidly because of the wind
Hyades	– a group of stars in the constellation Taurus often associated with rain
vext	– (past tense of 'vex') upset
to rust unburnish'd	– to let go waste, without being used
three suns	– three long years
Telemachus	– son of Ulysses
smite	– strike
furrow	– mark made in the water by the ship
baths	– outer ocean or river that the Greeks believed to surround the flat earth
Happy Isles	– a fortunate island situated in the Atlantic Ocean, popularly known as Greek Paradise
Achilles	– the greatest of Greek warriors (as an infant his mother dipped into the river Styx, which made him invulnerable everywhere but the feet by which she held him)

1. Complete the summary of the poem, choosing words from the list given below.
Lines 1 to 32

Ulysses is (1) unwilling to discharge his duties as a (2) king, as he longs for (3) travel. He is filled with an (4) unquenchable thirst for (5) adventure and wishes to live life to the (6) fullest. He has travelled far and wide gaining (7) knowledge of various places, cultures, men and (8) matters. He recalls with delight his experience at the battle of Troy. Enriched by his (9) experience he longs for more and his quest seems endless. Like metal which would (10) rust if unused, life without adventure is meaningless. According to him living is not merely (11) breathing to stay alive. Though old but zestful, Ulysses looks at every hour as a bringer of new things and yearns to follow knowledge even if it is (12) unattainable.

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fullest	unquenchable	unattainable	experience	knowledge	king
matters	rust	adventure	unwilling	travel	breathing

Lines 33 to 42

Ulysses desires to hand over his (1) kingdom to his son Telemachus, who would fulfil his duties towards his subjects with care and (2) prudence. Telemachus possesses patience and has the will to civilise the citizens of Ithaca in a (3) tender way. Ulysses is happy that his son would do his work blamelessly and he would pursue his (4) quest for travel and knowledge.

prudence	kingdom	quest	tender
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Lines 44 to 70

Ulysses beckons his sailors to (1) gather at the port where the ship is ready to sail. His companions who have faced both (2) thunder and sunshine with a smile, are united by their undying spirit of adventure. Though death would end everything, Ulysses urges his companions to join him and sail beyond the sunset and seek a newer (3) world, regardless of consequences. These brave hearts who

had once moved (4) heaven and earth, may have grown old and weak physically but their spirit is young and (5) undaunted. His call is an inspiration for all those who seek true knowledge and strive to lead (6) meaningful lives.

world	thunder	meaningful	gather	undaunted	heaven
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2. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.

a) 'Ulysses is not happy to perform his duties as a king.' Why?

Ulysses does not want to be an idle king who would meet the people to talk to them about the laws. He knows that he cannot retire from travel.

b) What does he think of the people of his kingdom?

He thinks that the people of his kingdom are savage people.

c) What has Ulysses gained from his travel experiences?

He has seen and known people of many cities. He has come to know the manner, climate, councils and governments of different cities.

d) Pick out the lines which convey that his quest for travel is unending.

"Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades

e) 'As tho' to breathe were life!' – From the given line what do you understand of Ulysses' attitude to life?

Ulysses does not like to stay in a place; he is always for adventures. For him life is not merely for breathing.

f) What does Ulysses yearn for?

Ulysses yearns for knowledge; he looks at every hour as a bringer of new things.

g) Who does the speaker address in the second part?

He addresses the sailors who are willing to join him for adventure.

h) Why did Ulysses want to hand over the kingdom to his son?

Ulysses wanted to hand over his kingdom to his son Telemachus, because he wanted to go with the sailors to experience new adventures.

i) How would Telemachus transform the subjects?

Telemachus would fulfil his duties towards his subjects with care and prudence. Telemachus possesses patience and has the will to civilise the citizens of Ithaca in a tender way.

j) 'He works his work, I mine' – How is the work distinguished?

Ulysses' work is to go to different places and Telemachus, his son's work is to rule his kingdom.

k) In what ways were Ulysses and his mariners alike?

Ulysses and his mariners were old but they had the honour of the old age. They were closer to death but they wanted to do some noble work before their end.

l) What could be the possible outcomes of their travel?

The sea in Gulf may wash them down and they may reach the Happy Isles which are known as Greek Paradise. They may see the great Achilles.

