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# ENGLISH GUIDE & WORK BOOK

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**12**

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## ENGLISH GUIDE & WORK BOOK

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## UNIT 1

## PROSE

## Two Gentlemen of Verona

- A.J. Cronin

## Warm up

Page 1

Life is full of ups and downs. It has pleasant surprises as well as rude shocks. Nevertheless, every incident offers a lesson for us to learn and evolve into better individuals.

## Mention some unexpected challenges or adversities one could face in life.

Loss of the bread winner	Sudden floods
Earthquake	Loss of limbs

## What qualities do you think one should possess to handle hardships and overcome them?

Confidence and hard work	Hard work and team spirit
Presence of mind and courage	Quick to respond with optimism

## Summary

The narrator was driving through the foothills of the Alps along with his companion. While driving on the outskirts of Verona, two young boys who sold wild strawberries stopped their car. The small boys appeared to be quite shabby and the driver was not keen on buying strawberries from them. Then the narrator's companion got to know that the boys were brothers. The elder one aged 13 was Nicola, and the younger brother, aged 12, was Jacopo. The narrator and his companion bought the biggest basket of strawberries from the boys and went towards the city. The next morning, they again saw the same two boys doing the shoe shining job and on being asked, they said that they did many things for a living. They also told the narrator and his companion that they could work as guides and show the visitors places of interest in the town. So, the narrator asked them to take them around. During the time of their stay in the town, the two young boys turned out to be very helpful to the visitors.

Then, the boys were found with a bundle of unsold newspapers and were ready to sell them when the last bus arrived one night. The narrator asked them why they were working so hard. He also told them that they seemed to fetch sufficient money and asked why they were not spending anything on clothes and food. Nicola told him that they had something in their minds but he did not elaborate.

Jacopo then requested the narrator to drop them in his car to the village Polenta that was around 30 kilometres away. Nicola did not like the fact that his brother was troubling the narrator. But the narrator gladly agreed to help the boys reach that place. So, the next afternoon, he along with his companion drove to the village. After reaching the place, the small boys entered a large red-roofed villa, which was actually a hospital. When the narrator entered the hospital he saw those boys talking to a girl who was a patient in

the hospital. When the narrator entered the hospital he saw those boys talking to a girl who was a patient in the hospital. He tried to find out from the nurse about the girl in the hospital and the boys. Later, the nurse told him that Lucia was the sister of those two boys and was suffering from tuberculosis. She also mentioned that a bomb destroyed their home during the war. And even their father, a widower, had got killed during the early part of the war. When he died, his three children were left to starve. She told the narrator that the boys became a part of the resistance movement. Once the war was over, Lucia got afflicted with tuberculosis and the boys had to admit her to the hospital. So, they had been trying their best to make the payments regularly to the hospital.

The narrator waited outside the room. He did not say anything to the boys on their way back in order to give the impression that he did not know about their secret.

## Glossary

Page 5

shrug	–	raise one's shoulders slightly and momentarily
tunic	–	a loose outer garment without sleeves
slackened	–	reduced
demeanour	–	appearance and behaviour
artless	–	innocent, guileless
hawk	–	sell things crying out loudly, going from place to place
deserted	–	uninhabited, unoccupied
emigrate	–	take up citizenship of another country
vexation	–	annoyance
vestibule	–	lobby
chatter	–	a series of short, quick, high-pitched sounds
intrude	–	enter without permission
rubble	–	debris, broken bricks

## Additional Glossary

convey	–	express	glanced	–	looked at
shabby	–	untidy	provoked	–	incited
worn	–	damaged	steady	–	firm
tunic	–	a loose outer garment without sleeves	engaging	–	attractive
gathered	–	collected	frequently	–	often
skinny frame	–	lean body	relied upon	–	trusted
gazing	–	staring, looking	errands	–	going here and there doing work for others
tangled	–	twisted	deserted	–	uninhabited, lonely
earnest	–	serious	emigrate	–	to leave one's country / to live in another country
barely	–	hardly	burst out	–	spoke quickly
shoe shine	–	polishing the shoes	pause	–	silence
brisk	–	quick	vexation	–	annoyance

trade	– business	put out	– uninterested
dwelling	– living place	tiny	– small
drew up	– stopped	resemblance	– similarity
scarcely	– hardly	murmured	– whispered
leaped	– jumped	horribly	– greatly
determinedly	– resolutely, purposefully	sort	– kind
cubicle	– compartment	amidst	– in the middle of
paused	– stopped	persuaded	– convinced
bade	– asked / told	scarce	– rare
propped up	– upheld / backed	devotion	– dedication
engaging	– attractive	nobility	– dignity
make a living	– to earn money for one's life		



### Exercise with Answer

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

- He shrugged his shoulders to convey his disapproval.  
a) bent                      b) shook                      c) drooped                      d) raised
- the other a shortened army tunic gathered in loose folds.  
a) collected                      b) carried                      c) opened                      d) closed
- Jacopo who barely came up to the door handle of the car, was nearly 12.  
a) surely                      b) happily                      c) hardly                      d) sadly
- then as trade slackened we went over.  
a) party                      b) business                      c) function                      d) meeting
- They were in many ways quite artless.  
a) ugly                      b) beautiful                      c) innocent                      d) proper
- In the week which followed we saw them frequently.  
a) often                      b) rarely                      c) seldom                      d) happily
- One day we came upon them in a windy and deserted square -----  
a) inhabited                      b) crowded                      c) sandy                      d) empty
- There was a pause.  
a) order                      b) silence                      c) movement                      d) laughter
- before I could recover breath my two passengers had leaped from the car.  
a) ran                      b) walked                      c) jumped                      d) danced
- Everything is so difficult now, food so scarce and dear, we could not keep going unless we charged a fee.  
a) rare                      b) plenty                      c) bad                      d) sad

#### Answers

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

**Self-Evaluation**

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

1. He shrugged his shoulders to convey his disapproval of their shabby appearance.  
a) control                      b) wish                      c) improve                      d) express                      Ans:
2. He shrugged his shoulders to convey his disapproval of their shabby appearance.  
a) clean                      b) untidy                      c) tidy                      d) good                      Ans:
3. One boy had on a worn jersey and cut-off khaki pants.  
a) damaged                      b) new                      c) fresh                      d) sticky                      Ans:
4. ----- the other a shortened army tunic gathered in loose folds about his skinny frame.  
a) strong body                      b) beautiful body                      c) lean body                      d) fat body                      Ans:
5. Yet, gazing at the two little figures, we felt ourselves strangely attracted.  
a) striking                      b) kicking                      c) shouting                      d) staring                      Ans:
6. Yet, gazing at the two little figures, with their brown skins, tangled hair and earnest eyes, we felt ourselves strangely attracted.  
a) twisted                      b) straight                      c) dirty                      d) washed                      Ans:
7. Yet, gazing at the two little figures, with their brown skins, tangled hair and earnest eyes, we felt ourselves strangely attracted.  
a) bright                      b) gloomy                      c) serious                      d) small                      Ans:
8. ----- we saw our friends bent over shoe shine boxes beside the fountain in the public square, doing brisk business.  
a) slow                      b) quick                      c) poor                      d) difficult                      Ans:
9. We watched for a few moments; then as trade slackened we went over.  
a) reduced                      b) improved                      c) quick                      d) fast                      Ans:
10. He glanced at us hopefully.  
a) jumped                      b) shouted                      c) improved                      d) looked                      Ans:
11. My interest was again provoked by their remarkable demeanour.  
a) pulled back                      b) incited                      c) excited                      d) reduced                      Ans:
12. My interest was again provoked by their remarkable demeanour.  
a) behaviour                      b) sight                      c) strength                      d) size                      Ans:
13. Nicola's smile was steady and engaging.  
a) light                      b) gloomy                      c) weak                      d) firm                      Ans:
14. Nicola's smile was steady and engaging.  
a) weak                      b) attractive                      c) ugly                      d) forming                      Ans:
15. Nicola and Jacopo could be relied upon to satisfy our needs.  
a) understood                      b) asked for                      c) trusted                      d) depended                      Ans:



16. Nicola was glaring at his younger brother in **vexation**.  
a) annoyance      b) happiness      c) sadness      d) pleasure      Ans:
17. He bit his lip, then in a rather **put out** tone he said "Very well."  
a) interested      b) keeping      c) selfish      d) uninterested      Ans:
18. I imagined that our destination would be some humble **dwelling**.  
a) forest      b) living place      c) walled place      d) good place      Ans:
19. But directed by Jacopo, we **drew up** at a large re-roofed villa.  
a) signed      b) waved      c) stopped      d) saw      Ans:
20. I could **scarcely** believe my years.  
a) hardly      b) happily      c) sadly      d) quickly      Ans:
21. I found a grilled side-entrance and **determinedly** rang the bell.  
a) quickly      b) gladly      c) with fear      d) resolutely      Ans:
22. At the door of a little cubicle the nurse **paused**.  
a) signed      b) stopped      c) ran      d) laughed      Ans:
23. ----- with a smile **bade** me look through the glass partition.  
a) asked      b) pushed      c) pulled      d) touched      Ans:
24. The two boys were seated at the bedside of a girl of about twenty who **propped up** on pillows -----  
a) smiled      b) gathered      c) upheld      d) showed      Ans:
25. ----- wearing a pretty lace jacket, was listening to their **chatter**, her eyes soft and tender.  
a) face      b) talk      c) shouting      d) laughter      Ans:
26. I felt I could not bear to **intrude** upon this happy family party.  
a) inform      b) exclude      c) include      d) interfere      Ans:
27. For months they had barely kept themselves alive in a **sort** of shelter they built with their own hands amidst the rubble.  
a) kind      b) short      c) small      d) dirty      Ans:
28. For months they had barely kept themselves alive in a sort of shelter they built with their own hands **amidst** the rubble.  
a) over      b) near      c) opposite to      d) among      Ans:
29. For months they had barely kept themselves alive in a sort of shelter they built with their own hands amidst the **rubble**.  
a) houses      b) ruins      c) friends      d) enemies      Ans:
30. They brought her here and **persuaded** us to take her into the hospital.  
a) shouted      b) informed      c) tolerated      d) convinced      Ans:
31. Yet their **devotion** had touched me deeply,  
a) dedication      b) information      c) satisfaction      d) demand      Ans:
32. Their selfless action brought a new **nobility** to human life -----  
a) devotion      b) interest      c) dignity      d) shape      Ans:

## Antonyms

shabby	×	neat	extremely	×	mildly, moderately
worn	×	new	windy	×	calm
loose	×	tight	deserted	×	inhabited
tangled	×	straight	tiny	×	big, huge
earnest	×	frivolous, indifferent	scarcely	×	sufficiently
strangely	×	commonly	pleasant	×	ugly
brisk	×	slow	pretty	×	ugly
seriously	×	casually	early	×	late
hopefully	×	doubtfully	destroyed	×	created
lively	×	dull, gloomy	comfortable	×	uncomfortable
steady	×	unsteady, unreliable	horribly	×	attractively
frequently	×	seldom	exposure	×	cover



