

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

CHAPTER-1

UNSEEN PASSAGES

Introduction

- Comprehension means to understand the text fully, using one's intellect. A comprehension passage is used to test the reader's ability to understand the meaning and theme of the given text.
- In most cases, questions are given chronologically. So, the answer to the first question can be found in the first paragraph of the passage and so on. But inference-based questions are based on multiple paragraphs. So, the entire passage has to be read to solve them.

Tips to Know

How To Read a Passage For Comprehension

Follow these tips while attempting an unseen passage :

1. Read silently. Do not read aloud.
2. Read the entire sentence together to make out the sense or meaning.
3. Read the passage thoroughly to determine the main idea before you look at the questions.
4. Don't panic about the words you do not understand.
5. Try to make out the meaning of the word you don't understand in context to the passage.
6. Go through the questions carefully and read that part of the passage which contains the answer again.
7. Answer must be relevant and to the point.
8. Maintain the order in which the questions appear in the test paper. Don't answer questions randomly.

Marking Scheme

Passage will be of 10 marks

- Multiple Choice Questions/ Objective Type Questions

10 marks

CHAPTER-2

NOTE-MAKING AND SUMMARISING

Introduction

- Today, extensive reading is the buzz-word in every field of study or research. While reading, we are often bombarded with information of a vast ambit. It often becomes difficult to recall all the key points of a passage/ article we might have read.
- Note-making is a means to capture the key ideas of a given passage in an easily readable and logically structured format. The style is fairly casual, though within the prescribed CBSE framework and we are even allowed to use abbreviations.
- The key to abbreviations at the end of the task ensures that any other reader may also be able to interpret the gist of the passage. Thus, note-making can be a wonderful tool to take notes in class, share notes with each other and even revise for an exam.

Purpose of Note-Making

- To revise lessons before examinations
- To write a report or any composition
- To plan a speech or any lecture
- To convey any message only by giving important details
- To make presentation
- To summarise the text that you have read

How to Make Notes

Step 1 : Start by underlining the important information.

Step 2 : Read the passage again, asking yourself questions and answering them as you read.

Step 3 : With the help of those answers, note down the main points. Write the points without full forms of the verbs.

Notice : Two or three related ideas can be combined into one point.

Use of colons

Use of the long dash

Step 4 : Now go over the facts and number them.

Step 5 : Finally go over the facts and number them again.

Characteristics of Note-Making

1. Notes need not be written in grammatically correct sentences.
2. Notes are much shorter than original text.
3. The main points and the supporting details are distinguished.
4. Many unimportant words, helping words etc. are usually dropped out.
5. Information is condensed by using symbols, abbreviations, shorter words etc.
6. Try not to exceed 5 words in every heading and supporting points.
7. Try to complete the notes within 4 to 5 headings.
8. Notes should be presented in a systematic manner that brings out the structure of the original text.
9. Headings and supporting details are numbered.
10. Finally the summary is prepared on the basis of the notes. It should not exceed the limit of 50 words.

Note-making is an important study skill. It also helps us at work. We need to draw the main points of the material we read as it is difficult to remember large chunks of information.

—NCERT

Summarising

Summarising follows note-making. Summarising is the selection and paraphrasing information of the original source. This is done by analysing the paragraphs/passage in order to formulate a plan of writing.

How to Make Summary

The process of summarising involves the steps followed in note-making :

1. Underlining important ideas
2. Writing them down, abridging the verbs
3. Avoiding examples, explanations, repetition.

However, instead of nominalising the points (changing verbs into nouns), we expand the points into full sentences and link them using suitable connectors. We need to be precise in our expression. The summary will contain all the main ideas of the original passage. Practice in ‘using one word for many’ will help.

For Example :

- Children who *show intelligence* far beyond their age often turn out to be mediocre in adult life.

Or

Precocious children often turn out to be mediocre in adult life.

- Her genius was marked by *excellence* in the various arts, *languages* and science.

Or

She was a *versatile* genius.

A summary is usually one-third of the length of the original passage. —NCERT

Sub-Titling

The purpose of sub-titling is to convey the main idea or theme of each section of a long piece of writing. It helps the reader know at a glance the sub-topics that are being addressed. Giving suitable sub-titles helps break the monotony of reading long passages.

FORMAT

- | | |
|---|--|
| Title
1. Heading 1
1.1
1.2
1.3 Supporting points
1.4 | 3. Heading 3
3.1
3.2
3.3 Supporting points
3.4 |
| 2. Heading 2
2.1
2.2
2.3 Supporting points
2.4 | 4. Heading 4
4.1
4.2
4.3 Supporting points
4.4 |

Key to Abbreviations		
1. eg.	-	example
2. etc.	-	etcetera
3. &	-	and

Marking Scheme

Note making and summary will be of 8 marks

I. Note Making :

5 marks
1 mark
1 mark
1 mark
2 marks

- Title :

1 mark

- Numbering and indenting :

1 mark

- Key/glossary :

1 mark

- Notes :

2 marks

Suggested notes

Note : Notes and summary should be in the third person

Or

- Notes and summary should be written in the first person provided the format is correct and content is covered properly.

5 marks

II. Summary : The summary should include all the important points given in the notes.

1 mark

- Content :

2 marks

- Expression :

1 mark

SECTION B: GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

CHAPTER-3

TENSES

Introduction

The tenses simply show the time of an action or state of being as shown by a verb.

The verb ending is changed (conjugated) to show what time it is referring to.

Time can be split into three periods **the Present** (what you are doing), **the Past** (what you did) and **the Future** (what you are going to do, or hope / plan to do).

The tenses are further split into **Simple, Continuous, Perfect and Perfect Continuous** tense, based on the state of action referred to.

Simple Tenses

The simple tenses are used to show regular habits of people, general truths and to express the words as they have been said by someone.

Simple Present Tense

The simple present tense is used to discuss permanent situations and the frequency of events.