3. Identify the figures of speech employed in the following lines.

- a) *"Thro' scudding drifts the rainy Hyades
Vext the dim sea.."*
eg. 'Personification' is employed in the above lines.
- b) *"For always roaming with a hungry heart"*
Personification.
- c) *"And drunk delight of battle with my peers";*
Personification.
- d) *".....the deep
Moans round with many voices".*
Personification.
- e) *"To follow knowledge like a sinking star".*
Simile.
- f) *"There lies the port the vessel puffs her sail"*
Personification.

4. Read the sets of lines from the poem and answer the questions that follow.

- a) *"... I mete and dole
Unequal laws unto a savage race,
That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me".*
- What does Ulysses do?**
Ulysses meets people and talks to them about the laws.
 - Did he enjoy what he was doing? Give reasons.**
He did not enjoy what he was doing. His main goal was to travel for adventure. He called his people a savage race.
- b) *"Yet all experience is an arch wherethrough
Gleams that untravell'd world, whose margin fades
For ever and for ever when I move".*
- What is experience compared to?**
Experience is compared to an arch through which one can see the unknown world.
 - How do the lines convey that the experience is endless?**
When we see through the arch, the end fades away and immediately a new sight will emerge. So the experience is endless.
- c) *"Little remains: but every hour is saved
From that eternal silence, something more,
A bringer of new things; and vile it were"*
- How is every hour important to Ulysses?**
Ulysses wants to utilise whatever time is left with him. So every hour is important to him.

ii. **What does the term 'Little remains' convey?**

He is already old so only little time is left with him.

- d) *"This is my son, mine own Telemachus,
To whom I leave the sceptre and the isle
Well-loved of me",*

i. **Who does Ulysses entrust his kingdom to, in his absence?**

Ulysses entrusts his kingdom to his son, Telemachus in his absence

ii. **Bring out the significance of the 'sceptre'.**

Sceptre is the decorated staff carried by kings. It is the symbol of kingly power.

- e) *"That ever with a frolic welcome took
The thunder and the sunshine, and opposed"*

i. **What do 'thunder' and 'sunshine' refer to?**

'Thunder' and 'sunshine' refer to the easy and difficult situation they meet when they travel.

ii. **What do we infer about the attitude of the sailors?**

Sailors are ready to accept any situation on the way. They have positive attitude.

- f) *"Death closes all: but something ere the end,
Some work of noble note, may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods".*

i. **The above lines convey the undying spirit of Ulysses. Explain.**

Ulysses has a strong and determined mind to travel. He will not be frightened of any difficult situation on the way.

ii. **Pick out the words in alliteration in the above lines.**

ere – end; noble – note.

- g) *".....for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
Of all the western stars, until I die".*

i. **What was Ulysses' purpose in life?**

Ulysses' purpose in life was to travel to unknown lands which might lay far away from him.

ii. **How long would his venture last?**

His venture would last till his death.

- h. *"One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield".*

i. **Though made weak by time and fate, the hearts are heroic. Explain.**

Ulysses and the sailors may be weak due to the age and their fate but they all have a very strong will.

ii. **Pick out the words in alliteration in the above lines.**

heroic – hearts; weak – will; strive – seek.

Additional

Read the sets of lines from the poem and answer the questions that follow.

- a) *"I will drink
Life to the lees; All times have enjoyed
Greatly, have suffer'd greatly both with those"*
- i) **How does Ulysses want to live?**
He wants to live his life to the fullest.
- ii) **Describe the experiences of Ulysses.**
Ulysses has enjoyed greatly and suffered also greatly.
- b) *"For always roaming with a hungry heart
Much have I seen and known; cities men
And manners, climates, councils, governments"*
- i) **How did Ulysses go around?**
He always went around with a hungry heart. He wanted to see new places.
- ii) **What did Ulysses come to know out of his vast travel?**
Ulysses came to know different cities, their men, manners, climate and the types of governments.
- c) *"Well-loved of me, discerning to fulfil
This labour, by slow prudence to make mild
A rugged people, and thro' soft degrees"*
- i) **Who is well-loved of Ulysses?**
Telemachus, his son is well-loved of Ulysses.
- ii) **What is the labour mentioned here?**
The labour mentioned here is ruling the people.

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

- a) *"I cannot rest from travel: I will drink
Life to the lees":*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

The poet expresses the longing of Ulysses who wants to live his life to the fullest.

Explanation :

In the poem he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. Though he is a king he does not show any interest to rule his kingdom. He says he cannot take rest from travel. He wants to live life to the fullest. He gets the fullest satisfaction only from travel.