## Exercise with Answer

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

- He shrugged his shoulders to convey his disapproval of their shabby appearance.  
a) dirty                      b) neat                      c) tattered                      d) ragged
- we saw our friends bent over shoe shine boxes beside the fountain in the public square, doing brisk business.  
a) slow                      b) quick                      c) poor                      d) difficult
- In the week which followed we saw then frequently.  
a) often                      b) regularly                      c) seldom                      d) happily
- The following afternoon we drove to the tiny village.  
a) small                      b) dirty                      c) neat                      d) huge
- A pleasant-looking woman with steel-rimmed spectacles appeared.  
a) good                      b) ugly                      c) beautiful                      d) sad
- Their father, a widower, a well-known singer, had been killed in the early part of the war.  
a) late                      b) primary                      c) timely                      d) initial

### Answers

1. b	2. a	3. c	4. d	5. b	6. a
------	------	------	------	------	------



## Self-Evaluation

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

- One boy had on a worn jersey and cut-off khaki pants.  
a) old                      b) new                      c) shabby                      d) tatty

Ans:

2. ----- the other a shortened army tunic gathered in **loose** folds about his skinny frame.  
a) slack                      b) free                      c) unfastened                      d) tight                      Ans:
3. ----- with their brown skins, **tangled** hair and dark earnest eyes, we felt ourselves strangely attracted.  
a) straight                      b) twisted                      c) curled                      d) jumbled                      Ans:
4. ----- with their brown skins, tangled hair and dark **earnest** eyes, we felt ourselves strangely attracted.  
a) serious                      b) solemn                      c) grave                      d) frivolous                      Ans:
5. ----- with their brown skins, tangled hair and dark earnest eyes, we felt ourselves **strangely** attracted.  
a) oddly                      b) peculiarly                      c) commonly                      d) happily                      Ans:
6. Nicola answered **seriously**.  
a) cunningly                      b) casually                      c) extremely                      d) utterly                      Ans:
7. He glanced at us **hopefully**.  
a) positively                      b) confidently                      c) doubtfully                      d) keenly                      Ans:
8. Jacopo was **lively** as a squirrel.  
a) dull                      b) bright                      c) active                      d) sparkling                      Ans:
9. We saw them frequently for they proved **extremely** useful to us.  
a) exceptionally                      b) sadly                      c) adequately                      d) moderately                      Ans:
10. One day we came upon them in the **windy** and deserted square.  
a) stormy                      b) calm                      c) breezy                      d) confused                      Ans:
11. One day we came upon them in the windy and **deserted** square.  
a) uninhabited                      b) lonely                      c) inhabited                      d) neat                      Ans:
12. I could **scarcely** believe my eyes.  
a) sufficiently                      b) barely                      c) hardly                      d) narrowly                      Ans:
13. Who propped up on pillows and wearing a **pretty** lace jacket?  
a) beautiful                      b) smart                      c) cute                      d) ugly                      Ans:
14. Shortly afterwards a bomb had **destroyed** their home.  
a) ruined                      b) created                      c) demolished                      d) seen                      Ans:
15. They had suffered **horribly** from near starvation and exposure to the cold winter.  
a) greatly                      b) greeted                      c) mildly                      d) strongly                      Ans:
16. They had suffered horribly from near starvation and **exposure** to the cold winter.  
a) cover                      b) open                      c) rare                      d) strong                      Ans:

## Textual Exercises

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

**a) Whom did the narrator meet at the outskirts of Verona?**

The narrator met two brothers, Nicola and Jacopo at the outskirts of Verona.

**b) Why did the driver not approve of the narrator buying fruits from the boys?**

The boys looked very shabby and the driver thought that the fruits might not be neat and clean. So he did not approve of the narrator buying fruits from the boys.

**c) The boys did not spend much on clothes and food. Why?**

Though the boys earned enough money, they did not spend much money on clothes and food because they had to pay every week for the treatment of their sister.

**d) Were the boys saving money to go to the States? How do you know?**

The boys did not have any idea of going to the States. They told the narrator they had some other plans for the money they earned.

**e) Why did the author avoid going to Lucia's room?**

The author saw the boys talking to their sister in the hospital. He avoided going inside the room because he decided not to interfere in the family get-together.

**f) What was Lucia suffering from?**

Lucia was ailing from tuberculosis of the spine.

**g) What made the boys join the Resistance Movement against the Germans?**

The boys lost their father and the house because of the war. When the Germans started ruling them, they hated them. So they joined the Resistance Movement against the Germans.

**h) What made the boys work so hard?**

Their wish to cure their sister of tuberculosis made them work so hard.

**i) Why didn't the boys disclose their problem to the author?**

The boys wanted to keep their family matter with themselves. So they did not disclose their problem to the author.

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

**a) Describe the appearance of Nicola and Jacopo.**

Nicola and Jacopo were brothers. Nicola was 13 and Jacopo seemed to be 12. They looked shabby with a worn jersey and a shortened army tunic. They had brown skin, tangled hair and earnest eyes. The author was strangely attracted towards them.

**b) What were the various jobs undertaken by the little boys?**

They sold fruit to the tourists. They shined shoes at the public square. They guided the tourists to different tourist centers. They sold newspapers.

**c) How did the narrator help the boys on Sunday?**

On every Sunday the boys used to travel to a village Poleta, 30 kilometres from their place. They usually hired cycles to go there. Jacopo asked the narrator to take them to Poleta in his car. He readily accepted and took them to Poleta in his car.

**d) Who took the author to the cubicle?**

When the author and the boys reached a good-looking villa the boys went inside. Out of curiosity the author followed them. He rang the bell and a nurse opened the door. Now he realised that it was a hospital. The nurse took him to the cubicle.

**e) Describe the girl with whom the boys were talking to in the cubicle.**

The two boys were sitting near a girl of about twenty. She wore a pretty lace jacket. Her eyes were soft and tender. She resembled the two boys. The nurse informed the author that she was Lucia, the sister of those boys and she was being treated for tuberculosis.

**f) Recount untold sufferings undergone by the siblings after they were rendered homeless.**

They lost their father in the War. They had a comfortable life before the death of their father. Shortly after they lost their house in bombing. So the three children were thrown into the street. They all suffered from near starvation and severe cold. For few months they lived in a make –shift shelter they managed to build. Then the girl was affected by tuberculosis.

**g) The narrator did not utter a word and preferred to keep the secret to himself. Why? Substantiate the statement with reference to the story.**

The boys did not want to reveal that they were earning to treat their sister suffering from tuberculosis. When the narrator went to Poleta with the boys he came to know about their problem. Once he asked the boys whether they were earning to emigrate to the States, they said they had some other plan. So the narrator understood they wanted to keep it as a secret. He did not want to spoil their dignity and intrude into their private lives.

**Additional****Answer the following questions.****a) Where did the narrator drive through?**

The narrator drove through the foothills of the Alps.

**b) What did they buy from the two boys?**

They bought the biggest basket of strawberries from the two boys.

**c) Where did the boys undertake the shoe shine work?**

They undertook the shoe shining work beside the fountain in the public square.

**d) How did the narrator and others get attracted towards the boys?**

The boys were childish and innocent. Nicola had a very attractive smile. In the faces of those boys there was seriousness which was far beyond their years.

**e) Why did the boys rest in the windy and deserted square?**

The boys rested in the windy and deserted square waiting for the last bus to come from Padua. They had a bundle of newspapers which they would sell to the passengers of the last bus.

**f) What was the reaction of Nicola when the narrator asked him how they spent the money?**

Nicola's face became very pale. He could not look up to the face of the narrator. He looked to the ground.

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

## a) What was the driving force that made the boys do various jobs?

<b>Title</b>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<b>Author</b>	A.J. Cronin
<b>Theme</b>	Supreme sacrifice of two boys for their suffering sister

*Sacrifice we make for others and that others make for us, result in blessings for all.*

The narrator was driving through the foothills of the Alps along with his companion. While driving on the outskirts of Verona, two young boys who sold wild strawberries stopped their car. The small boys appeared to be quite shabby and the driver was not keen on buying strawberries from them. Then the narrator's companion got to know that the boys were brothers. The elder one aged 13 was Nicola, and the younger brother, aged 12, was Jacopo. Then the narrator came to know that the boys did many jobs to earn money. They shinned shoes, guided the tourists and sold newspaper. Before the War they had a very comfortable life but the war devastated their life. They lost their father and their house. They were thrown into the streets and suffered from starvation and severe cold. Because of this, tuberculosis affected their sister Lucia but it did not crush their spirit. They admitted her in a posh hospital for treatment. They had to pay the hospital bill every week. Their love for their sister was the driving force that made the boys do various jobs.

*Never stop fighting until you arrive at your destined place.*

## b) How was the family affected by the war?

<b>Title</b>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<b>Author</b>	A.J. Cronin
<b>Theme</b>	Supreme sacrifice of two boys for their suffering sister

*Shortly afterward a bomb had destroyed their home and thrown the three children into the streets.*

The narrator was driving through the foothills of the Alps along with his companion. While driving on the outskirts of Verona, two young boys who sold wild strawberries stopped their car. The small boys appeared to be quite shabby and the driver was not keen on buying strawberries from them. Then the narrator's companion got to know that the boys were brothers. The elder one aged 13 was Nicola, and the younger brother, aged 12, was Jacopo. Before the War they had a very comfortable life but the war devastated their life. They lost their father and their house. They were thrown into the streets. They suffered from starvation and severe cold. For months together they lived with a lot of difficulties. They stayed in a make-shift shelter they built over the rubble. Then the boys joined the resistance movement against Germans. By the time their sister was affected by tuberculosis. This made them work a lot to earn money to treat their sister.

*War is what happens when language fails.*

## c) Write a character sketch of Nicola and Jacopo.

<b>Title</b>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<b>Author</b>	A.J. Cronin
<b>Theme</b>	Supreme sacrifice of two boys for their suffering sister

*Yet in both these boyish faces there was a seriousness which was far beyond their years.*

'The two gentlemen of Verona' are the boys in the story, Nicola and Jacopo. Nicola, aged 13, was the elder brother of Jacopo aged 12. Both the siblings were very sincere and self-sacrificing. They were prepared to do anything for helping their sister Lucia to recover from tuberculosis. They lived a hard life and did all sorts of odd jobs. Right from shining shoes, selling fruit, distributing newspapers, to working as tourist guides and running their errands, they still looked contented and maintained their self-respect. They did not have the intention of talking about their struggles and sufferings. They wanted to keep it a secret. During the war period, they started hating Germans and also joined the Resistance Movement for their country's freedom.

## d) What message is conveyed through the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'?

<b>Title</b>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<b>Author</b>	A.J. Cronin
<b>Theme</b>	Supreme sacrifice of two boys for their suffering sister

*Their selfless action brought a new nobility to human life,  
gave promise of a greater hope for human society.*

J. Cronin wrote this memoir after visiting Verona. The short story's title is inspired by a popular Shakespeare's play. Nevertheless, the main idea of the author is to underline the virtues that make a man a real man. The story captures the sentiment that true humanity is not about letting go, and it is about courage and determination. The two young gentlemen of Verona face their difficulties head on without a single complaint. When the author tried to tell them they were working too much, they simply said they had no complaint. Their love for the agonising sister is amazing. Their dignity of labour is remarkable. Their dedication for their sister is supreme. Their selfless action brought a new nobility to human life and gave promise of a greater hope for human society. Their love and emotional strength are truly commendable. And the boys' maturity and sense of responsibility are also praiseworthy. The author says that in both the boyish face there was a seriousness which was far beyond their age. These boys display exemplary courage amidst extreme poverty and devastation and the author manages to find real inspiration from their lives.