Positive Statements	Negative Statements	Interrogative Sentences	Positive Short Statements	Negative Short Statements
I work.	I don't work.	Do I work ?	Yes, I do.	No, I don't.
He works.	He doesn't work.	Does he work ?	Yes, he does.	No, he doesn't.
She works.	She doesn't work.	Does she work ?	Yes, she does.	No, she doesn't.
It works.	It doesn't work.	Does it work ?	Yes, it does.	No, it doesn't.
You work.	You don't work.	Do you work ?	Yes, you do.	No, you don't.
We work.	We don't work.	Do we work ?	Yes, we do.	No, we don't.
They work.	They don't work.	Do they work ?	Yes, they do.	No, they don't.

Regular or permanent situations

When something happens regularly or is a permanent situation, we usually use the simple present tense. When using the simple present tense, the verb (with the exception of the auxiliary verbs) remains in the dictionary form (verb+s/es with third person singular such as he/she/it /any name).

For example :

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Q. Where do you live? | Ans. I live in Germany. |
| Q. Where does he live? | Ans. He lives in Germany. |
| Q. What do you do? | Ans. I'm a teacher. |
| Q. What does he do? | Ans. He's a teacher. |

Frequency

The simple present tense is also used to show how often something happens with **adverbs of frequency** - always, usually, often, sometimes, occasionally, seldom, rarely, never, etc.... and while discussing daily, weekly, monthly etc. routines.

For example :

I always get up at 6.00.

I never drink coffee before 12.00 noon.

I work on my website every day.

I go to the gym every Monday and Thursday.

We also use the simple present to ask for and give instructions or to discuss a series of actions.

For example :

- Q. Please tell me how do I/you make pancakes

Ans. First take 4 eggs and crack them into a bowl. Then weigh out 4 oz. of flour and sieve it into the eggs., etc.

The simple present tense can also be used for future events which are part of fixed timetable or programme..

For example : The Minister visits the city this week.

SIMPLE PAST TENSE

- The simple past tense is used to talk about finished actions that happened at a specific time in the past. You state when it happened using a **time adverb**.
- In simple past, the verb takes its second form. The singular form of verb 'be' is 'was' and plural form is 'were'.
- Similarly, past form of do/does is did, which goes with both singular as well as plural noun and pronoun forms.
- Also note that, with 'did', we use only first form of verb.

Regular Verb (to work) Statements (Positive)	Regular Verb (to work) Statements (Negative)	Questions	Short Answer (Positive)	Short Answer (Negative)
I worked.	I didn't work.	Did I work ?	Yes, I did.	No, I didn't.
He worked.	He didn't work.	Did he work ?	Yes, he did.	No, he didn't.
She worked.	She didn't work.	Did she work ?	Yes, she did.	No, she didn't.
It worked.	It didn't work.	Did it work ?	Yes, it did.	No, it didn't.
You worked.	You didn't work.	Did you work ?	Yes, you did.	No, you didn't.
We worked.	We didn't work.	Did we work ?	Yes, we did.	No, we didn't.
They worked.	They didn't work.	Did they work ?	Yes, they did.	No, they didn't.

Simple Past : Uses**When you mention a time in the past :****For example :** Last year I *took* my exams.I *got* married in 1992.**It can be used to describe events that happened over a period of time in the past but not now.****For example :** I *lived* in South Africa for two years.**The simple past tense is also used to talk about habitual or repeated actions that took place in the past.****For example :** When I *was a child* we always went to the seaside on a bank holiday.**Continuous Tenses**

The continuous tenses are used when talking about a particular point in time.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE**For example :** Q. What are you doing ? Ans. I'm building a website.

* We also use the present continuous tense to talk about things that are happening around now but are temporary.

For example : Q. What are you doing these days ? Ans. Unfortunately, I'm working a lot.

* It is also used to describe trends or situations that are happening but may be temporary.

For example : Nowadays, more and more people are shopping on the Internet.

* It is also used to describe a negative habit.

For example : He's always *cleaning* his car.

The present continuous tense is also used to discuss future events :

For example : I am going to meet Naina in the evening.

My brother is coming from New York, the next week.

Note : The present continuous tense is usually used with action verbs not with static verbs. Following are some static verbs that are not used in continuous tense :**Conditions :** *belong, cost, need, own, seem***Feelings :** *like, love, hate, want, wish***Beliefs :** *believe, feel, know, mean, remember, think, understand***PAST CONTINUOUS**

We use the past continuous tense to describe a past action over a period of time.

For example : Q. What *were they doing* yesterday ? Ans. They *were working* all day.

* It can be used to describe what someone was doing at a particular point in time.

For example : Q. What *were you doing* at 7:30 last evening ? Ans. I *was watching* television.

* The past continuous can also be used to show that an activity frequently took place over a period of time.

Q. What did you enjoy the most during holidays? Ans. I enjoyed *skiing* the most.

* Sometimes Past Continuous and Past Simple are used together in a same sentence. The longer action in past is expressed in Past Continuous Tense and the action that happened in the middle of the longer action is expressed in Simple Past Tense.

For example : I was *driving* to work when I *crashed* my car.**Or**As I was *driving* to work, my car crashed.

PERFECT TENSES

Sometimes you need to give just a little bit more information about an action or state and that is where the perfect tenses come in.

The perfect tenses are used when an action or situation in the present is linked to a moment in the past. It is often used to show things that have happened up to now but aren't finished yet or to emphasize that something happened but is not true anymore. When they end determines which of them you use.

Perfect tenses are never used when we say when something happened *i.e.*, yesterday, last year etc. but can be used when discussing the duration of something *i.e.*, often, for, always, since, etc.

The present perfect simple tense is used to talk about a past time, which has every strong meaning for the present.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE (POSITIVE) TIMELINE

For example : Q. Where is Jane ?

Ans. She **has gone out**. She should be back in an hour.