- b) *"I am become a name;
For always roaming with a hungry heart"*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

The poet explains what fame Ulysses has gained so far and what he aspires.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. His ship may drift from one place to another because of strong wind. He has earned a name for himself a constant traveller. He always roams around with a hungry heart. Hungry heart stands for his strong desire to travel to unknown places.

- c) *"How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnished, not to shine in use!"*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

The poet utters these words to stress that Ulysses does not want to spend quiet days.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. He does not want to stop his travel to unknown places. It will be boring for him to give a short gap between travels. He wants to travel continuously. If he stops his travel his life will be rusted like the unused swords become rusted. Only when we use the swords do they shine. In the same way his life will shine only when he travels.

- d) *"To follow knowledge like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought".*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

The poet expresses Ulysses' wish to gather knowledge.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. His quest for knowledge goes beyond ordinary people. He wants to follow knowledge like a sinking star. The expression 'sinking star' is ambiguous. Ulysses wants to chase after knowledge and try to catch it as it sinks like a star. Or it may mean Ulysses himself who is moving closer to death. So he is sinking like a star. He wants to gain knowledge which may be beyond the human thoughts.

- e) *"He works his work, I mine".*

Reference :

This line is taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

The poet expresses that Ulysses wants to follow his own way.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. Though he is a king he does not want to rule over his kingdom. He has decided to pass the responsibility of ruling the people to his son, Telemachus. Then Ulysses would be free to undertake his journey to different places. Telemachus will do his work as a king and Ulysses will do his work as a traveller.

- f) *"....you and I are old;
Old age hath yet his honour and his toil";*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

Here Ulysses address his fellow sailors.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. In the last part of the poem Ulysses addresses his fellow sailors. They faced the easy and difficult situations alike. Now all have become old. In their old age they still maintain honour and they have the strength to work hard. This shows the determination of Ulysses and his men.

- g) *"The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs: the deep
Moans round with many voices".*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

Ulysses talks about his last days and he wants to travel before his death.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. In the last part of the poem Ulysses addresses his fellow sailors. Light fades, and the day wanes. Ulysses calls out that it is not too late to discover a "newer world." He knows that the old age might have made all of them weak but still they have the determination to travel. The sea is waiting for them to take another venture. Ulysses observes the sunset and the arrival of night, but it seems like he's thinking about his own death as well. It reminds us of people mourning a death.

- h) *"It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew".*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

In the last part of the poem the poet brings in the idea of Ulysses' death.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. In the last part of the poem Ulysses addresses his fellow sailors. They can leave this shore and sail beyond the sunset, exploring until he dies. Perhaps they even will reach the Happy Isles and meet Achilles. Although they are weak in age, much vigour remains; they still have "heroic

hearts" Happy Isles means Greek Paradise. Achilles was the greatest Greek warrior. It is believed that Achilles spent his time in Happy Isles after his death.

- i) *"We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven";*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

In the last part of the poem the poet brings in the physical weakness of Ulysses in his old age.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. In the last part of the poem Ulysses addresses his fellow sailors. He accepts that they have become old and they lost their strength. Once they had the strength to move heaven and earth which means they were strong enough to do any physical work. Although they are weak in age, much vigor remains; they still have "heroic hearts" which are "strong in will" and want to persevere, explore and discover and never give up.

- j) *"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield".*

Reference :

This line is taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

In the last part of the poem the poet talks about the strong will power of Ulysses.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. In the last part of the poem Ulysses addresses his fellow sailors. He accepts that they have become old and they have lost their strength. Once they had the strength to move heaven and earth which means they were strong enough to do any physical work. Though they have lost their strength their will is not lost. Their will-power will be with them to work hard, to find something new.

Additional

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

- a) *"Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.
I am part of all that I have met"*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

The poet expresses the vast experience of Ulysses.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. He is a famous name; he has seen the world and has been honored everywhere. He also has enjoyed battling at Troy with his fellow warriors. He is a part of all that he has met, but this is not the end, for his experience is an archway to new experiences, with the horizon always beyond reach. He also expresses that he was part of Trojan War which was fought in Troy. This shows that Ulysses has become part of all the experiences; he has never been passive.