*Make your life a masterpiece; imagine no limitations on what you can be, have or do.*

## e) Justify the title of the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'.

<b>Title</b>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<b>Author</b>	A.J. Cronin
<b>Theme</b>	Supreme sacrifice of two boys for their suffering sister

*Age does not define your maturity.*

Taken from the early play by William Shakespeare, the title of this story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' is gripping. The story is about how two sincere and selfless young boys face hardships for the



treatment of their sister suffering from tuberculosis. It conveys the message that as long as people are willing to make sacrifices for the well-being of others, there is hope for humanity. J. Cronin wrote this memoir after visiting Verona. The short story's title is inspired by a popular Shakespeare's play. Nevertheless, the main idea of the author is to underline the virtues that make a man a real man. The story captures the sentiment that true humanity is not about letting go, and it is about courage and determination. The two young gentlemen of Verona face their difficulties head on without a single complaint. Though the heroes of this short story are two boys of the age 13 and 12, their behaviour suits the grown-up men. Their composed life tells the readers they have all the qualities of gentlemen. So the title 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' is very apt for this short story.

*A gentleman inspires others to dream more, learn more,  
do more and become more*

- f) **Adversity brings out the best as well as the worst in people. Elucidate this statement with reference to the story.**

<b>Title</b>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<b>Author</b>	A.J. Cronin
<b>Theme</b>	Supreme sacrifice of two boys for their suffering sister

*Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of life.*

When man suffers from hardship and difficulty the best or the worst of his will be brought out. Some will try to overcome the adversity with negative elements like anti-social dealings and others will use the positive energy to overcome the adversity. The best or the worst comes out due to the pressure of adversity. In this story, the two boys use their best to overcome their problems. Nevertheless, the main idea of the author is to underline the virtues that make a man a real man. The story captures the sentiment that true humanity is not about letting go, and it is about courage and determination. They lost everything in their life except hope. The hope pushes them to use their positive energy. So this story is an example to prove that adversity brings out the best in people.

*You can't be brave if you have only had wonderful things happen to you.*

- g) **Which character do you like the most in the story and why?**

<b>Title</b>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<b>Author</b>	A.J. Cronin
<b>Theme</b>	Supreme sacrifice of two boys for their suffering sister

*Yet their devotion had touched me deeply. War had not broken their spirit.*

A.J. Cronin, the author of 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' pictures the two boys – Nicola and Jacopo – with the real characters of gentlemen. The two 'gentlemen' of Verona are the boys in the story, Nicola and Jacopo. Nicola, aged 13, was the elder brother of Jacopo aged 12. Both the siblings were very sincere and self-sacrificing. They were prepared to do anything for helping their sister Lucia to recover from tuberculosis. They lived a hard life and did all sorts of odd jobs. Right from shining shoes, selling fruit, distributing newspapers, to working as tourist guides and running their errands, they still looked contented and maintained their self-respect. They did not have the intention of talking about their family problem and wanted to keep it a secret. During the war period, they started



hating Germans and also joined the Resistance Movement for their country's freedom. So I like the characters of these two boys.

*Only through suffering can character be strengthened.*

## Additional

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

1. Give a short description of what happened in 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'.

<b>Title</b>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<b>Author</b>	A.J. Cronin
<b>Theme</b>	Supreme sacrifice of two boys for their suffering sister

*They shined shoes, sold fruit, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands.*

The narrator was driving through the foothills of the Alps along with his companion. While driving on the outskirts of Verona, two young boys who sold wild strawberries stopped their car. The small boys appeared to be quite shabby. The boys were brothers. The elder one aged 13 was Nicola, and the younger brother, aged 12, was Jacopo. The narrator and his companion bought the biggest basket of strawberries from the boys. Later, they came to know that the boys did many kinds of job to earn money. During the time of their stay in the town, the two young boys turned out to be very helpful to the visitors. The boys earned money but they spent only a little. The boys earned the money to cure their sister who was hospitalised for tuberculosis. They had a decent life before the war and the war made them orphans but they had been trying their best to make the payments regularly to the hospital.

*There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.*

## Vocabulary

Page 6

- a) Read the following words taken from the story. Give two synonyms and one antonym for each of these words. Use a dictionary, if required.

Word	Synonyms		Antonym
cautious	careful	watchful	careless
disapprove	condemn	criticize	approve
brisk	quick	hurried	slow
engaging	attractive	appealing	repulsive
humble	modest	unassuming	arrogant
eager	keen	willing	reluctant
resistance	conflict	opposition	assistance
persuade	encourage	influence	dissuade
scarce	rare	occasional	plenty
nobility	dignity	decency	dishonour

## b) Homophones and Confusables

i) Given below is a list of common confusables. Distinguish the meaning of each pair of words by framing your own sentences.

## a) emigrate – immigrate

- My friend wants to **emigrate** from India.
- He wants to **immigrate** to Australia.

## b) beside – besides

- I was sitting **beside** my friend.
- People choose jobs for other reasons **besides** money.

## c) judicial – judicious

- The minister is facing a **judicial** enquiry.
- Education should be the **judicious** mixture of skill and knowledge.

## d) eligible – illegible

- He is **eligible** to enter the university.
- His handwriting is **illegible** so we cannot read the letter.

## e) conscience – conscious

- As he did not receive any bribery his **conscience** is clear.
- He is **conscious** of the mistake he committed.

## f) industrial – industrious

- Japan is an **industrial** country.
- Ant is known to be the most **industrious** of all insects.

## g) eminent – imminent

- Her humbleness stands out in the most **eminent** way among her peers.
- A new trade agreement between India and China is **imminent**.

## h) illicit – elicit

- He was caught by the police because he sold **illicit** liquor.
- The teacher **elicited** the answer from the student.

## i) prescribed – proscribed

- Doctor **prescribed** medicine for the child.
- The two organisations were **proscribed** by law.

## j) affect – effect

- The severe cold **affects** the child.
- The child is cured because of the **effect** of the medicine.

## k) aural – oral

- The patient received something to assist her **aural** functioning.
- **Oral** medicine is prescribed for the child.

## l) born – borne

- She has **borne** the adversity with dignity.
- She was **born** in Ireland.

## ii) Fill in the blanks with suitable homophones or confusables.

wallet	valet	hoard	horde
fairy	ferry	desert	dessert
medal	model	night	knight
wait	weight	sweet	sweat
yoke	yolk	plain	plane
grown	groan	might	mite
earn	urn	quite	quiet

## c) Give the meanings of the following phrasal verbs and frame sentences using them.

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- cut off** – to remove something by cutting  
The branch was **cut off** from the main tree.
- come upon** – meet someone by chance  
I **came upon** my English teacher in Chennai.
- put out** – stop something burning  
The firefighters **put out** the fire.
- draw up** – stop  
A taxi **drew up** outside the hotel.
- pass out** – give something to each member of a group.  
The examiner **passed out** the question papers to all the students.
- take off** – start flying; remove clothing  
The flight **took off** at the right time.  
As soon as I reached my house I **took off** my coat.
- turn away** – refuse permission  
The reporters who came to interview the Prime Minister were **turned away**.
- stand by** – help someone who is in difficulty, to be ready  
My friends **stood by** me all the time.  
A boat was **standing by** in case of emergency.
- bank on** – depend on  
The whole team is **banking on** him to win the match.

## d) Read the list of words formed by adding suffixes.

frequently satisfaction willingness comfortable resemblance nobility

Form two derivatives from each of the following words by adding prefixes and suffixes.

Word	Prefix	Suffix
patient	impatient	patiently
honour	dishonour	honourable
respect	disrespect	respectable
manage	mismanage	management
fertile	infertile	fertility

<b>different</b>	indifferent	differently
<b>friend</b>	befriend	friendly
<b>obey</b>	disobey	obedience

## Listening

Now, you are going to listen to the cautionary instructions that are given to the general public living in flood-prone areas. Listen carefully and complete the following sentences.

- The announcement was made by the Department of Disaster Management.
- Widespread heavy rains are expected from the early hours of Sunday.
- The public is asked to find out the locations of the closest flood shelters available and routes to reach them.
- An emergency kit should contain water bottles, biscuit packets and a whistle to signal for help.
- A list of emergency telephone numbers should be displayed on the wall.
- Important documents can be secured by keeping them in a waterproof case.
- Damage to refrigerators can be avoided by leaving their door open.
- Mobile phones should be charged to enable the marooned to contact their friends, relatives and emergency services.
- Sand bags should be placed in the toilet bowls to prevent sewage inflow.
- Listen to the periodic news updates and follow the instructions implicitly.

## Speaking

Page 8

### Drafting a Speech

#### Task 1

On the occasion of World Environment Day you have been asked to deliver a speech during morning assembly on the importance of tree planting. Write the speech in about 100 – 150 words.

Respected Principal, learned teachers and my friends, I am Sunder from XII std. and I am here today to talk about the Importance of Tree Plantation.

"Trees exhale for us so that we can inhale them to stay alive. Can we ever forget that? Let us love trees with every breath we take until we perish". Khalil Gibran says, "Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky".

Tree plays a significant role for all of us as well as for animals, insects, birds etc. We know the famous slogan "Save trees, Save life". So we should acknowledge it and be a part of the plantation. Trees are important for life on Earth. Trees give us shade. Trees give beauty to any place. Trees bear beautiful and colourful flowers. They are home to many animals, birds and insects. When trees are cut, these creatures lose their home. Trees are also food for man, and all herbivorous animals and birds. Insects also depend on trees to complete their life cycle. They are of great ecological importance. Trees and forests help in

maintaining monsoon cycles and rainfall patterns. They also bind the soil, and prevent the top layer of the soil, which is the most fertile, from getting washed away in rains and floods. As trees are important for the earth and the environment, we must protect them. Tree plantation is an important activity to make our environment green, clean and healthy.

Trees are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to the people.

Thank you for the opportunity.

## Task 2

Page 9

**Prepare a speech on "The importance of a reading habit" in about 100 – 150 words using the hints below together with your own ideas.**

Respected Principal, learned teachers and my friends, I am Sunder from XII std. and I am here today to talk about the Importance of Reading Habit.

"Books open your mind; broaden your mind; and strengthen you as nothing else can."

Reading is one of the most important and priceless activities. Reading is the kind of exercise that keeps your mind active and healthy. It is important to develop the habit of reading not only for knowledge but also for personal growth and development. It develops positive thinking and gives you a better perspective of life. It develops your imagination and provides you with fund of knowledge. Once you start reading, you experience a whole new world. Reading can help you grow better and better. Good books can influence you positively and guide you towards the right direction in life. Reading develops language skills and vocabulary. Reading books is also a way to relaxing and reducing stress. Reading increases creativity and enhances your understanding of life. If we want to adopt some good habits in life then reading should definitely be on the top of our list. It plays a vital role in the optimistic growth and development of a person. Reading leads to self-improvement. The pleasure of reading cannot be expressed in words. One needs to read to experience the joy of reading.