We form the present perfect simple by using the auxiliary verb has/have with third form of verb. 'Has' is used with third person singular such as he/she/it/ any name 'Have' is used with first person, second person and all plurals.

Statements Positive	Statements Negative	Interrogative	Short Answer Positive	Short Answer Negative
I've worked.	I haven't worked.	Have I worked ?	Yes, I have.	No, I haven't.
He's worked.	He hasn't worked.	Has he worked ?	Yes, he has.	No, he hasn't.
She's worked.	She hasn't worked.	Has she worked ?	Yes, she has.	No, she hasn't.
It's worked.	It hasn't worked.	Has it worked ?	Yes, it has.	No, it hasn't.
You've worked.	You haven't worked.	Have you worked ?	Yes, you have.	No, you haven't.
We've worked.	We haven't worked.	Have we worked ?	Yes, we have.	No, we haven't.
They've worked.	They haven't worked.	Have they worked ?	Yes, they have.	No, they haven't.

* The present perfect simple is used to discuss events that have just been completed at the moment of speaking.

For example :

Have you done your homework?

Ans. Yes, I've just finished it.

* It is often used to suggest that a past action still has an effect upon something happening in the present.

For example : The pound has fallen against the dollar.

* It is also used to discuss unfinished time.

For example :

Q. Have you done your homework today?

Ans. No, I haven't done it yet.

Note : You are talking about today and today isn't finished, so you may do your homework later.

Q. Have you ever been to England?

Ans. Yes I have.

Note : You are talking about something that has happened in your life

* You can also use the present perfect to discuss something from the past but you don't want to say exactly when.

For example :

Q. Are you learning any languages?

Ans. Yes, I've begun to learn English.

* This tense is often used to discuss events that have been happening over a period of time, but aren't finished yet.

For example :

Q. How long have you studied English?

Ans. I've studied English for two years.

* However it is better (grammatically speaking) to use the Present Perfect Continuous to express yourself in this way.

For example :

Q. How long have you been studying English?

Ans. I've been studying English for two years now.

PAST PERFECT TENSE

The past perfect tense is used to go further back in time when we are already talking about the past. It can make it clear that something had already happened at the time we are talking about.

We form the past perfect by using the auxiliary verb had and the -ed form of the regular verb (the past participle) irregular verb forms have to be learned :

Statements Positive	Statements Negative	Interrogative	Short Answer Positive	Short Answer Negative
I'd worked...	I hadn't worked...	Had I worked... ?	Yes, I had.	No, I hadn't.
He'd worked...	He hadn't worked...	Had he worked... ?	Yes, he had.	No, he hadn't.
She'd worked...	She hadn't worked...	Had she worked... ?	Yes, she had.	No, she hadn't.
It had worked...	It hadn't worked...	Had it worked... ?	Yes, it had.	No, it hadn't.
You'd worked...	You hadn't worked...	Had you worked... ?	Yes, you had.	No, you hadn't.
We'd worked...	We hadn't worked...	Had we worked... ?	Yes, we had.	No, we hadn't.
They'd worked...	They hadn't worked...	Had they worked... ?	Yes, they had.	No, they hadn't.

For example : I had already done the shopping by the time she came home.

I was late for work, by the time I arrived the client had already left.

* The past perfect simple can be used to show how often something happened in the past.

For example : I'd visited the city many times before.

* It can also be used to express unfulfilled wishes or dreams. Sometimes called, The Third Conditional.

For example : If I had won the lottery I would have bought a new car.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The present perfect continuous tense is often used (with for a since) to describe how long something has been happening up to now.

For example :

Q. How long have you been studying English?

Ans. I've been studying English for four years.

Q. How long have you been living in Germany?

Ans. I've been living here since 1998.

* The present perfect continuous is also used to refer to an event that may or may not be finished when its effect can be seen now.

For example : Look ! It's been snowing.

* You should also use the present perfect continuous when talking about how long you have been doing your current job or working on unfinished projects :

For example : I have been working at BT for three years.

We have been exporting to China since 1999.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The past perfect continuous tense is used to talk about longer situations that continued up to the moment in the past we are talking about.

For example : By the time I left England, we had been living in Bristol for five years.

Her back was sore because she had been sitting at the computer all day.

* It is also used to say how long something went on for, up to a time in the past.

For example : We apologised because we had kept them waiting for 3 hours.

We apologised because we had kept them waiting since lunch time.

THE FUTURE TENSE

Discussing the future in English can be complicated. The simple, present continuous, present perfect and the present perfect continuous can also be used and often it is possible to use more than one structure, but have the same meaning.

Using the present continuous for the future

It is often used to ask about and discuss future arrangements or plans with just the addition of a future time, but you only use it when these arrangements are certain.

For example :

Q. What are you doing next week?

Ans. I'm working.

Q. What's he doing tomorrow?

Ans. He's playing tennis.

* The present continuous tense is also used to talk about and make future appointments and arrangements using the words go or come....

For example :

Q. When are you coming to see me?

Ans. Next week.

Q. What are you doing tomorrow?

Ans. I'm going to the dentist.

*and using verbs of arrival and departure.

We're arriving in London at 2.30.

The train leaving from platform one is the 2.45 to Edinburgh.

The Future Continuous (will be doing)

The use of 'will be doing' in a sentence is often referred to as the future continuous. It is used to talk about activities that will be happening at a particular time or over a particular time in the future.

For example : Next week we will be having a party. Can you come ?

* You can also use it (or the present continuous form) to talk about future plans.

For example : We will be eating lunch at 2.00 P.M.

Discussing the future using the present perfect simple form

You can use the present perfect form to say that something will have happened by a certain time in the future.

This time next year I will have finished my exams.

Discussing the future using the present perfect continuous form (also known as the future perfect continuous using will have been doing).

You can use the present perfect continuous form to say how long something will have been happening by a certain time in the future.

This time next year, I will have been teaching English for 9 years.