- b) *"This labour, by slow prudence to make mild
A rugged people, and thro' soft people"*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

The poet says these words when Ulysses decides to pass the kingdom to his son.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. He decides to pass the kingdom to his son Telemachus, who will succeed him as king. He seems content to stay and simply rule the people. Ulysses loves him and knows that he will use his prudence to govern wisely and he will turn the rough people mild, and he is blameless and decent in his common duties. This shows that Ulysses does not want to stay in his kingdom.

- c) *"There gloom the dark, broad seas. My mariners,
Souls that have toil'd, and wrought, and thought with me"*

Reference :

These lines are taken from the poem, 'Ulysses' written by Alfred Tennyson.

Context :

The poet expresses the confidence of Ulysses.

Explanation :

In the poem, 'Ulysses' he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. In the last part of the poem Ulysses addresses his fellow sailors. The ships are ready to sail in the dark sea. His mariners worked hard with him and have the same thoughts as he has. Ulysses shifts our attention from his son to the port of Ithaca, where he tells us a ship is preparing to set sail. It looks like he's planning on skipping town after all, and with his old friends as well. "Gloom" is usually a noun but here it's a verb that means "appearing dark" or "scowling."

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

- a) **What makes Ulysses seek newer adventures?**

Poem	Ulysses
Poet	Alfred Tennyson
Theme	Hungry heart for travel and experience

*Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades*

The poem, 'Ulysses' was written by Alfred Tennyson. Ulysses complains that he is idle as a king, stays with his elderly wife and keeps passing enlightened laws to his people. He does not want to stop his travels; he suffered and experienced pleasure both with others and alone and both at sea and on the shore. He is a famous name; he has seen the world and has been honored everywhere. He also has enjoyed battling at Troy with his fellow warriors. He is a part of all that he has met, but this is not the end, for his experience is an archway to new experiences, with the horizon always beyond reach. It is boring to stop and wither away and be useless in his old age; simply breathing is not life. When he is alive there is time for something more. It would be a shame to do nothing for even three days; he does not want to store himself away. His spirit yearns to attain knowledge and follow it like a sinking star.

*To follow knowledge like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought.*

b) List the roles and responsibilities Ulysses assigns to his son Telemachus, while he is away.

Poem	Ulysses
Poet	Alfred Tennyson
Theme	Hungry heart for travel and experience

*This is my son, mine own Telemachus,
To whom I leave the sceptre and the isle*

The poem, 'Ulysses' was written by Alfred Tennyson. In the poem he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. In contrast, his son Telemachus, who will succeed him as king, seems content to stay in the kingdom and simply rule the people. Ulysses loves him and knows that he will use his prudence to govern wisely, turning the rough people mild, and he is blameless and decent in his common duties. He honors the family's gods. Yet, Telemachus does not have his father's energy. He will do his work well leaving Ulysses to do his work as a traveller. When compared with Ulysses, Telemachus seems a lot less restless. He has "slow prudence," meaning he's patient and willing to make the best decision for the people of Ithaca without being too hasty.

*A rugged people, and through soft degrees
Subdue them to the useful and the good.–*

c) What is Ulysses' clarion call to his sailors? How does he inspire them?

Poem	Ulysses
Poet	Alfred Tennyson
Theme	Hungry heart for travel and experience

*Free hearts, free foreheads - you and I are old;
Old age hath yet his honour and his toil;*

The poem, 'Ulysses' was written Alfred Tennyson. In the poem he describes his intention to travel to unknown places to gain knowledge and experience. In the last part of the poem Ulysses addresses his fellow sailors. Ulysses beckons his sailors together at the port where the ship is ready to sail. His companions who have faced both thunder and sunshine with a smile, are united by their undying spirit of adventure. Though death would end everything, Ulysses urges his companions to join him and sail beyond the sunset and seek a newer world, regardless of consequences. These brave hearts who had once moved heaven and earth, may have grown old and weak physically but their spirit is young and undaunted. His call is an inspiration to all those who seek true knowledge and strive to lead meaningful lives.

*'T is not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows;*

Additional

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

a) What is the central theme of the poem, 'Ulysses' by Tennyson?