*'Be a reader; become a leader.'*

*There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's look on treasure island; says Walt Disney.*

Thank you for the opportunity.

## Reading

**Read the passage and make notes.**

### Smart City

#### 1. Initiation by Indian Government

- a) Economic growth
- b) Urban sustainability

#### 2. Urban forestry

- a) Management of trees
- b) Act as sponges to absorb pollution

#### 3. Benefits of urban forestry

- a) Regulate micro-climate
- b) Arrests sedimentation and pollutants

## Grammar

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## Tenses

Tense	Form	Example Sentence
<b>Present Simple</b>	S + V1 + O + A	I play basket ball every week.
<b>Present Cont.</b>	S + am/is/are + V+ing + O + A	I am playing basketball now.
<b>Present Perfect</b>	S + have/has + V3 + O	I have just played basketball.
<b>Present Perfect Cont.</b>	S + have/has been + V+ing+ O + A	I have been playing basketball for 3 hours.
<b>Past Simple</b>	S + V2 + O + A	I played basketball yesterday.
<b>Past Cont.</b>	S + was/were + V+ing + O + A	I was playing basketball the whole evening.
<b>Past Perfect</b>	S + had + V3 + O	I had played basketball the whole evening.
<b>Past Perfect Cont.</b>	S + had been + V+ing + O + A	I had been playing basketball when he came.
<b>Future Simple</b>	S + will + V + O + A	I will play basketball tomorrow.
<b>Future Cont.</b>	S + will be + V+ing + O + A	I will be playing basketball by this time tomorrow.

The following tasks are for strengthening your understanding.

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## Task 1

Tick the correct options and complete the dialogue.

- A:** Hello, What do you watch / **are you watching**?
- B:** A programme about the Jalian WalaBagh Massacre, which I recorded last night. I study / **I'm studying** about it this term.
- A:** All that I know- / **I've known** about it is that hundreds of people **died** / had died in it.
- B:** Yes, it was much, much worse than anyone has expected / **had expected**. It **went on** / has gone on for hours. **Do you want** / Have you wanted to watch the programme with me?
- A:** No, thanks, I've got to do some veena practice. **I've just remembered** / I just remembered that we've got a concert tomorrow, and I **don't have** / haven't had time to practise my new piece this week.
- B:** OK. **I've already done** / I already did my practice, so I've got time to watch TV. See you later.

## Task 2

Complete the sentences with the correct tense form of the verbs in brackets.

- Tell** (tell) me exactly what **happened** (happen) last night.
- Mrs. Mageshwari is my maths teacher. She **has been teaching** (teach) me for four years.
- I **had never** (never) think of a career in medicine before I spoke to my Biology teacher but now I **seriously** (seriously) it.

- d) Oh no! I **have forgotten** (forget) to bring my assignment! What am I going to do? This is the second time I **have done** (do) this!
- e) I can't remember what my teacher **said** (say) yesterday about our homework. I **did not listen** (not listen) properly because Hussain **was talking** (talk) to me at the same time.
- f) Last year we **went** (go) on a school trip to Kanyakumari. We **had** (have) a very interesting time.
- g) At the moment I **am thinking** (think) about what course to pursue next year but I **haven't make** (not make) a final decision yet.
- h) I **get** (get) up at 7 every morning but this morning I **slept** (sleep) for a long time and I **did not get** (not get) up until 8.

**Task 3**

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets.

- a) Every one **was sleeping** when the earthquake hit the small town. (sleep)
- b) Evangelene **quit** her job a couple of years ago. (quit)
- c) Where **did you spend** your last holidays? (you spend)
- d) I think Suresh **will leave** for Tiruvallur next morning. (leave)
- e) I was angry that I **made** such a mistake. (make)
- f) My mother was tired yesterday because she **had not slept** well the night before. (not sleep)
- g) Her parents **will be** in Coimbatore for two weeks from today. (be)
- h) Nothing much **had happened** when I got to the meeting. (happen)
- i) Scientists predict that by 2050, man **will have landed** on Mars. (land)
- j) Sh! Someone **is listening** to our conversation! (listen)
- k) The plane **will take** off in a few minutes. (take)
- l) They **were talking** about me when I interrupted their conversation. (talk)
- m) Justin and his parents **are living** in an apartment right now because they can't find a cheap house. (live)
- n) Rajini Prem's family **is** in Chengalpet now. (be)
- o) Yusuf **goes** to the movies once in a while. (go)
- p) This **has been** an easy quiz so far. (be)
- q) Our team **did not win** any games last year. (not win)
- r) We **saw** a wonderful film in the cinema last night. (see)
- s) Hurry up! The movie **has already begun**. (already, begin)

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**Modal Auxiliaries**

**Modal Auxiliary is a special auxiliary which is used to denote a particular mood or expression of the subject.**

There are 13 Modal Auxiliaries (four of which are quasi-modals / marginals).

will	would
shall	should
can	could
may	might
must	used to
ought to	dare
need	used to

dare	need	must
------	------	------

should	will	ought to
--------	------	----------

can	may	shall
-----	-----	-------

### Shades Meter

The following table will help you understand better.

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Modal Auxiliaries		
<b>can</b>	ability request permission offer	: I can speak English. : Can you wait a moment, please? : Can I go to the library? : I can lend you my pen.
<b>could</b>	ability polite request	: (past) I could speak English. : Could you wait a moment, please?
<b>may</b>	possibility permission	: It may rain today. : May I go to the cinema?
<b>might</b>	possibility (less possible than may)	: It might rain today.
<b>must</b>	force, necessity recommendation	: I must go to the supermarket today. : You must read the new novel by Bhagat.
<b>shall</b>	suggestion	: Shall I carry your bag?
<b>should</b>	advice obligation	: You should drive carefully on the highway. : You should switch off the lights when you leave the classroom.
<b>will</b>	wish, request, demand, order prediction, assumption spontaneous decision	: Will you please shut the door? : I think it will rain on Friday. : Can somebody take me to the hospital? I will.
<b>would</b>	wish, request habits in the past	: Would you shut the door, please? : Sometimes he would bring me some flowers.
<b>ought to</b>	duty moral obligation necessity	: You ought to submit your assignment on time. : We ought to help the needy. : We ought to hire some furniture for the party.
<b>used to</b>	habits in the past	: My grandfather used to walk for long hours when he was young.
<b>need to</b>	necessity moral obligation	: I need to buy a packet of milk. : We need to keep our environment clean.
<b>dare</b>	boldness challenge	: I dare not go out in the dark. : How dare you enter my room?



## Task 1

Fill in the blanks with modal auxiliaries.

- a) The candidates **must** answer five out of ten questions.
- b) How **dare / can** you open my bag?
- c) Tajudeen **will** finish this work by Monday.
- d) **Can / Shall** I go to school today?
- e) I wish you **would** tell me the truth.
- f) Poonam **could** not catch the bus yesterday.
- g) People who live in glass houses **should / must** not throw stones.
- h) You **need** not go to the market as I have brought vegetables.
- i) **Must** you have taken all this trouble?
- j) You **must** be joking.
- k) I tried to climb up the tree, but **could** not.
- l) Hima Das ran so fast that she **would** win the medal.
- m) You **can** lead a horse to water, but you **cannot** make it drink.
- n) I **would** like to have a cup of coffee.
- o) My grandfather **used to / would** visit this temple when he was young.

## Task 2

Complete the following sentences with modals using the clues given.

- a) You **must / ought to** help the needy. (moral obligation)
- b) If I were you, I **would** not behave like that. (conditional Sentence)
- c) I **will** never tell a lie. (determination)
- d) My uncle **might / may** have reached by now. (possibility)
- e) The patient is critical. He **must** be taken to the hospital. (compulsion)
- f) I **used to / would** to play hockey when I was a student. (past habit)
- g) You **should / must** not attend my class. (order)
- h) He **might** come today. (remote possibility)
- i) You **must** follow the traffic rules. (regulation)
- j) He **will** play the match. (willingness)
- k) You **need** not waste time on it. (necessity)
- l) Had the doctor come in time, he **might / would** have saved the patient. (probability)

## Reported Speech

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## Task 1

Read what these people say and rewrite as sentences.

1. I am very busy.
2. I have completed my work.
3. I don't like to go out.
4. I have just come back from Chennai.
5. I am learning English.
6. I bought a pen yesterday.
7. We will go for shopping tomorrow.
8. We can't attend the party.
9. How are you?
10. I am fine. Thank you.

## Answer

- Raja said that he was very busy.
- Satya said that she had completed her work.
- Johnson said that he did not like to go out.
- Rehana said that she had just come back from Chennai.
- Akshita said that he was learning English.
- Madhu said that he had bought a pen the previous day.
- Joseph and Mary said that they would go for shopping the next day.
- Afsar and Ayesha said that they could not attend the party.
- Satish asked how he was.
- Victor said that he was fine and he thanked him.

## Task 2

Read the following dialogue and complete the report in the space provided.

- a) **Priya** : Where are you going?  
**Vijay** : I am going to the Railway station.  
**Priya** : Why are you going there?  
**Vijay** : I want to receive my uncle who is coming from Bangalore.  
**Priya** asked Vijay (a) where he was going?  
**Vijay** replied (b) that he was going to the railway station.  
**Priya** further inquired (c) why he was going there?  
**Vijay** stated that (d) he wanted to receive his uncle who was coming from Bangalore.
- b) **Teacher** : Why are you late?  
**Divya** : I missed the bus.  
**Teacher** : You should have reached the bus stop on time.  
**Divya** : My grandmother is ill. So, I had to take her to the doctor.  
**Teacher** : I am sorry. What ails her?  
**Divya** : She has high fever.

The teacher asked Divya why she was late. Divya replied that (a) she had missed the bus. The teacher told her that (b) she should have reached the bus stop on time. Divya said that her grandmother was ill so she had to take her to the doctor. The teacher felt sorry and further asked her (c) what ailed her. Divya explained that she (d) had high fever.

## Task 3

**Rewrite the following passage in indirect speech.**

Pradeep got out of bed with much excitement. "It is going to be a lovely sunny day," he remarked to his sister Varshini.

"Just let me sleep a bit longer, Pradeep," Varshini begged, "and since you are feeling so enthusiastic," she suggested, "Why don't you go and help mother in cooking?"

"Sure, I will", said Pradeep. "Can I help you, mum?", he said to his mother.

"Yes, of course. There are idlis and vadas on the dining table. Have your breakfast."

"Thank you, mum; I'll surely help you by eating them."

Pradeep got out of bed with much excitement. He remarked to his sister Varshini that it was going to be a lovely sunny day. Varshini begged him to let her sleep a bit longer. She suggested why he did not go and help mother in cooking since he was feeling so enthusiastic. Pradeep said that he would and asked the mother whether he would help her. She said that he could and added that there were idlis and vadas on the table and asked him to have his breakfast. He thanked his mother and said that he would surely help her by eating them.

**Writing**

Page 16

**Letter Writing****a) Read the following letter carefully, discuss with your partner and answer the questions.**

Page 17

Sir,

I request you to publish the following letter in your daily to address an important issue which needs immediate redressal.