Discussing the future using the present perfect simple form

You can use the present perfect simple form to say that something will have happened by a certain time in the future.

Discussing the future using the present perfect continuous form (also known as the future perfect continuous using will have been doing).

You can use the present perfect continuous form to say how long something will have been happening by a certain time in the future.

This time next year, I will have been teaching English for 9 years.

Discussing the future using going to

We say something is going to happen when it has already been planned.

For example :

Q. Are you going to fly to Germany?

Ans. No, we're going to drive.

We also use it to show something has already been decided.

For example : We're going to buy a new car next year.

We also use 'going to' when we can see that something is about to happen.

For example : Look at that cloud. I think it's going to rain.

Watch out ! He's going to crash into the tree !

You can also use 'going to' to predict the future based upon the evidence now.

For example : It looks as though Manchester United are going to win the European cup.

I think my friend Louise is going to have a baby.

Note : I'm going to Germany isn't really the future tense. You would have to say I'm going to go to Germany.

Discussing the future using shall/will

When we give information about the future or predict future events that are not certain we usually use shall/will.

For example :

Q. Who do you think will win the election?

Ans. I'm not sure but I think the current party **will win**.

* We can also use shall/will to make promises for the future.

When leaving work, I would say - "Good night, I'll (I will) see you tomorrow."

* Shall/Will is often used when we just decide to do something.

For example : The phone is ringing - If I decide to answer the phone I would say - I'll (I will) get it.

* It can also be used in formal situations to express planned events and is preferred in formal written English.

For example : The party will start at 10.00 pm.

CHAPTER-4

CLAUSES

Introduction

A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb. A clause can be distinguished from a phrase, which does not contain a subject and a verb (e.g., in the afternoon, drinking from the bowl).

Clauses are of two types:

(i) Independent clause (ii) Dependent clause

(i) An **independent clause** can express a complete thought and can be a standalone sentence.

(ii) A **dependent clause** is usually a supporting part of a sentence, and it cannot stand by itself as a meaningful proposition (idea).

Examples of Independent Clauses

Here are some examples of independent clauses :

Vineeta ate a jam roll after she watched the news.

(Vineeta ate a jam roll is an independent clause. It works as a standalone sentence.)

Even though his mother was a driving instructor, my cousin failed his driving test six times.

Examples of Dependent Clauses

Here are the same examples with the dependent clauses :

Vineeta ate a cheese role after she watched the news.

(The clause after she watched the news is a dependent clause. It does not work as a standalone sentence.)

Even though his mother was a driving instructor, my cousin failed his driving test six times.

These two dependent clauses (or **subordinate clauses**) could have been independent clauses. However, the opening word(s) (in these examples **after**, **even though**, and **but**) turned them into dependent clauses. The opening words are known as dependent words, the main type of which is **subordinating conjunctions**.

How are Clauses used in Sentences ?

Clauses can play a variety of roles in sentences. A clause can act as a **noun**, an **adjective** or an **adverb**.

Noun Clauses

I cannot remember what I said last night.

(In this example, the clause acts like a noun.)

Compare the example, mentioned above, to this one:

I cannot remember my speech.

In the above example the clause 'what I said last night' is working as a noun as it gives you the answer of 'what' What could I not remember ? what I said last night/speech.

I believe that you are right

What I believe ? that you are right

It is true that he has stolen my watch.

What is true that he has stolen my watch.

Adjective Clauses

My water-shy dog, who usually refuses to go near the water, dived in the canal to chase a water vole.
(In this example, the clause acts like an adjective.)

Compare the example above to this :

My water-shy dog dived in the canal to chase a water vole.
(water-shy = adjective)

An adjective clause, like an adjective, tells you something about the noun.

For example :

The man **who is wearing the green cap** is my father.

Thus, 'who is wearing a green cap' is giving you additional information about the noun and so is an adjective clause.

Some more examples :

The place where I went yesterday was beautiful.

The teacher, who taught me in grade five, met me yesterday.

Adverbial Clauses

An adverbial clause (or an adverb clause) is a group of words which plays the role of an adverb.

For example :

Keep hitting the gong hourly.

(normal adverb)

Keep hitting the gong until I tell you to stop.

(adverbial clause)

In the examples above, the normal adverb and adverbial clause both tell us when the gong is to be hit. They are both adverbs of time. All adverbs (including adverbial clauses) can usually be categorized as one of the following :

Adverb Clause of Time

An adverb of time states when something happens or how often. An adverb of time often starts with one of the following **subordinating conjunctions** *i.e.*, after, as, as long as, as soon as, before, no sooner than, since, until, when or while. Here are some examples :

After the game has finished, the king and pawn go into the same box. (Italian Proverb).

I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph. (Shirley Temple)

As soon as you trust yourself, you will know how to live. (Johann Wolfgang vo Goethe)

Adverb Clause of Place

An adverb of place states where something happens. An adverb of place often starts with a preposition (e.g., in, on, near) or one of the following subordinating conjunctions *i.e.*, anywhere, everywhere, where or wherever. Here are some examples :

In a world where there is so much to be done, I felt strongly impressed that there must be something for me to do. (Dorothea Dix)

I am not afraid of the pen, the scaffold, or the sword. I will tell the truth wherever I please. (Mother Jones)

Adverb Clause of Manner

An adverb of manner states how something is done. An adverb of manner often starts with one of the following subordinating conjunctions *i.e.*, as, like or the way. Here are some examples :

He acts like it is a joke.

We don't have conversations. You talk at me the way a teacher talks to a naughty student.

Except for an occasional heart attack, I feel as young as I ever did. (Robert Benchley)

Adverb Clause of Degree or Comparison

An adverb of degree states to what degree something is done or offers a comparison. An adverb of degree often starts with one of the following subordinating conjunctions *i.e.*, than, as...as, so...as, or the...the. Here are some examples :

A vacuum is a hell of a lot better than some of the stuff that nature replaces it with. (Tennessee Williams)

He is as smart as he is tall.