Poem	Ulysses
Poet	Alfred Tennyson
Theme	Hungry heart for travel and experience

*That loved me, and alone, on shore, and when
Thro' scudding drifts the rainy Hyades
Vext the dim sea:*

The central theme of 'Ulysses' is that there is a search for adventure, experience and meaning which makes life worth living. Tennyson used Ulysses as the old adventurer. He was unwilling to accept the settling of old age and longing for one more quest. In the second section, Ulysses implies that Telemachus is better fitted to be a king, which requires more governance, discipline and patience. And he (Ulysses) is better fitted to be an adventurer. Ulysses thinks life is meaningful only if there is some quest. It must be understood as a day dream Ulysses is having or he is contemplating despite his old age. Their will to seek adventure will overcome the weakness the age has brought upon them. Ulysses is not satisfied to sit and contemplate on his past adventures. He is proud of his reputation, but resting on those laurels is meaningless. This refers to that line where he compares himself to a tool, presumably a sword that only shines if it is in use.

*My mariners,
Souls that have toil'd, and wrought, and thought with me -*

Listening

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Listen to the poem and fill in the blanks with appropriate words and phrases. If required listen to the poem again.

Choose the best option and complete the sentences.

- _____ works like madness in the poet.
a) Wander-Thirst b) Bidding Farewell c) Eastern Sunrise d) Western Seas **Ans: a)**
- A man could choose _____ as his guide.
a) the sun b) the hills c) a star d) a bird **Ans: c)**
- There is no end of _____ once the voice is heard.
a) walking b) roaming c) talking d) voyaging **Ans: d)**
- The old ships return, while the young ships _____.
a) drift b) move c) sail d) wander **Ans: c)**
- The blame is on the sun, stars, the road and the _____.
a) hills b) trees c) seas d) sky **Ans: d)**

UNIT 4

SUPPLEMENTARY

The Midnight Visitor

- Robert Arthur

Warm up

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Study the title of the story 'The Midnight Visitor'. Discuss in groups what the story is all about.

a. Certain professionals can be identified by their appearance.

What comes to your mind first when you think of a 'pilot' or a 'traffic policeman'?

Discuss in pairs and share your thoughts with the class.

- When we think of a 'pilot' the picture of a professional with calm mind enjoying the beauty of the twinkling stars comes to our mind.
- When we think of a traffic policeman, the picture of a duty - minded officer holding the signal board in his hand directing the traffic earnestly comes to our mind.

b. Let us try to picturise people in a few interesting professions (based on common perception there can be exceptions).

Form groups of four and draw a picture of one or two of the following:

- scientist
- soldier
- journalist

In your attempt to sketch you may include the following:

- typical dress
- hair style
- accessories



Summary

The story revolves around three characters, two rival spies named Ausable and Max and one mystery writer Fowler. Ausable is a chubby, lethargic, messy and clumsy man while Max is slender and rugged.

The story is a short but intriguing insight into the life of a spy which may not be as glamorous as in the movies but still full of danger and suspense. Ausable meets Fowler, a writer fascinated by spies and secrets. Ausable was expecting a sensitive document to arrive that night and so asks Fowler to follow him through the night. Though Fowler is disappointed at Ausable's appearance and mannerisms, he agrees to do the same. Suddenly, Ausable gets a phone call regarding someone who has entered his hotel room. Alarmed but not overly worried he beckons Fowler to follow him to his room.

The room is on the 6th floor. As they enter the room, they are startled by a pistol-toting individual staring at them. It is Max, the rival spy of Ausable. He asks them to enter and lock the room. He threatens Ausable and warns him to hand over the documents to him as soon as they arrive at his room later that night. Playing rather composed Ausable sits down and complains about the balcony window that he thought Max used to break into his room.

Max claims that he used the master key to get inside and had he known about the balcony he would have used that instead. Ausable reiterates that he complained to the management about the balcony window several times and has had previous break-ins. Fowler is listening to the conversation intently. Suddenly there is a loud clamor at the door. Ausable suggests that it must be the police that he has arranged to safe keep the documents.

Max gets anxious and asks Ausable to turn them away while he hides in the balcony. He threatens to shoot if he smells any trickery. As soon as Max leaps outside the window he yells out of horror as he crashes to the road below. The room has no balcony after all. Next, the door opens and Fowler sees a waiter holding Ausable's drinks; there is no policeman. Fowler is relieved and impressed by Ausable's presence of mind. He realizes that looks can truly be deceiving.

Glossary

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musty	- having a stale smell
wheezily	- with a hissing sound while breathing
espionage	- the practice of spying to obtain information
sloppy	- careless and unsystematic
prosaic	- ordinary, usual
inflection	- modulation, intonation
sill	- a slab of wood or stone at the foot of a window opening or doorway
deftly	- skillfully

Textual Exercises

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1. Answer in a sentence or two the following questions.

a) Mention two features of Ausable that were uncharacteristic of a detective.

