



TALKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Q1. “All we have to fear is fear itself” Have you ever had a fear that you have now overcome? Share your experience with your partner.

Ans: I must have been about eight or nine years old. It was the night of Diwali. All the houses were shining bright with the rows of candles, oil lamps and electric bulbs. Children were bursting crackers. Suddenly, a cracker went up and hit the thatched roof of a poor gardener. Soon the hut was in flames. His only son, a tiny infant had severe burns before he could be rescued. I began to tremble with fear as the police questioned the boys exploding crackers. From then on I had a fear of crackers, fire and police. My parents and I had to work very hard to remove this blemish. It was adversely affecting my personality. By learning the safeguards against fire and safe handling of crackers, I gradually overcame my fear. However, I still get panicked at the sight of a policeman in uniform. The fear of police remained now; My uncle came to my rescue. He got me dressed as a police inspector in one of his plays, I commanded many policemen and scolded them for misbehaving with the common people. I learnt that policemen were also, humans and not demons. Police protect and help us to maintain law and order. Thank God, I have overcome all my fears now.

Q2. Find and narrate other stories about conquest of fear and what people have said about courage. For example, you can recall Nelson Mandela’s struggle for freedom, his perseverance to achieve his mission, to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor as depicted in his autobiography. The story ‘We’re Not Afraid To Die,’ which you have read in Class XI, is an apt example of how courage and optimism helped a family survive under the direst stress.

Ans: In his autobiography ‘Long Walk to Freedom’, Nelson Mandela tells the extraordinary story of his life. He brings vividly to life the escalating political warfare in the fifties between the African National Congress and the government, culminating in his dramatic escapades as an underground leader and the notorious Rivonia Trial of 1964, at which he was sentenced to life imprisonment. He recounts the surprisingly eventful twenty-seven years in prison and the complex, delicate negotiations that led both to his freedom and to the beginning of the end of apartheid. Mandela also struggled against the exploitation of labour and on the segregation of the universities. He persevered to achieve his mission and to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor. In 1990, he was freed from prison. The apartheid laws were relaxed. Mandela became the champion for human rights and racial equality. He also became the first non-white president of the Republic of South Africa.

THINKING ABOUT LANGUAGE

If someone else had narrated Douglas’s experience, how would it have differed from this account? Write out a sample paragraph or paragraphs from this text from the point of view of a third person or observer, to find out which style of narration would you consider to be more effective? Why?

Ans: The third person account or one from the point of view of an observer is detached and objective. Real-life personal account is subjective and focuses more on the person’s thoughts, feelings and emotional response. I would consider the first person narrative style

more effective as it is quite authentic and depicts everything faithfully.

SAMPLE PARAGRAPHS

(From the point of view of a third personl observer)

A big bruiser of a boy, yelled, "Hi, Skinny! How'd you like to be ducked?" with that he picked up the 10 year old tiny boy and tossed him into the nine feet deep end of the Y.M.C.A. pool. The kid struck the surface in a sitting position, swallowed water and at once went to the bottom.

Watching all this from a distance filled me with anxiety for the kid. I rushed towards the side of the pool. By that time, the boy had risen twice to the surface but being unable to grab a rope or support on the side wall, he went down. Before I could bail him out he sucked in more water and went down third time. I at once jumped into the pool. The boy's legs were limp. All efforts had ceased. I carried him on my shoulder and swam to the side of the pool. He was made to lie on his stomach. His back was slapped gently but firmly to make him vomit the water he had swallowed. He responded to the first-aid measures and soon regained consciousness.

WRITING

Q1. Doing well in any activity, for example a sport, music, dance or painting, riding a motorcycle or a car, involves a great deal of struggle. Most of us are very nervous to begin with until gradually we overcome our fears and perform well. Write an essay of about five paragraphs recounting such an experience. Try to recollect minute details of what caused the fear, your feelings, the encouragement you got from others or the criticism. You could begin with the last sentence of the essay you have just read: "At last I felt released—free to walk the trails and climb the peaks and to brush aside fear."

Ans:

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE OF RIDING A MOTORCYCLE

At last I felt released, free to walk the trails and climb the peaks and to brush aside fear. This fear of injuries had been my old enemy and had thwarted me at crucial moments. I remember exactly when I started developing this fear. I was a toddler when I was given a tricycle. I would lose balance and the tricycle would fall over me. As I grew older, I was given dwarfer versions of cycles but my road fear persisted. I would hit someone or something and fall down. Sometimes the injuries took time to heal. I felt annoyed with myself and cursed my fear. But fern assumed monster like proportions. Now I had passed tenth class examination and joined the city school. My father gifted me a Hero Honda mobike on my birthday. My uncle volunteered to train me. After telling me in details the functions of various parts, he took me to the playground. He sat behind me and issued orders. He held me firmly at first. When I had learnt to start the vehicle, change gear, increase and decrease speed, turn the vehicle and come to a stop, he asked me to take a round. I perspired from head to foot. He reassured me and encouraged me. I regained my confidence.

Then I took a short round of the playground. I still hesitated while tinning the comer. Uncle explained the mechanism and demonstrated how to handle the machine.

Finally, I took three rounds of the playground. Then uncle and I came to the side road. He trained me how to avoid the vehicles and give them passage. I drove to the city and returned safe. I had conquered fear and learnt how to ride a motorcycle.

Q2. Write a short letter to someone you know about your having learnt to do something new.

Ans:

23, King John's Lane
Westbury (UK)
12 March, 2007

Dear Dolly,
You will be pleased to learn that at last I have learnt playing tennis. You know how I dotted on the players taking part in Wimbledon and had cherished a dream to play on the centre court. Well, I have taken the first step in that direction. After years of perspiration and training I have learnt playing tennis. This year I am participating in the Junior County Championship. I must take this opportunity of thanking you for you have been a constant source of inspiration and support to me, both on and off the court. I am anxiously awaiting for the day when I'll intimate to you my achievements in this newly learnt game.
With best wishes
Yours sincerely,
Angela

THINGS TO DO

Q1. Are there any water sports in India? Find out about the areas or places which are known for water sports.

Ans: India provides exciting opportunities for the following watersports:

- (i) White Water Rafting,
- (ii) Water Skiing,
- (iii) Canoeing and Kayaking,
- (iv) Scuba Diving, (u) Snorkelling,
- (vi) Angling and Fishing.

Areas or places known for watersports:

- (i) White Water Rafting and Kayaking: The Ganges (from Rishikesh); the Beas (from Manali, the Indus (in Ladakh), Zaskar (in Zaskar), the Teesta (in Sikkim)
- (ii) Water Skiing: The Ganges, the Beas.
- (iii) Sailing, Yachting and Wind-surfing: Goa, Kovalam Beach in Kerala.
- (iv) Scuba Diving: Andaman and Lakshadweep, Goa.
- (v) Snorkelling: Andaman and Lakshadweep, Goa.
- (vi) Angling and Fishing: Balukpung (Assam) Beas (Kullu Valley)

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