She is not so bright as she thinks she is.

Sometimes, the verb in an adverb of degree is understood (*i.e.*, not present). For example :

You are taller than I.

(In this example, the verb **am** has been omitted. This is permissible.)

You are taller than I am.

(This is the full version.)

You are taller than me.

(This is the colloquial version. This version might irk some of your grammar-savvy readers, but it is acceptable.)

Adverb Clause of Condition

An adverb of condition states the condition for the main idea to come into effect. An adverb of condition often starts with 'if' or 'unless'. Here are some examples :

If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts. (Albert Einstein)

If the English language made any sense, a catastrophe would be an apostrophe with fur. (Doug Larson)

If all the rich people in the world divided up their money among themselves, there wouldn't be enough to go around. (Christian Stead, 1903-1983)

Adverb Clause of Concession

An adverb of concession offers a statement which contrasts with the main idea. An adverb of concession often starts with one of the following subordinating conjunctions : though, although, even though, while, whereas or even if. Here are some examples :

Although golf was originally restricted to wealthy, overweight Protestants, today it's open to anybody who owns hideous clothing. (Dave Barry)

A loud voice cannot compete with a clear voice, even if it's a whisper. (Barry Neil Kaufman)

Adverb Clause of Reason

An adverb of reason offers a reason for the main idea. An adverb of reason often starts with one of the following subordinating conjunctions : as, because, given or since. Here are some examples :

I don't have a bank account, because I don't know my mother's maiden name. (Paula Poundstone)

Since you are like no other being ever created since the beginning of time, you are incomparable.

Kinds of Sentences

1. Simple Sentence

A simple sentence, also called an independent clause, contains a subject and a verb and it expresses a complete thought. In the following simple sentences, subjects are in **bold** and verbs are in *italics*.

1. Some **students** *like* to study in the mornings.

2. Juan and **Arturo** *play* football every afternoon.

3. **Alicia** *goes* to the library and *studies* every day.

The three examples above are all simple sentences. Note that sentence 2 contains a compound subject and sentence contains a compound verb. Simple sentences, therefore, contain a subject and verb and express a complete thought, but they can also contain compound subjects or verbs.

2. Compound Sentence

A compound sentence contains two independent clauses joined by a coordinator. The coordinators are as follows : for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. (Helpful hint : The first letter of each of the coordinators spells **Fanboys**.) Except for very short sentences, coordinators are always preceded by a comma. In the following compound sentences, subjects are in **bold**, verbs are in *italics* and the coordinators and the commas that precede them are in **bold**.

1. I *tried* to speak Spanish, **and** my friend *tried* to speak English.

2. Alejandro *played* football, **so** Maria *went* shopping.

3. Alejandro *played* football, **for** Maria *went* shopping.

The above three sentences are compound sentences. Each sentence contains two independent clauses and they are joined by a coordinator with a comma preceding it. Note how the conscious use of coordinators can change the meaning of the sentences. Sentences 2 and 3, for example, are identical except for the coordinators. In sentence 2, which action occurred first ? Obviously, "Alejandro played football" first and as a consequence, "Maria went shopping." In sentence 3, "Maria went shopping" first. Here, "Alejandro played football" because, possibly, he didn't have anything else to do, for or because "Maria went shopping."

3. Complex Sentence

A complex sentence has an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses. A complex sentence always has a subordinator such as **because**, **since**, **after**, **although**, or **when** (and many others) or a relative pronoun such as **that**, **who**, or **which**. In the following complex sentences, subjects are in **bold**, verbs are in *italics* and the subordinators and their commas (when required) are in **bold**.

1. *When he handed* in his homework, **he forgot** to give the teacher the last page.
2. The **teacher returned** the homework *after she noticed* the error.
3. The **students** are studying *because they have* a test tomorrow.
4. *After they finished* studying, **Juan** and **Maria** *went* to the movies.
5. **Juan** and **Maria** *went* to the movies *after*, **they finished** studying.

When a complex sentence begins with a subordinator such as sentences 1 and 4, a comma is required at the end of the dependent clause. When the independent clause begins the sentence with subordinators in the middle as in sentences 2, 3 and 5 no comma is required. If a comma is placed before the subordinators in sentences 2, 3 and 5 it is wrong.

Note that, sentences 4 and 5 are the same except sentence 4 begins with the dependent clause which is followed by a comma and sentence 5 begins with the independent clause which contains no comma. The comma after the dependent clause in sentence 4 is required and experienced listeners of English will often hear a slight pause there. In sentence 5, however, there will be no pause when the independent clause begins the sentence.

CHAPTER-6

SENTENCE REORDERING

Introduction

What is a Sentence?

A sentence is a group of words that gives enough information for a person to form a complete idea in his mind of the message that is being communicated to him.

Structure of a Sentence

The parts of a sentence are the subject, verb, object, complement and adverbial. A statement begins with the subject and the verb. There are five main structures which we can use to make a simple statement.

1.

	Subject	Verb
a.	My head	is aching.
b.	Something	happened.
c.	She	laughed.

2.

	Subject	Verb	Object
a.	They	are moving	the refrigerator.
b.	He	needs	a rest.
c.	I	went	home.

The subject and object can be a pronoun (*e.g.* I) or a noun phrase (*e.g.* the refrigerator).

3.

	Subject	Verb	Complement
a.	This piano	is	heavy.
b.	It	was	a big problem.
c.	This chapati	appears	stale.

The complement can be an adjective (*e.g.* heavy) or a noun phrase (*e.g.* a big problem). The complement often comes after be. It can also come after appear, become, get, feel, look, seem, stay or sound.

4.

	Subject	Verb	Adverbial
a.	Their house	is	nearby.
b.	The gift	is	in my pocket.

An adverbial can be a prepositional phrase (*e.g.* in my pocket) or an adverb (*e.g.* nearby).