During week ends motorcyclists are seen racing on the East Coast road and the Old Mahabalipuram road of Chennai. The amateur racers are risking their own lives and of the public as well. They are fearless and irresponsible, not knowing the price of human lives. Risking others and their lives for their pleasure is highly condemnable.

Even school students indulge in such activities and cause fatal accidents. The racers have started occupying the lanes and streets of busy localities. As such, the violation of traffic rules often results in loss of young lives. Such reckless riders who violate traffic rules should be punished severely.

As a responsible citizen of the society, I request the authorities concerned to take appropriate measures to put an end to this menace.

Yours truly,  
Srivatsav.

**Questions:****a) Who is the sender of the letter?**

Srivatsav is the sender of the letter.

**b) Who is the receiver?**

Editor of a daily is the receiver.

## c) What is the issue?

Motorcycle racing is the issue.

## d) What is the request of the sender?

The request of the sender to the authorities concerned is to take appropriate measures to put an end to the motorcycle racing.

## e) Who will take steps after reading it?

The traffic police will take steps after reading it.

## b) You have chosen Computer Science in the Higher Secondary Course. Write a letter to your friend giving reasons for your choice. Read the clues given in brackets to complete the letter.

Dear Sundar, (Greeting),

Hope you are doing well. (enquire about his well being). I would like to say that I have chosen Computer Science in the Higher Secondary Course. Firstly I want the course to help me for my future. (reason for your choice of group). I wish to become a Software Engineer... (state your ambition). We come to hear a lot of instances of wrong ideas and anti-social elements spoiling the society. (discuss recent unhealthy happenings in social media and the society). These have made me select the course so that after knowing the system well I will be able to find out something to stop such things. (demand or need of this profession). I have plans to pursue MS in US. (higher studies or specialization).

All the best for your CA preparation. Convey my regards to all at home.

Yours lovingly,  
(your name)

## Task

## a) You had been to your Grandma's house during the summer holidays. You enjoyed your stay in her company. Write a letter to your Grandma stating how much you miss her after returning to your home.

24, Arunai Colony,  
Yercaud.  
July 8, 2020.

Dear Grandma,

I hope you are doing well and your knee pain is ok now. I thank you for the wonderful time I had with you during my summer holidays. The place itself is wonderful but your affection and concern made my life very pleasant. Our walk around the garden is memorable and I will cherish such experience throughout my life. You made me plant 10 saplings and I watered them every day. The green fields around the house are still in my mind. It was a fine experience to watch the harvesting process. It was a real learning for me. Now I miss you a lot. I am waiting for my next chance to be with you.

Yours lovingly,  
Ramesh.

- b) You are the Head of the English department in a renowned institution. You are invited to preside over the inauguration of the English Literary club in your alma mater. Respond to the letter you have received either accepting the invitation or expressing your inability to attend the function.**

Date : July 8, 2020

From

Prof. Rajendran,  
H O D English,  
St. Mary's College of Arts and Science,  
Tirunelveli.

To

Principal,  
Alpha Higher Secondary School,  
Erode.

Respected Sir,

I was very happy to receive the invitation from you to inaugurate Literary Club in my school. It is my pleasure to visit my alma mater after 22 years. I am sure I will have nostalgia when I visit the school. I am happy to accept the invitation and it is my pride to visit my alma mater.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,  
Rajendran.

- c) Write a letter to the Headmaster of your school requesting him to help you obtain a duplicate mark sheet of class XII, which you lost while travelling.**

From

Kannan G,  
21, Amirtha Colony,  
Thiruchengode.  
July 21, 2020.

To

The Headmaster,  
Govt. Higher Secondary School,  
Thiruchengode.

Respected sir,

Sub: Requisition for duplicate mark sheet - Reg.

I was a student of your school in 2012 doing my Std XII – First Group. My name is G. Kannan, my class no. was 12 and my Exam register no was 6759231. I am sorry to inform you that I lost my mark sheet when I was travelling to Chennai. I made a complaint to the police and the FIR copy is attached with this letter. I request you to give a duplicate mark sheet.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,  
Kannan.

- d) Write a letter to AZ Company requesting them to replace the defective juicer that you bought recently. Include the following details: the problem, date of purchase, receipt number, model and warranty.

From

Rajkumar S,  
34, II Cross Street, NSN Colony,  
Virudhunagar.  
July 15, 2020.

To

The Manager,  
AZ Company, Market Street,  
Virudhunagar.

Sir,

I bought a juicer from your shop on 13th July 2019. Now I have found out that it is very defective and I cannot use it at all. The actual problem is in its motor. So I want to exchange this and give me a new piece. I will give the details about the juicer.

Date of purchase	–	July 13, 2019
Receipt No.	–	J 92340
Model	–	45562
Warranty	–	one year

Please do the needful to exchange the juicer.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Rajkumar.

- e) You wish to become a pilot. Write a letter to a college enquiring about the details of the Pilot training course offered by the college. Include the following details in your enquiry: duration of the course, fee structure, scholarships, hostel facilities and placement details.

From

S. Saravanan,  
12 – III cross street,  
NSK Township,  
Salem.  
March 8, 2020.

To

Dean of Studies,  
VST College of Technology,  
Salem Main Road,  
Karur.

Sir,

I have completed BE in Aeronautical Engineering. Now I am interested to pursue a course in Pilot Training. I am happy to know that you have a training centre in your college. I would like to know some details about the course.

- \* Duration of the course
- \* Fees structure
- \* Any scholarship available. If so what are the requirements?
- \* Hostel facilities
- \* Placement details

Will you please send me the details at the earliest?

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,

Saravanan.

- f) Write a letter to the manager of Waves Furniture Company ordering furniture for a coaching centre. Include the following details: description of the furniture, number of pieces, mode of payment, time and delivery options.**

From

N. Malika,  
24 – III Cross Road,  
N S K Coaching Centre,  
Nagercoil.  
June 22, 2019.

To

The Manager,  
Waves Furniture Company,  
Bridhavan Road,  
Tirunelveli – 3.

Sir,

We are in need of some furniture for our coaching centre. I am giving the details of the required furniture.

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| • Office tables: 3" x 4" with three drawers in the right side | - 2  |
| • Executive chairs  | - 2  |
| • Students' writing table                                     | - 40 |
| • Chairs for the students                                     | - 40 |

We will send you a cheque on the receipt of the consignment. Delivery can be done via parcel service. We should be much obliged if you could send us the furniture at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Malika.

- g) Write an application for the post of Personal Secretary to the Managing Director of a company. Include the following details: Educational qualification, experience, various other qualifications required for the post.

From

G. David,  
12 – Selvanagar,  
K T Colony,  
Salem 12.  
June 11, 2020.

To

The Managing Director,  
Rainbow Industries,  
Coimbatore – 17.

Sir,

Sub : Application for the post of Personal Secretary - Reg.

Ref : Your ad/in the Hindu dated 10<sup>th</sup> June.

I completed my MBA with HR as my specialization in 2015. I have come to know that you have a vacancy for the post of Personal Secretary. As I have qualification and experience for the post I would like to apply for the post. I am giving a short resume of mine.

#### Resume

Name	:	G. David
Mobile No.	:	9444788736
Educational Qualification	:	B.A English Literature from University of Madras – 2013 MBA from Madras University – 2015
Experience	:	1. SNF Industries, Erode for 2 years 2. Gupta Metal Services, Madurai for 1 year 3. Fine Boards Info, Trichy – till now
Other qualification	:	Tally completed Computer knowledge in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, PPT.

If I am given a chance to work under you I will do my best to the satisfaction of my superiors.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,  
David.

- h) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper about the nuisance created by the roadside vendors blocking the pavements and occupying the parking zone.

From

V. Andrews,  
7 – West Street,  
Arasar Colony,  
Erode - 2.  
July 14, 2020.



To

The editor,  
The Hindu,  
Coimbatore - 1.

Sir,

I request you to publish the following letter in your daily to address an important issue which needs immediate redressal.

Many roadside vendors occupy the road side for their business. It is accepted that they too need a place to sell their goods and earn their living. But it should not be at the risk of others' life. In our area most of the vendors have taken the parking zone for their business. So the two wheeler riders have no proper place to park their vehicles. They park their vehicles in such a way that it gives trouble to the pedestrians and other cars and autos. So the municipal authorities should take necessary action to solve this problem.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,  
Andrews.

- i) **Write a letter to your relative or friend who is admitted in hospital for treatment of jaundice. Advise him/ her not to worry about the illness and be positive. Assure him/her of your psychological and financial help during the crisis.**

32, Weavers' Colony,  
Salem – 13.

August 14, 2020.

Dear Aunt,

I am sorry to hear that you have been admitted in hospital for the treatment of jaundice. It is heartening to know that you are improving day by day. These days jaundice is not a very dangerous disease. The important point is that it should be diagnosed properly. In your case it was done well and your case is not the B type. So you need not worry about it. I am sure you will be out of hospital within few days. Of course you have to be careful about your food hereafter. Your liver should not be affected again. I am sure people at home will take care of you. You have to take rest some time. You can come home and stay with us for a month or so. If you have any financial crunch please let me know. It will be taken care of. We all pray for your speedy recovery.

Yours lovingly,  
James.



## UNIT 1

## POEM

## The Castle

- Edwin Muir

## Warm up

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- a) What thoughts come to your mind when you think about a castle? Add your ideas to the list.

Moat, huge buildings, soldiers, weapons, strong gates, high walls.

- b) Have you ever visited a fort or a castle?

Yes, I have visited a few forts and castles.

- c) Fill the following empty boxes.

Name	Location
Fort St. George	Chennai
Ginjee Fort	Ginjee
Golconda fort	Hyderabad
Red Fort	Delhi

## Summary

Edwin Muir, in his poem 'The Castle' describes the confidence of the soldiers in the beginning and the treacherous act of one warder which led to the fall of the castle. It is written in the form of a monologue. The whole narration is done by a soldier.

Throughout the summer season the enemy was trying to take over the castle. But the soldiers were watching the movements of the enemy from their defensive wall. They watched their own farmers working in their field without any fear. They had enough and more arms and other amenities. Moreover their allies were coming to help them

Their gates were very strong and their walls were very thick so no one could enter the castle. Only a bird could fly over the wall and reach the castle. The soldier was confident that no one could bribe them to open the gates because he thought that the captain was brave and the soldiers were true to their profession. But they were cheated by a warder who opened the gate for the enemy to enter the castle.

Though they had a maze of tunnels, the enemies walked through the tunnels with ease. They lost the castle without any groan. The famous castle was overthrown. No one can narrate this tale without shame. They could do nothing as they were sold out to the enemy. Their only enemy was gold and they had not weapon to fight against gold.

## Glossary

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turret wall	– a small tower on top of a castle
mowers	– people who trim grass and level the lawns
provender	– food
towering battlements	– tall towers with openings to shoot the enemies
tier	– one above the other
friendly allies	– helpful or supporting nations or armed forces advantageous
foothold	– position
quick	– alive
bait	– something intended to entice someone to do something
wicked	– evil or morally wrong
wicket gate	– a small gate
wizened warder	– an aged or old guard
maze	– a winding, intricate confusing path
treacherous	– disloyal
groan	– lament, cry
citadel	– a safe and strong fort
overthrown	– conquered, defeated
maintain	– believe

**1. Based on your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.**

**a) Who is the narrator in the poem?**

One of the soldiers is the narrator in the poem.