Ausable was very fat and his accent was mixed with American accent.

b) What was Ausable waiting for?

Ausable was waiting for a document.

c) Who was the Midnight Visitor? What was the purpose of his visit?

Max, another spy was the Midnight Visitor. He came to get the document from Ausable.

d) How had Max actually entered the room?

Max actually had entered the room with the master key.

e) Did Max's presence alarm Ausable?

Max's presence alarmed Ausable but he did not reveal it on his face.

f) How did Ausable describe the balcony and the manner in which one could get into his room through it?

Ausable described that there was a balcony closer to his room and it was placed in such a way that one could enter his room through it. He said that he had already had break-ins through the balcony and he had complained to the management.

g) Where did Max try to hide himself?

Max tried to hide himself in the balcony.

h) Who was Henry? Why had he visited Ausable's room?

Henry was the waiter and he came to Ausable's room to give the drinks he had ordered.

i) What happened to Max finally?

Max fell down and died.

2. Answer the following questions in about three to four sentences each.**a. Who was Fowler? Why did he meet Ausable?**

Fowler was a young writer. He met Ausable to get some ideas about the report on the missile.

b. Why was Fowler initially disillusioned with Ausable?

Ausable did not suit any description of a spy. He was very fat and he had a mixed accent with American accent. His room was on the 6th floor. His behaviour was not like that of a spy. So he was initially disillusioned.

c. Fowler was thrilled when he entered Ausable's room. Why?

Fowler was thrilled when he entered Ausable's room because he saw a man standing inside the room with the pistol in his hand. He threatened Fowler and Ausable with the automatic gun. He waved the gun at them and asked them to sit down.

d. How, according to Ausable, had Max entered the room?

According to Ausable, Max had entered the room from the balcony. He said that there was a balcony which belonged to the next apartment but it was closer to his window. One could easily come to his room through the window.

e. How did the three men react to the knocking at the door?

Fowler jumped at the sudden knocking at the door thinking there must be some danger. Ausable just smiled and said that it must be the police that had arrived. He had arranged for them to protect the document. Max bit his lip nervously and was black with anger.

f. Was Ausable really waiting for the police? Give reasons.

Ausable was not waiting for the police. He thought of a plan to escape from Max. He prepared the ground for Max to believe that there was a balcony which could be reached through the window from his room. So when he heard the knock at the door he acted as if he was waiting for the police. Hearing that Max went out through the window and fell down.

3. Answer in a paragraph in about 150 words the following questions.**a. How did Ausable outwit Max?**

Ausable spy – Max another spy – Ausable shocked – Max standing in his room – threatened to hand over the document – Ausable composed – said Max broke open the balcony window – Max used master key – had complained to the management about the balcony window – loud knocking – Ausable, police had come – Max, send them away – would hide in the balcony – leapt outside – fell down – no balcony – waiter came

Title	The Midnight Visitor
Author	Robert Arthur
Theme	The clever tricks of a spy to trap another spy

Ausable was a spy but he did not look so. Max was another spy who looked like a spy in every aspect. When Ausable entered his room with Fowler he was a little alarmed to see Max inside his room with an automatic pistol in his hand. He threatened Ausable to hand over the documents to

him as soon as they arrived at his room later that night. Playing rather composed Ausable sat down and complained about the balcony window that he thought Max used to break into his room. Max claimed that he used the master key to get inside. Ausable reiterated that he had complained to the management about the balcony window several times and had had previous break-ins. Suddenly, there was a loud knocking at the door. Ausable said that it must be the police that he had arranged to safe keep the documents. Max believed it and got anxious. He asked Ausable to turn them away while he hid in the balcony. As soon as Max leapt outside the window he yelled out of horror as he crashed to the road below. There was no balcony at all and no police man was there. It was the waiter who had knocked at the door.

Intelligence outsmarts villiany

b. Describe the significance of the balcony.

Ausable entered his room – Max was inside – pistol in hand – hand over the document – Ausable composed – complained balcony widow – Max used master key – had complained about the balcony window – loud knocking – Ausable – police had come – Max jumped out of the window – yelled – fell down – no balcony – waiter came – balcony plan of Ausable.