5.

	Subject	Verb	Object	Object
a.	It	is giving	me	a headache.
b.	My father	bought	my sister	a watch.
c.	He	brought	us	a present.

We use two objects after verbs like give and send.

CHAPTER-7

SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

Introduction

Transformation of Sentences is done in various ways. The nature of the sentences can be changed without changing the meaning of the sentences.

1. Sentences containing the adverb 'too':

Example 1 :

- My friend is too rich to be my consort.

You can see how the transformation of Sentences, containing the adverb 'too', takes the place without changing the meaning of the sentence.

- My friend is so rich that he cannot be my consort.

Example 2 :

- The news is too good to be true.

You can see how the transformation of Sentences takes place into the following version without changing the meaning of the sentence.

- The news is so good that it cannot be true.

Example 3 :

- He drove too fast for the police to catch.

This sentence can be changed into the following version without changing the meaning of the sentence.

- He drove so fast that the police could not catch him.

The transformation of sentence takes place by removing the adverb 'too' and by adding a conjunction 'so... that'.

2. Interchange of Degrees of Comparison:

The transformation of Sentences, containing comparatives, can be done as follows without changing the meaning of the sentences.

Example 1 :

- I am as strong as him.

This sentence is in positive degree.

This sentence can be changed into comparative sentence.

- I am not stronger than him.

This sentence conveys the same meaning as the above sentence.

Example 2 :

- Positive : This razor is not as sharp as that one.

- Comparative : That razor is sharper than this one.

Example 3 :

- **Positive** : Very few cities in India are as rich as Mumbai.
- **Comparative** : Mumbai is richer than most other cities in India.
- **Superlative** : Mumbai is one of the richest cities in India.

Example 4 :

- **Superlative** : Upshaw is not the tallest girl in the class.
- **Comparative** : Upshaw is not taller than many girls in the class.

The transformation of Sentences, according to the nature of the sentences, takes place into either negative or affirmative sentences.

3. Interchange of Affirmative and Negative Sentences:

The affirmative sentence can be changed into a negative sentence by using 'not'.

Example 1 :

- **Affirmative** : I was doubtful whether it was you.
- Negative** : I was not sure that it was you.

Example 2 :

- **Affirmative** : Everybody is present.
- Negative** : Nobody is absent.

Example 3 :

- **Affirmative** : All cheered.
- Negative** : There was no one present who did not cheer.

In this way, the negative sentences can be changed into affirmative sentences as follows.

Example 4 :

- **Negative** : God will not forget the cry of the humble.
 - Affirmative** : God will heed the cry of the humble.
- The 'not' in the negative sentences should be removed to convert them into affirmative sentences.

Example 5 :

- **Negative** : No one could deny that she is pretty.
- Affirmative** : Everyone accepts that she is pretty.

4. To transform an Interrogative Sentence into an Assertive Sentence:

An interrogative sentence can be transformed into an assertive sentence and vice-versa.

Example 1 :

- When can their glory fade?
- This is an interrogative sentence.
- This sentence can be transformed into an assertive sentence as follows.

- Their glory can never fade.

Example 2 :

- Was he not a villain to do such a deed?
- This interrogative sentence can be transformed into an assertive sentence as follows.
- He was a villain to do such a deed.

Example 3 :

- Who can touch ditch without being defiled? (Interrogative Sentence)
- You can see how the transformation of sentence takes place into the following version without changing the meaning of the sentence.
- No one can touch ditch without being defiled. (Assertive Sentence)

Example 4 :

- Who does not know him? (Interrogative Sentence)
- Everyone knows him. (Assertive Sentence)

Example 5 :

- Is this the kind of dress to be worn for a school function? (Interrogative Sentence)

This is not the kind of dress to be worn for a school function.

(Assertive Sentence)

In this same way an assertive sentence can be transformed into an interrogative sentence.

Example 6 :

➤ We were not sent to this world simply to make money.

(Assertive Sentence)

Were we sent to this world simply to make money?

(Interrogative Sentence)

Example 7 :

➤ I never forget those happy days.

(Assertive Sentence)

➤ Shall I ever forget those happy days?

(Interrogative Sentence)

5. To transform an Exclamatory Sentence into an Assertive Sentence:

➤ How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon the riverbank!

(Exclamatory Sentence)

The moonlight sweetly sleeps upon the river bank.

(Assertive Sentence)

Although such an exclamatory sentence can be transformed into an assertive sentence, an exclamatory sentence is preferred on many occasions to an assertive sentence for the emotional effect that an exclamatory sentence is carrying.

Example 1 :

➤ If only I were young again!

(Exclamatory Sentence)

I wish I were young again.

(Assertive Sentence)

Example 2 :

➤ How beautiful is this night!

(Exclamatory Sentence)

This night is very beautiful.

(Assertive Sentence)

You can see how the transformation of sentence takes place in the following examples without changing the meaning of the sentence.

Example 3 :

➤ What a delicious meal!

(Exclamatory Sentence)

This meal is delicious.

(Assertive Sentence)

6. To change one part of a sentence for another part :

The verb of a sentence itself can be changed into another verb without (changing) the meaning of the sentence.

Example 1 :

➤ This kind of jokes never amuses me.

This kind of joke never gives me any amusement.

In this sentence the verb has been changed into its noun form.

Example 2 :

➤ It costs twelve dollars.

Its cost is twelve dollars.

Here also the verb has been changed into its noun form.

You can see how the transformation of sentences takes place in the following examples without changing the meaning of the sentence.

Example 3 :

➤ He has disgraced his family.

He is a disgrace to his family.

Example 4 :

➤ He gave a curt reply.

He replied curtly.

Here the adjective has been changed into an adverb.

Example 5 :

➤ I see him every day.

I see him daily.

Example 6 :

➤ This scene is surpassingly beautiful.

The beauty of this scene is surpassing.

Here the adjective has been changed into its noun form.