**b) How long had the soldiers been in the castle?**

The soldiers had been in the castle throughout the summer.

**c) Why were the soldiers in the castle fearless?**

The soldiers were fearless because their gates and walls were strong. Their captain was brave and the soldiers were true to their profession.

**d) Where were the enemies?**

Their enemies were standing half a mile away but their actual enemy was gold.

**e) Why does the narrator say that the enemy was no threat at all?**

The narrator was confident that no one could trick them to enter the castle. So the narrator says that there was no threat at all.

**f) Did the soldiers fight with the enemies face to face?**

No, they did not fight with the enemies face to face.

**g) Who had let the enemies in?**

A wizened warder had let the enemies in.

**h) How did the enemies enter the castle?**

The wizened warder after getting bribery opened the gate. The enemies entered through the tunnels.

**i) Why were the secret galleries bare?**

As the gate was opened to the enemies by the warder, the strong and secret galleries were bare and open to the enemies.

**j) What was the 'shameful act'?**

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The wizened warder's act of opening the gate to the enemies was the shameful act.

**k) Why didn't the narrator want to tell the tale to anybody?**

The narrator did not want to tell the tale to anybody because it would spoil the name of all the soldiers.

**l) Why did the narrator feel helpless?**

As the gate was opened to the enemies, the soldiers did not have time to stop them. So the narrator felt that they were helpless.

**m) Who was the real enemy?**

The real enemy was gold.

**2. Read the poem again and complete the summary using the words given in box.****Stanza 1-3**

'The Castle' by Edwin Muir is a moving poem on the (1) capture of a well-guarded (2) castle. The soldiers of the castle were totally stress-free and relaxed. They were (3) confident of their castle's physical strength. Through the turrets they were able to watch the mowers and no enemy was found up to the distance of (4) half-a-mile and so they seemed no threat to the castle. They had (5) plenty of weapons to protect them and a large quantity of (6) ration in stock to take care of the well-being of the soldiers inside the castle. The soldiers stood one above the other on the towering battlements (7) watching, to shoot enemies at sight. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was (8) brave and the soldiers were loyal.

half-a-mile	castle	ration	plenty
watching	brave	capture	confident

**Stanza 4-6**

Even by a trick no one but the birds could enter. The enemy could not use a (9) bait for their entry inside the castle. But there was a wicket gate guarded by a (10) wicked-guard. He (11) let in the enemies inside the famous citadel that had been known for its secret gallery and intricate path. The strong castle became (12) weak and thin because of the greedy disloyal warder. The (13) citadel was captured by the enemies for (14) gold. The narrator (15) lamented over the (16) disloyalty of the useless warder and also decided not to disclose this (17) shameful story to anyone. He was (18) helpless and wondered how he would keep this truth to himself. He regretted not finding any (19) weapon to fight with the (20) enemy called 'gold'.

lamented	wicked-guard	let	weapon	weak	helpless
shameful	bait	gold	citadel	disloyalty	enemy

## 3. Read the poem and answer the following in a short paragraph of 8-10 sentences each.

## a) How safe was the castle? How was it conquered?

<b>Poem</b>	The Castle
<b>Poet</b>	Edwin Muir
<b>Theme</b>	Money makes many things

*Our gates were strong, our walls were thick,  
So smooth and high, no man could win  
A foothold there,*

Edwin Muir, in his poem 'The Castle', describes the confidence of the soldiers in the beginning and the treacherous act of one warder which led to the fall of the castle. It is written in the form of monologue. The whole narration is done by a soldier. They had enough quantity of ration and more arms and other amenities. Moreover their allies were coming to help them. Their gates were very strong and their walls were very thick so no one could enter the castle. Only a bird could fly over the wall and reach the castle. The soldier was confident that no one could bribe them to open the gates because he thought that the captain was brave and the soldiers were true to their profession. But they were cheated by a warder who opened the gate for the enemy to enter the castle. The soldiers did not have any time to fight with the enemies. The famous castle was overthrown. No one can narrate this tale without shame. They could do nothing as they were sold out to the enemy. Their only enemy was gold and they had no weapon to fight against gold.

*Our only enemy was gold,  
And we had no arms to fight it with.*

## b) Bring out the contrasting picture of the castle as depicted in stanza 3 and 5.

<b>Poem</b>	The Castle
<b>Poet</b>	Edwin Muir
<b>Theme</b>	Money makes many things

*No clever trick  
Could take us dead or quick,  
Only a bird could have got in.*

Edwin Muir, in his poem 'The Castle' describes the confidence of the soldiers in the beginning and the treacherous act of one warder which led to the fall of the castle. It is written in the form of monologue. The whole narration is done by a soldier. In the III stanza the poet describes the strength of the castle. Their gates were very strong and their walls were very thick so no one could enter the castle. Only a bird could fly over the wall and reach the castle. The soldier was confident that no one could bribe them to open the gates because he thought that the captain was brave and the soldiers were true to their profession. In the second part of the IV stanza the poet gives a totally different picture. In the first part the poet asks who could give them a bait. The mood changes in the second part. But they were cheated by a warder who opened the gate for the enemy to enter the castle.

*The famous citadel overthrown,  
And all its secret galleries bare.*

## c) Human greed led to the mighty fall of the citadel. Explain.

<b>Poem</b>	The Castle
<b>Poet</b>	Edwin Muir
<b>Theme</b>	Money makes many things

*We watched the mowers in the hay  
And the enemy half a mile away  
They seemed no threat to us at all.*

Edwin Muir, in his poem 'The Castle' describes the confidence of the soldiers in the beginning and the treacherous act of one warder which led to the fall of the castle. It is written in the form of monologue. The whole narration is done by a soldier. The castle was strong and no one could enter it. They had enough and more arms and provisions to take care of the soldiers. The narrator was confident that no could attack them. But a wizard warder had become a prey to greed. So it was easy for the enemies to bribe him with gold. The castle had a very complicated way to reach the castle. But everything became useless because of the greed of the warder. He opened the gate to the enemies and they could use all the secret ways to reach the castle. This is an example to say that human greed will lead to the fall of mighty citadel.

*The cause was lost without a groan,  
The famous citadel overthrown,  
And all its secret galleries bare.*

**Additional**

Answer the following in a short paragraph of 8-10 sentences each.

## 1. Narrate the incident that led to the capture of the castle.

<b>Poem</b>	The Castle
<b>Poet</b>	Edwin Muir
<b>Theme</b>	Money makes many things

*All through that summer at ease we lay,  
And daily from the turret wall  
We watched the mowers in the hay*

Edwin Muir, in his poem 'The Castle' describes the confidence of the soldiers in the beginning and the treacherous act of one warder which led to the fall of the castle. It is written in the form of monologue. Throughout the summer season the enemy was trying to take over the castle. But the soldiers were watching the movements of the enemy from their defensive wall. They had enough and more arms and other amenities. Their gates were very strong and their walls were very thick so no one could enter the castle. The soldier was confident that no one could bribe them to open the gates because he thought that the captain was brave and the soldiers were true to their profession. But they were cheated by a warder who opened the gate for the enemy to enter the castle. They lost the castle without any groan. The famous castle was overthrown. No one can narrate this tale without shame. They could do nothing as they were sold out to the enemy. Their only enemy was gold and they had not any weapon to fight against gold.

*How can this shameful tale be told?  
I will maintain until my death*

**4. Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow in a line or two.**

a) *"All through the summer at ease we lay,  
And daily from the turret wall  
We watched the mowers in the hay"*

**i. Who does 'we' refer to?**

'We' refers to the soldiers.

**ii. How did the soldiers spend the summer days?**

The soldiers spent the summer days watching the mowers and the enemies.

**iii. What could they watch from the turret wall?**

They could watch from the turret wall mowers in the hay and the enemies who were half a mile away.

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b) *"Our gates were strong, our walls were thick,  
So smooth and high, no man could win".*

**i. How safe was the castle?**

The castle was very safe as its gates were strong and the walls were very thick. The walls were so smooth and tall that no one could climb them.

**ii. What was the firm belief of the soldiers?**

The firm belief of the soldiers was that no one could win them.

c) *"A foothold there, no clever trick  
Could take us dead or quick,  
Only a bird could have got in".*

**i. What was challenging?**

The wall was challenging.

**ii. Which aspect of the castle's strength is conveyed by the above line?**

The strength of the wall is conveyed in the above line.

d) *"Oh then our maze of tunneled stone  
Grew thin and treacherous as air.  
The castle was lost without a groan,  
The famous citadel overthrown",*

**i. Bring out the contrast in the first two lines.**

The way to the castle was very strong. It was a maze of tunneled stone. But it became very weak and thin because of the treachery of the warder.

**ii. What is the rhyme scheme of the given stanza?**

Ans: abaa

e) *"We could do nothing, being sold".*

**i. Why couldn't they do anything?**

As they were sold out for gold they could not do anything.

**ii. Why did they feel helpless?**

They felt helpless because they had to surrender without fighting.

## Additional

Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow in a line or two.

1. *"What we thought had we to fear  
With our arms and provender load on load".*
  - i. **Who said these words?**  
One of the soldiers said these words.
  - ii. **Why were they not afraid?**  
They were not afraid because they had enough arms to fight and food for many days.
2. *"And friendly allies drawing near  
On every leafy summer road".*
  - i. **What is the meaning of 'drawing near'?**  
'coming closer'.
  - ii. **What do these lines convey?**  
These lines convey that the friendly armies are coming to help them.
3. *"What could they offer us for bait?  
Our captain was brave and we were true"*
  - i. **What attitude of the soldiers do these lines convey?**  
These lines convey the confidence of the soldiers.
  - ii. **What does the soldier say about the captain and the soldiers?**  
The captain was very brave and the soldiers were very true to the captain.

5. Explain the following with reference to the context in about 20-30 words each.

- a) *Our gates were strong, our walls were thick,*

**Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

The poet wants to express the soldier's view on the strength of the castle.

**Explanation :**

The soldiers of the castle were totally stress-free and relaxed. They were confident of their castle's physical strength. The gates were very strong and the walls were thick. Enemies could never break open either the gate or the wall.

- b) *Our captain was brave and we were true...*

**Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

After expressing the physical strength of the castle, the poet wants to express the strength of the army.

**Explanation :**

The soldiers of the castle were totally stress-free and relaxed. They believed that the castle was absolutely safe because their captain was brave and the soldiers were loyal to him.



c) *They seemed no threat to us at all.***Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

The poet says these words to express that the castle was very safe.

**Explanation :**

The soldiers were watching from the turret wall. They could see the mowers in the hay and the enemies half a mile away. Their castle had a strong gates and the walls were thick and tall. So the enemies seemed no threat to them.

d) *How can this shameful tale be told?***Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

The poet says these words at the end to emphasis that it was a shameful story.