Title	The Midnight Visitor
Author	Robert Arthur
Theme	The clever tricks of a spy to trap another spy

When Ausable entered his room with Fowler he was a little alarmed to see Max inside his room with an automatic pistol in his hand. He threatened Ausable to hand over the documents to him as soon as they arrived at his room later that night. Playing rather composed, Ausable sat down and complained about the balcony window that he thought Max used to break into his room. Max claimed that he used the master key to get inside. Ausable reiterated that he had complained to the management about the balcony window several times and had had previous break-ins. Suddenly there was a loud knocking at the door. Ausable said that it must be the police that he had arranged to safe keep the documents. Max believed it and got anxious. He asked Ausable to turn them away while he hid in the balcony. As soon as Max leapt outside the window he yelled out of horror as he crashed to the road below. There was no balcony at all and no police man was there. It was the waiter who had knocked at the door. The balcony story was planned by Ausable to escape from Max.

To expect the unexpected shows a thoroughly modern intellect.

c. Ausable planned to get rid of Max the very moment he noticed him. Explain with supporting evidence from the story.

Ausable spy – Max a spy – Ausable entered room – Max standing there – hand over the document – - Ausable clever – created a story of balcony – no balcony – waiter came – said police – Max jumped into non existing balcony

Title	The Midnight Visitor
Author	Robert Arthur
Theme	The clever tricks of a spy to trap another spy

Ausable was a spy but he did not look so. Max was another spy who looked like a spy in every aspect. When Ausable entered his room with Fowler he was a little alarmed to see Max inside

his room with an automatic pistol in his hand. He threatened Ausable to hand over the documents to him as soon as they arrived at his room later that night. Ausable was very clever the way a detective should be. He made the plan to get rid of Max from the very beginning which is evident from the story of the imaginary balcony. He knew the waiter would come to deliver his drinks. He planned carefully to create an imaginary policeman, which would have compelled Max to jump on the non-existent balcony.

The difference between stupidity and intelligence is that genius has its limits.

d. Sketch the character of Ausable.

Ausable spy – Fowler a writer – Ausable not look a spy – intelligent – entered room – Max standing there – hand over the document – created a story of balcony – someone else broke the balcony window – Max leaped – fell down – no police no balcony – clever plan.

Title	The Midnight Visitor
Author	Robert Arthur
Theme	The clever tricks of a spy to trap another spy

Ausable was a spy. Fowler, a young writer came to visit Ausable. Ausable did not look like a spy. He was very fat and he talked with an American mixed accent. He was different from other spies who would walk around at night with pistols. But he was very intelligent. When Ausable entered his room with Fowler he was a little alarmed to see Max inside his room with an automatic pistol in his hand. He threatened Ausable to hand over the documents to him as soon as they arrived at his room later that night. In order to escape from Max Ausable created a detailed description of how his office was part of a bigger apartment and how the next room had direct connection with the balcony. His statement that somebody else also broke into his office through that balcony made it a convincing story. As soon as Max leaped outside the window he yelled out of horror as he crashed to the road below. There was no balcony at all and no police man was there. It was the waiter who had knocked at the door. So it is very clear that Ausable was an intelligent spy.

Small minds are concerned with the extraordinary; great minds with the ordinary.

e. Do you think physical appearance matters most for a secret agent? Answer giving reasons in the context of the story 'The Midnight Visitor.'

Ausable spy no appearance – Max another spy – looked so – Ausable shocked – Max standing in his room – threatened to hand over the document – Ausable composed – said Max broke open the balcony window – Max used master key – had complained to the management about the balcony window – loud knocking – Ausable, police had come – Max, send them away – would hid in the balcony – leapt outside – fell down – no balcony – no police – waiter came – appearance no help

Title	The Midnight Visitor
Author	Robert Arthur
Theme	The clever tricks of a spy to trap another spy

Ausable was a spy but he did not look so. Max was another spy who looked like a spy in every aspect. When Ausable entered his room with Fowler he was little alarmed to see Max inside his room with an automatic pistol in his hand. He threatened Ausable to hand over the documents to

him as soon as they arrived at his room later that night. Playing rather composed, Ausable sat down and complained about the balcony window that he thought Max used to break into his room. Ausable reiterated that he had complained to the management about the balcony window several times and had had previous break-ins. Suddenly there was a loud knocking at the door. Ausable said that it must be the police that he had arranged to safe keep the documents. Max believed it and got anxious. He asked Ausable to turn them away while he hid in the balcony. As soon as Max leapt outside the window he yelled out of horror as he crashed to the road below. There was no balcony at all and no police man was there. It was the waiter who had knocked at the door. Max' appearance as a real spy did help him. So physical appearance does not matter for a secret agent.