You can see how the transformation of sentences takes place in the following examples without changing the meaning of the sentence.

Example 7 :

- He is admittedly the greatest general of this country.
- It has been admitted that he is the greatest general of this country.
- Here, the adverb has been changed into a verb form.
- And the simple sentence itself has been changed into a compound sentence.

7. To transform the Simple Sentence into a Compound Sentence:

A simple sentence can be transformed into a compound sentence by enlarging a phrase or word into a co-ordinate clause.

Example 1 :

- He must work hard to make up for the lost time.
- This sentence can be made into two parts and those two parts can be joined by a conjunction 'and'.
- He must work hard and make up the lost time.

Example 2 :

- To his eternal disgrace, he betrayed his country.
- He betrayed his country and this was to his eternal disgrace.

Example 3 :

- Besides robbing the poor child, he also murdered the child.
- He not only robbed the poor child but he also murdered the child.

Example 4 :

- The teacher punished the children for disobedience.
- The children were disobedient so the teacher punished them
- You can see how the transformations of sentence takes place without changing the meaning of the sentence.

8. To transform a Compound Sentence into a Simple Sentence:

The following examples illustrate the chief ways in which the compound sentences are transformed into simple sentences.

Example 1 :

- We must eat or we cannot live.
- We must eat to live.

Example 2 :

- You must either pay the bill at once or return the goods.
- Failing prompt payment, the goods must be returned by you.

Example 3 :

- He must not be late or he will be returned.
- In the event of his being late, he will be denied entry.

Example 4 :

- He is rich, yet he is not content.
- In spite of being rich, he is not content.

Example 5 :

- This coat cannot be mine, for it is too big.
- Due to its big size, this coat cannot be mine.

Example 6 :

- He is very poor, but he does not complain.
- In spite of being poor, he does not complain.

These examples are enough to make clear how the compound sentences are transformed into simple sentences.

9. To transform A simple Sentence into A complex Sentence:

A simple sentence can be transformed into a complex sentence by enlarging a phrase into a subordinate clause. The clause maybe Noun, Adjective or Adverb.

Example 1 :

- He confessed his crime.
Here the noun (his crime) has been changed into a subordinate clause.
- He confessed that he was guilty of the crime.

Example 2 :

- On the arrival of the mails, the steamer will leave.
Here the adverbial phrase has been changed into a subordinate clause.
- The steamer will leave as soon as the mails arrive.

Example 3 :

- I saw a wounded bird.
Here the adjective phrase has been changed into a subordinate clause.
- I saw a bird that was wounded.

Example 4 :

- On being punished, he wept.
When he was punished, he wept.

You can see how the transformation of sentences takes place without changing the meaning of the sentence.

10. To transform a Complex Sentence into a Simple Sentence:

The following sentences will make it clear how to transform the complex sentences into simple sentences.

Example 1 :

- He said that he was an innocent.
This Complex Sentence has been changed into a Simple Sentence as follows.
- He declared his innocence.

Example 2 :

- How long I will stay is doubtful.
Here, the Subordinate Clause has been changed into a Noun Clause.
- The duration of my stay is doubtful.

Example 3 :

- Tell me where you live.
Here also, the Subordinate Clause has been changed into a Noun Clause.
- Tell me your address.

Example 4 :

- He died in the village where he lived.
Here the Subordinate Clause has been changed into an Adjective Clause.
- He died in his native place.

Example 5 :

- The moment that is lost is lost forever.
Here also the Subordinate Clause has been changed into an Adjective Clause.
- The lost moment is lost forever.

Example 6 :

- He was so tired that he could not stand.
Here the Subordinate Clause has been changed into an Adverb Clause.
- He was too tired to stand.

Example 7 :

- He will not pay unless he is compelled.
Here also, the Subordinate Clause has been changed into an Adverb Clause.
- He will pay only under compulsion.

You can see how the 'Transformations of Sentence' takes place without changing the meaning of the sentence.

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

CHAPTER-8

SHORT WRITING TASKS

(ADVERTISEMENTS & POSTERS)

1. Advertisement

INTRODUCTION

- An advertisement is a publicly announced message which is targeted for soliciting or offering various services or to impart information to the common masses.

Tips to Know

1. Do not cross 50 words.
2. Write the heading in capital letters. Also you can start with the first one or two words in capital letters to attract the readers.
3. In comparison to display advertisement, classified advertisement is less attractive and gets less space. So use catchy words to attract the readers.
4. Avoid complex and intricate way of writing. Be very simple and direct so that you ensure the message is understood to the maximum.
5. In classified advertisements blocks, images and/or other designs are not allowed.
6. Make sure your advertisement provides complete information.
7. Provide a proper 'contact' information or else your advertisement may turn out to be a futile one.
Value points to be kept in mind while drafting Classified Advertisement
 - Do not use full sentences
 - Abbreviations allowed
 - Essential details to be given