**Explanation :**

The soldiers were very confident that the enemies could not enter their castle because they had very strong gates and thick and tall walls. But all their strength was lost due to the treacherous act of a wizard warder. He received bribery and opened the gates for the enemies. This tale of shame cannot be told to others.

e) *I will maintain until my death.***Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

The poet utters these words at the last part of the poem when he feels ashamed of being a soldier

**Explanation :**

The soldiers were very confident that the enemies could not enter their castle because they had very strong gates and thick and tall walls. But all their strength was lost due to the treacherous act of a wizard warder. He received bribery and opened the gates for the enemies. This tale of shame cannot be told to others. He has decided not to reveal this to anyone till his death.

f) *Our only enemy was gold***Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

The poet says this to explain that they lost the battle because of avarice for gold.

**Explanation :**

The soldiers were very confident that the enemies could not enter their castle because they had very strong gates and thick and tall walls. Moreover they had enough and more amenities and provisions for the soldiers. They thought the enemies could never win over them. But a wizard warder after receiving gold from the enemies opened the gate to the enemies so the castle fell to the hands of the enemies. Their enemy was not human but gold. So they could not fight.

## Additional Exercise - ERC

Explain the following with reference to the context in about 20-30 words each.

1. *"Our towering battlements, tier on tier"*

**Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

The poet utters these words when he wants to express that the soldiers did not lack anything to defend their castle.

**Explanation :**

The soldiers were very confident that no one could even come near them. They had enough and more arms with them. Food for the soldiers and others was plentiful. What was needed for battle was also with them. In short they had enough and more amenities and provisions for the soldiers.

2. *"There was a little private gate"*

**Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

The poet says why and how they lost the battle.

**Explanation :**

The soldiers were very confident that no one could even come near them. They had enough and more arms with them. Food for the soldiers and others was plentiful. They had strong gates and high polished wall. No one could enter the castle. But they had a private gate which was opened to the enemies by a warder who got gold from them.

3. *"And we had no arms to fight it with".*

**Reference :**

This line is taken from 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

**Context:**

The poet expresses the painful fact that the soldiers could not do anything to defend the castle.

**Explanation :**

The soldiers were very confident that no one could even come near them. They had enough and more arms with them. Food for the soldiers and others was plentiful. They had strong gates and high polished wall. No one could enter the castle. But they had a private gate which was opened to the enemies by a warder who got gold from them. Then the soldier realised that their enemy was gold and they had no arms to fight with that.

6. Read the poem and complete the table with suitable rhyming words.

lay	hay
wall	all
fear	tier
load	road
thick	quick
win	in

bait	gate
true	through
stone	groan
air	bare
told	sold
death	with

**7. Underline the alliterated words in the following lines.**

- a) With our arms and provender, load on load.  
 b) A little wicked wicket gate.  
 c) The wizened warder let them through.

**8. Identify the figure of speech used in the following lines.**

- a) A little wicked wicket gate. - Alliteration  
 b) Oh then our maze of tunneled stone - Imagery  
 c) Grew thin and treacherous as air. - Personification  
 d) How can this shameful tale be told? - Rhetorical Question  
 e) Our only enemy was gold, - Personification

**9. Can you call 'The Castle' an allegorical poem? Discuss.**

An allegory is a complete narrative that involves characters and events that stand for an abstract idea or event. In other words, a story, poem, or picture can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one. As per the definition of allegory the poem 'The Castle' can be called an allegorical poem. It is a narrative poem with many characters. The narrator, other soldiers, mowers, enemy and wizard warder are the characters depicted in this poem. It clearly says that if one in a big team is willing to cheat others the whole team will fall. The moral of the poem is human greed will lead to the fall of a mighty army.

**Listening****The Soldier**

If I should die, think only this of me:  
 That there's some corner of a foreign field  
 That is forever England. There shall be  
 In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
 A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
 Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;  
 A body of England's, breathing English air,  
 Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.  
 And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
 A pulse in the eternal mind, no less  
 Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;  
 Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
 And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
 In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

- Rupert Brooke



## UNIT 1

## SUPPLEMENTARY

## God Sees the Truth, But Waits

- Leo Tolstoy

## Warm up

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**If you are punished for a prank your classmate played, how would you react to the situation?**

I will surely feel angry and try to escape from the situation. I will try to explain to the authorities I am not responsible for the prank. I can explain what I was doing at the time of happening. But I will not betray my classmate.

**While many would seek vengeance or feel sorry for themselves, some may put their trust in God, forgive others for the wrongs done to them and move on in life. What is your take on this? Discuss.**

Basically I am a believer in God. I believe nothing will happen to me without God's will. If something happens to me due to the wrongs done to me by others, God will be my protector. I will put my trust in God and pray to him to save me from the situation. God may test me but at the end, he will reward me.

## Summary

In Russia during the nineteenth century, a young, attractive businessman named Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov lived with his wife and children. Although he had been a bit wild in his youth, he had now settled down and lived a responsible, productive life. One day he decided to make a trip to a fair where he could sell some of his merchandise. Although his wife had had a bad dream about this trip, Aksionov decided to proceed. On the way, he stopped at an inn, where he met another merchant, a person he knew. They decided to stay at the inn in the rooms next to one another. The next morning, he proceeded on his way. After traveling twenty-five miles, however, he was stopped by a local police officer, who questioned him closely about the time he had spent at the inn. It turned out that the other merchant had been found with his throat slit open, and Aksionov seemed a likely suspect since he knew the man and since their rooms had been adjacent. Aksionov vehemently denied any involvement in the murder. However, when his bags were checked, a bloody knife was found.

Although Aksionov protested his innocence, he was arrested and charged with the murder. Even his wife wondered if he might have been involved, since the circumstantial evidence was so striking. After being severely flogged, he was sent to work in the mines in Siberia. During his twenty-six years of imprisonment there, his hair turned white, his happy-go-lucky personality disappeared, and his body began to weaken; he never showed any signs of happiness and he frequently prayed to God.

While imprisoned, he became a boot-maker, thus earning enough money to buy a book called *The Lives of the Saints*. He read this book whenever possible. On Sundays he took a prominent role in the religious services, and he sang in the choir of the prison church. The wardens and guards appreciated his humility, and the other prisoners regarded him with respect, calling him "Grandfather" and "The Saint."

When a new shipment of prisoners arrived one day, Aksionov eventually realized that one of the men, Makar, was from his own home town. In response to Aksionov's questions, Makar informed the old man that Aksionov's family was prosperous. Makar seemed to know Aksionov somehow, leading the latter to wonder if Makar knew anything about the murder of the merchant. Makar's reply led Aksionov to begin to suspect that it was Makar who had in fact committed the crime. Makar ignored the accusation. Aksionov had caught Makar trying to dig a tunnel to escape the prison. Aksionov could easily have reported this deed to the authorities, but he chose to keep quiet, even after Makar threatened him. When the tunnel was eventually discovered, no one would identify Makar as the culprit who had been doing the digging. Even Aksionov, who was closely questioned by the Governor of the prison because the Governor knew that his testimony would be honest, denied knowing who had been digging. He did not want to see Makar harshly punished and even began to wonder if he had wrongly suspected Makar of murdering the merchant.

Later that night, Makar came to Aksionov's bed and begged the old man for forgiveness. He confessed that he had indeed killed the merchant and had hidden the bloody knife in Aksionov's belongings. He offered to confess to this crime so that Aksionov could be released from prison and go back to his home and family. Makar continued to beg Aksionov for forgiveness, especially since Aksionov had not revealed what he knew about Makar and the tunnel. Both men were soon weeping, and Aksionov said "God will forgive you! . . . Maybe I am a hundred times worse than you." Having said this, he suddenly felt unburdened and no longer cared about leaving prison. He only desired death. Makar did eventually confess to having killed the merchant, but by the time Aksionov's pardon arrived, he was already deceased.

## Glossary

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go on a spree	– indulging in something actively in an unrestrained way
porch	– portico
samovar	– a Russian metal urn for making tea
troika (in olden Russia)	– a cart pulled by a team of three horses
stammer	– to speak haltingly, fumble for words.
betray	– fail, let one down
despair	– hopelessness
downcast	– depressed
flog	– to beat with a whip or stick
mirth	– cheerfulness
sledge	– a vehicle pulled by horses for transportation on snow
wretched	– dejected
vengeance	– revenge

### 1. Answer the following questions in a sentence or two each, based on your understanding of the story.

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#### a) Why did Aksionov's wife stop him from going to the fair?

Aksionov's wife saw a bad dream. She saw her husband's hair went grey. So she stopped him from going to the fair.

#### b) What is the importance of Aksionov's wife's dream?

In the dream Aksionov's wife saw her husband's hair went grey and it so happened to him in prison.

#### c) What made Aksionov leave the inn before dawn?

It was Aksionov's habit to get up early. So he got up early and wanted to travel while it was cool.

**d) What were the circumstances that led to Aksionov's imprisonment?**

Aksionov stayed in the next room. He left the inn early. He gave doubtful answers to the questions of the officers. The blood-stained knife was in his baggage.

**e) Why did Aksionov give up sending petitions?**

Aksionov did not get any reply for his petitions. He thought he could get mercy only from God. So he gave up sending petitions.

**f) Why didn't Makar disclose that he had killed the merchant?**

Makar did not disclose that he had killed the merchant because he did not want to get the punishment for murder.

**g) Did Makar feel guilty when he heard Aksionov's story?**

At first he did not feel guilty when he heard Aksionov's story.

**h) What made Aksionov think that Makar was the real murderer?**

Makar seemed to know Aksionov somehow, leading the latter to wonder if Makar knew anything about the murder of the merchant. Makar's reply led Aksionov to begin to suspect that it was Makar who had in fact committed the crime.

**i) What was Aksionov's realization by the end of the story?**

Aksionov realised by the end of the story that he had been suffering because he was worse than Makar who had killed the merchant.

**j) Why did Aksionov's wife suspect him of involvement in the murder?**

Circumstantial evidences and his character in the past were against Aksionov. So she suspected that her husband must have got involved in the murder.

**2. Answer the following questions in three or four sentences each.****a) Did the police officer have sufficient evidence to convict Aksionov?**

The police officer had sufficient evidence to convict Aksionov. Aksionov stayed in the next room. He left the inn early. He gave doubtful answers to the questions of the officers. The blood-stained knife was in his baggage.

**b) What impact did the book "The Lives of Saint" have on Aksionov?**

While imprisoned, he became a boot-maker, thus earning enough money to buy a book called *The Lives of the Saints*. He read this book whenever possible. On Sundays he took a prominent role in the religious services, and he sang in the choir of the prison church. The wardens and guards appreciated his humility, and the other prisoners regarded him with respect, calling him "Grandfather" and "The Saint."

**c) Pick out the clues that convey that Makar Semyonich recognized Aksionov.**

Makar was from Vladimir which was the place of Aksionov. When Makar heard that Aksionov was arrested for the murder of a merchant and the bloody knife was found in his baggage he recognised Aksionov. He was surprised and said, "Wonderful. Really wonderful."