Wherever smart people work, doors and unlocked.

- f. **The unexpected presence of a criminal wielding a gun triggers different reactions in the two men who entered the room. In this light, discuss the appropriacy of the title.**

two rival spies – Ausable, Max – Ausable clumsy – Max slender – story full of danger and suspense – Fowler a writer – Ausable expecting a document – entered his room – Max standing there – hand over the document – Ausable composed – midnight visitor changed the story

Title	The Midnight Visitor
Author	Robert Arthur
Theme	The clever tricks of a spy to trap another spy

The story revolves around three characters, two rival spies named Ausable and Max and one mystery writer Fowler. Ausable is a chubby, lethargic, messy and clumsy man while Max is slender and rugged. The story is a short but intriguing insight into the life of a spy which may not be as glamorous as in the movies but still full of danger and suspense. Ausable meets Fowler, a writer fascinated by spies and secrets. Ausable was expecting a sensitive document to arrive that night and so asked Fowler to follow him through the night. When Ausable entered his room with Fowler he was little alarmed to see Max inside his room with an automatic pistol in his hand. Flower was thrilled at the sight of the man. Max threatened Ausable to hand over the documents to him as soon as they arrived at his room later that night. Though Ausable is a little alarmed he played rather composed and sits down. All the incidents happened after the midnight visitor's visit to Ausable's room. The story of the balcony and the police was essential because of the presence of the midnight visitor.

Presence of mind overtakes presence of peril.

Additional

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

1. **Tell the story of 'Midnight Visitor' in your own words.**

Ausable spy – Fowler writer – Ausable fat – unlike spy – important paper – reached home – scared to see Max – Max looked like a spy – came to get the document – Ausable fabricated a story about a non-existing balcony – Max believed – knock at the door – police – Max jumped out to escape – died – no police only a waiter

Title	The Midnight Visitor
Author	Robert Arthur
Theme	The clever tricks of a spy to trap another spy

Ausable was a spy and Fowler, a young writer came to visit him. Fowler was surprised to see a secret agent Ausable, who was too fat to be a secret agent. Ausable told him that he was going to get an important paper for which many men had risked their lives. When both of them reached Ausable's room, Fowler was scared to see a man standing in the room. Max, who was tall and thin, was holding an automatic pistol in his hand. He had entered his room by using a key to take the report concerning a new missile. Ausable sensing the danger, fabricated a story about the non-existent balcony which Max believed to be true. Ausable complained that it was due to the balcony that somebody had entered his room the second time. After sometime there was a knocking at the door. Ausable again befooled Max by saying that it was the police who wanted to come inside to provide him protection. Max wanted to run away to avoid the police and jumped to his death into that non-existent balcony.

Smartness outsmarts deception

4. Look at the following expressions used in the story. Match them with their meanings.

let down	–	to complain or scold
chuckled to himself	–	try one's luck / take a risk
take cheer	–	become enraged
raise the devil	–	disappointed
black with anger	–	laughed softly to himself
take chances	–	to be encouraged

Answers		
let down	–	disappointed
chuckled to himself	–	laughed softly to himself
take cheer	–	to be encouraged
raise the devil	–	to complain or scold
black with anger	–	become enraged
take chances	–	try one's luck / take a risk

5. Based on your understanding of the story, complete the Graphs Organiser (GO) suitably

Title : The Midnight Visitor	Author : Robert Arthur
Setting In Ausable's room on the 6 th floor	Plot Ausable, a spy out-wits Max, another spy.
Characters Ausable – spy; Max – spy Fowler – writer; Henry – waiter	Climax Max leaps through the window to reach the non-existing balcony and dies.

6. Given below are pictures of fictitious detective characters in English & Tamil short stories. Match them with the authors who created them.



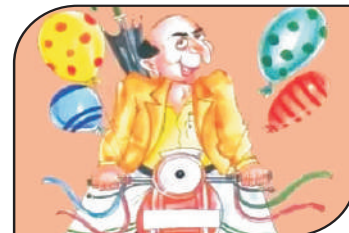
Shankar Lal
Author : Tamizhvanan



Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson
Author : Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



Ganesh, Vasanth
Author : Sujatha



Sambu
Author : Devan



Hercule Poirot
Author : Agatha Christie