**3. Answer the following questions in a paragraph in about 150 words each.****a) Compare and contrast the main characters, Aksionov and Makar Semyonich.**

*Leo Tolstoy – two characters – attractive merchant Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov – wild in youth – now settled down – lived with wife and children – decided to go to a fair – could sell merchandise – wife had bad dream – wrongly accused of a murder – sent to prison – Makar Semyonich the real murderer – sent to prison for another crime – Makar realised – Aksionov punished for his crime – not willing to accept – Aksionov accepted the situation – helped Makar – he asked pardon from Aksionov*

<b>Title</b>	God Sees the Truth, But Waits
<b>Author</b>	Leo Tolstoy
<b>Theme</b>	Forgiveness is the best form of revenge

Leo Tolstoy in his short story 'God sees the Truth but Waits' presents two characters – Aksionov and Makar Semeyonich. In Russia during the nineteenth century, a young, attractive businessman named Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov lived with his wife and children. Although he had been a bit wild in his youth, he had now settled down and lived a responsible, productive life. One day he decided to make a trip to a fair where he could sell some of his merchandise. Although his wife had had a bad dream about this trip, Aksionov decided to proceed. He was a very plain minded man but unfortunately he was wrongly accused of a murder. He was sent to a prison in Siberia. In the later part Makar was introduced as the real culprit of the murder. This time he was caught for another crime and came to Siberia. Makar realised that Aksionov was punished for his crime but he was not willing to reveal this. Aksionov became very composed and accepted his situation. Once he had a chance to stand against Makar but he did not do it. This touched the heart of Makar and made him ask pardon from Aksionov.

*Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.*  
- Oscar Wilde

**b) How did Aksionov react when his wife suspected him?**

*Aksionov punished wrongly – wife believed evidence – he wept – God knew the truth – expected mercy from God – stopped appealing to the government – sent to the mines in Siberia – 26 years of imprisonment – happiness disappeared – weak – prayed to God*

<b>Title</b>	God Sees the Truth, But Waits
<b>Author</b>	Leo Tolstoy
<b>Theme</b>	Forgiveness is the best form of revenge

Leo Tolstoy in his short story 'God Sees the Truth But Waits' describes the story of Aksionov, who was wrongly punished for a murder. Although Aksionov strongly said that he was not guilty, he was arrested and charged with the murder. Even his wife wondered if he might have been involved, since the circumstantial evidence was so striking. When his wife suspected him he hid his face in his hand and wept. He said to himself that only God alone seemed to know the truth. It was only to Him alone he could appeal. Only from God could he expect mercy. Then he stopped writing any appeal for mercy to the government. He only prayed to God. After being severely flogged, he was sent to work in the mines in Siberia. During his twenty-six years of imprisonment there, his hair turned white, his happy-go-lucky personality disappeared, and his body began to weaken. He never showed any sign of happiness and he frequently prayed to God.

*Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.*

**c) Describe the life of Aksionov in prison.**

*Aksionov punished wrongly – flogged – sent to Siberia – 26 years of imprisonment – lost happiness – prayed to God – a boot maker – bought 'The Lives of the Saints' – interested in religion – sang in choir – appreciated by wardens and guards – was respected – 'Grandfather, Saints' – did not prove his innocence – died in prison*

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*Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.*

**d) Why did Aksionov decide not to reveal the truth about Makar Semyonich?**

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*To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.*

**e) Discuss the meaning and importance of the saying "God Sees the Truth But Waits".**

*Aksionov punished wrongly – wife doubted his innocence – he wept – God knew the truth – expected mercy – God – prayed to God – God allows innocent sufferings – 26 years of imprisonment – God waits to reveal the truth – Maker in the prison – the real culprit – refused to accept – Makar surrenders*

<b>Title</b>	God Sees the Truth, But Waits
<b>Author</b>	Leo Tolstoy
<b>Theme</b>	Forgiveness is the best form of revenge

Leo Tolstoy in his short story "God Sees the Truth But Waits" presents a good merchant who was punished wrongly for a murder due to circumstantial evidence. Even his wife wondered if he might have been involved, since the circumstantial evidence was so striking. When his wife suspected him he hid his face in his hand and wept. He said to himself that only God alone seemed to know the truth. It was only to Him alone he could appeal. Only from God could he expect mercy. Then he



stopped writing any appeal for mercy to the government. He only prayed to God. In this story only God knows the true criminal but He allows the innocent Aksionov to suffer in prison. Aksionov also accepts the imprisonment. He spent nearly twenty six years in prison. God waits to reveal the truth. Now Makar the real culprit came to the same prison but refused to accept his hand in the murder. At the end he was made to surrender. Thus God knows the truth but waits to reveal it.

*Forgiveness is God's command - Martin Luther*

- f) **Forgiveness is the best form of revenge. Substantiate the statement with reference to the story.**

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Leo Tolstoy in his short story "God Sees the Truth But Waits" describes a good merchant who was punished wrongly for a murder due to circumstantial evidence. He was sent to Siberia prison and he spent twenty six years there. Then the real culprit Makar came to prison for some other crime. Aksionov understood that he was the culprit but Makar refused to accept it. Once Aksionov had caught Makar trying to dig a tunnel to escape the prison. Aksionov could easily have reported this deed to the authorities, but he chose to keep quiet, even after Makar threatened him. When the tunnel was eventually discovered, no one would identify Makar as the culprit who had been doing the digging. Aksionov did not reveal this to the governor. He forgave Makar. Later that night, Makar came to Aksionov's bed and begged the old man for forgiveness. He confessed that he had indeed killed the merchant and had hidden the bloody knife in Aksionov's belongings. He offered to confess to this crime so that Aksionov could be released from prison and go back to his home and family. Thus it is proved that forgiveness is the best form of revenge.

*Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds  
on the heel that has crushed it.*  
- Mark Twain

## Additional

**Answer the following questions in a paragraph in about 150 words each.**

1. **Describe the transformation Aksionov underwent in prison.**

*Attractive businessman – Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov – decided to make trip to a fair – at an inn – another merchant – stayed in the inn – next day started his journey – caught for murdering the merchant – bloody knife in his bag – arrested, flogged, sent to mines in Siberia – real murderer Makar came to the same prison – ignored the accusation – Makar and the tunnel – Aksionov did not reveal the fact – Makar begged forgiveness – accepted his guilt of murder – offered to confess the crime – chance for Aksionov to go – he forgave Makar – decided to stay in prison.*

<b>Title</b>	God Sees the Truth, But Waits
<b>Author</b>	Leo Tolstoy
<b>Theme</b>	Forgiveness is the best form of revenge

In Russia during the nineteenth century, a young, attractive businessman named Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov lived with his wife and children.. One day he decided to make a trip to a fair where he could sell some of his merchandise. On the way, he stopped at an inn, where he met another merchant, a person he knew. They decided to stay at the inn in rooms next to one another. The next morning, he proceeded on his way. He was caught for the murder of the merchant. However, when his bags were checked, a bloody knife was found. Although Aksionov protested his innocence, he was arrested and charged with the murder. After being severely flogged, he was sent to work in the mines in Siberia. When a new shipment of prisoners arrived one day, Aksionov eventually realized that one of the men, Makar, was the real murderer. Makar ignored the accusation. Aksionov had caught Makar trying to dig a tunnel to escape the prison. Aksionov did not reveal the fact to the officers. He did not want to see Makar harshly punished and even began to wonder if he had wrongly suspected Makar of murdering the merchant. Later that night, Makar came to Aksionov's bed and begged the old man for forgiveness. He confessed that he had indeed killed the merchant and had hidden the bloody knife in Aksionov's belongings. He offered to confess to this crime so that Aksionov could be released from prison and go back to his home and family. Makar continued to beg Aksionov for forgiveness, especially since Aksionov had not revealed what he knew about Makar and the tunnel. Both men were soon weeping, and Aksionov said "God will forgive you!" He suddenly felt unburdened and no longer cared about leaving prison. He only desired death. Forgiveness is the best form of punishment.

*"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you".*

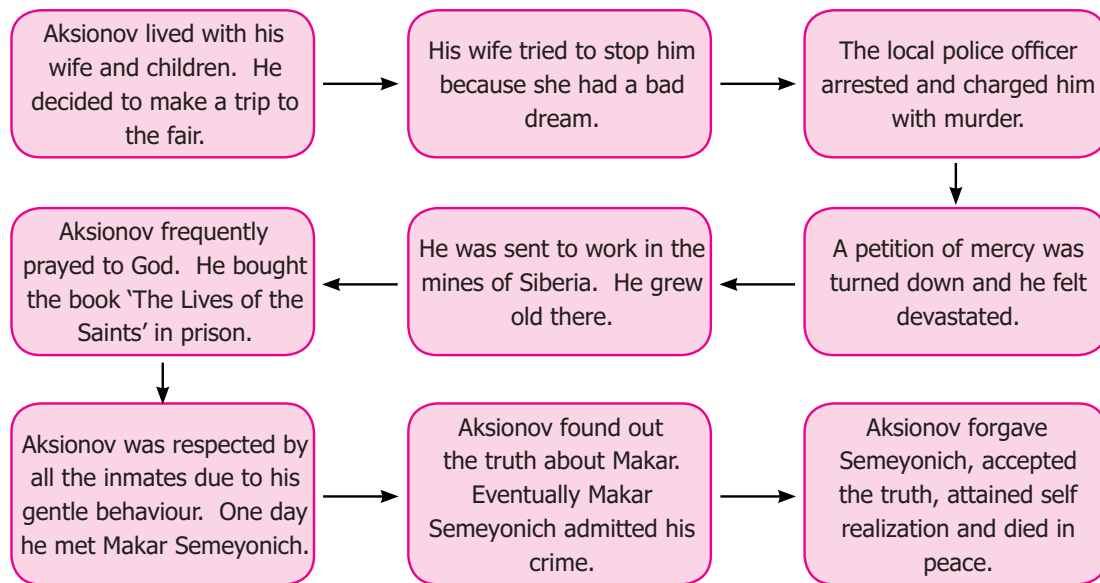
## 2. How did Aksionov transform Makar, the real culprit?

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Aksionov was so angry with Makar that he longed for vengeance when he came to conclusion that he must be the real culprit. He kept repeating prayers all night. He lost his peace of mind. He did not report to the authorities or reveal the fact to the Governor about who dug the tunnel. He would have realized the futility of such an action. Because, he had already lost his reputation as a good merchant. His wife had suspected him. His children would have become grown-ups. They might not welcome him back to the family. He had none to support him in the outside world. When Makar confessed his crime, he prayed that God would forgive him. He said that he was a hundred times worse than him. These words melted Makar's heart and so he confessed his crime.

*"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you".*

## 4. Using the mind map given below, write a brief summary of the story in your own words.



Aksionov, a young and attractive business man, lived with his wife and children. One day he decided to go on a trip to the fair. But his wife persuaded him not to go because she had a bad dream. Laughing at the sign of bad omen, he proceeded. He stayed in an inn. The next day he 'started early in the morning. On the way, he was stopped by the local police officer. He was charged with murder and imprisoned. He felt devastated because the appeal for mercy was rejected.

He was then sent to Siberia, where he suffered a lot. He grew old. The book, 'The Lives of the Saint' transformed his life in prison. The inmates began to respect him on account of his gentle behaviour.

One day he met Makar, the real culprit. He found out the truth about him. He forgave Makar and said that he was a hundred times worse than him. Makar confessed his guilt. But when the order for his release came, Aksionov was already dead.