Marking Scheme

Advertisements will be of 3 marks

- | | |
|--------------|--------|
| • Format | 1 mark |
| • Content | 1 mark |
| • Expression | 1 mark |

~~~~~

#### **Classified Advertisements**

1. Situation Vacant/Wanted
2. TO LET
3. Sale and Purchase of Property/Vehicles/Goods
4. Educational Institutions promotion
5. Missing Persons
6. Tour and Travels

### I. SITUATION VACANT TYPES ADVERTISEMENTS

- Always begin with WANTED or REQUIRED.
- Name of the organization must be always present.
- Number of vacancies and the post for which advertised should be clearly indicated.
- The age and gender of the candidate required.
- Qualification and requisite experience needed for the post.
- Pay scale, perks and also the mode of applying (E-mail, postal, etc.)
- Contact address and phone number for correspondence.

## **2. Designing/Drafting Posters**

- Posters are an amalgam of notices, advertisements, and invitations. They may be in the form of large hoardings to be put up on walls, or the size of handbills to be displayed on the noticeboards, etc. Hence, they have to be captivating, attractive and persuasive so as to influence a large number of people. Generally, they are designed to create social awareness about current issues or to even extend public invitations and write notices.

### **Tips to Know**

Posters should be catchy, attractive and tempting.

- (i) They must be drafted wisely to attract the responsiveness of the readers, enthuse their resourcefulness and guide their cognizance.
- (ii) Do not give many details in a poster: Make it easily readable and appear clutter-free. Highlight only important issues.
- (iii) Posters can be used for publicising and highlighting the following:
  - Cultural show/ exhibition/ seminar/ workshop/ fair/ fete etc.
  - Educational institutions and students' activities.
  - Promoting sales of a product or service.
  - Influencing public opinion.
  - Advancing a social cause and so on.

### **Marking Scheme**

#### **Format**

**1 mark**

- **Issuing Authority:** Name of the organising body of the particular event.
- **Title:** A catchy and impressive title which gives theme of the announcement or issue.

#### **Content**

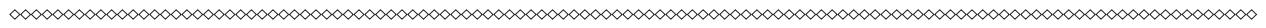
**1 mark**

- **A sketch:** After the title, preferably draw a picture depicting the issue.
- **Date, Time and Venue:** Mention the date, time and venue of the event which has to take place.
- **Contact Information:** Details of the concerned authorities; contact number and/or address of the event co-ordinator.

#### **Expression**

**1 mark**

Coherence, spellings, suitable style and grammatical accuracy



### **Main Characteristics**

#### (a) **Layout**

- Visually attractive/ Eye Catching
- Title- suggestive/ catchy
- Use slogan, jingle or short verse
- Sketch or simple drawings
- Letters of different size and shape
- Proportionate spacing, etc.

**(b) Contents**

- The theme or subject of the poster
- Description or details associated with the theme
- Essential details like time, date, venue (for an event)
- Name(s) of issuing authority/ organisation, etc.

**(c) Expression**

- Phrases, slogans, persuasive language
- Creativity in terms of content and design
- Overall organisation and sequencing of the matter
- Observe word limit (usually 50)

**Some Do's and Don'ts of Poster Making****Dos**

- Stick to the word limit of 50 words.
- The poster should be enclosed in a box.
- Make the content to the point and crisp.
- Poster must fit in one page only. It should not be continued to the next page.
- Highlight the important information by making it bold or underlining it.

**Don'ts**

- Do not exceed the word limit.
- Do not use complex language.
- Do not use the short form of the words.
- Do not alter proper structure / format.

**Kinds of Posters :**

- There are two kinds of Posters that can come in the exam.

**1. The Event Poster :**

Event Posters include events like School Fetes, Book Fairs, Blood Donation Camps...etc  
It deals with events that are to take place.

The event poster contains the following value points:

- Slogan
- Statement (also announcement)
- Venue
- Date
- Special Feature
- Other Features
- Important Information
- Concluding slogan/statement
- Name of Organiser

**2. The Non-Event Poster :**

Posters on Social Issues, Social evils, and Bad Habits (Child Marriage, Female Infanticide, Alcohol abuse, Deforestation... etc.)

- This type of poster deals with important every day social issues. This poster is made up of the following elements :
  - Slogan
  - Statement
  - List of reasons (to answer the question why?)
  - Statement
  - Slogan
  - Name of the person or organiser who has issued the poster.



## 2. Debate Writing

### Points to remember

1. Begin with 'Honourable judges and my dear friends, I stand before you to express my views for/against the motion/topic'.
2. Total agreement or disagreement with the topic should be expressed forcefully and clearly.
3. Use argumentative style and logical reasoning.
4. Back up arguments with relevant information.
5. Conclude with a, "Thank you", at the extreme left.
6. Always make a rough draft, edit and time yourself (20 minutes)

### Use powerful expressions like :

- I'd like to argue
  - In my opinion
  - May I ask ? etc.
  - Refer to your opponent's view/views
7. Stick to your view point either in favour or against.

## HORNBILL - PROSE

### CHAPTER-1

## THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY

—Khushwant Singh

### Introduction

The Portrait of a Lady is an autobiography by Khushwant Singh. It is a perception of Khushwant Singh's grandmother. Khushwant Singh recalls his grandmother as an eternally old lady. She was an extremely religious person. It was difficult for him to believe that once she too was young and pretty like other women.

The stories about her childhood games were like fairy tales to him.

### Summary

#### Appearance of Grandmother

She was short, fat and slightly stooped in stature. Her silvery white hair used to scatter on her wrinkled face. Khushwant Singh remembers her hobbling around the house in spotless white clothes with one hand resting on her waist to balance her stoop and the other busy in telling the beads of her rosary.

#### Religious and Kind Hearted

Her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayers. Possibly she was not beautiful in worldly sense but she looked extremely beautiful with the peacefulness, serenity and the contentment her countenance displayed.

#### Life in Village

Khushwant's relationship with his grandmother went through several changes when he was a small boy. In the first stage Khushwant lived in a village with her as his parents were looking for the opportunity to settle down in the city. In village grandmother took care of all the needs of the child. She was quite active and agile. She woke him up in the morning, got him ready for the school, plastered his wooden slate, prepared his breakfast, and escorted him to the school. They fed street dogs with stale chapattis on their way to school which was a great fun for them. She helped him in his lessons also. It was her domain and she was the queen of her Kingdom. In this period she was the sole unchallenged guardian, mentor, and creator of the child Khushwant.

### **Turning Point in the Relationship**

The turning point came in their relationship when they came to city to stay with Khushwant's parents. In city Khushwant joined an English School and started to go to school in a motor bus. Here the role of his grandmother in his bringing up was curtailed a little bit. Now, she could not accompany him to the school. Despite taking lot of interest in his studies she could not help him in his lessons because he was learning English, law of gravity, Archimedes' principle and many more such things which she could not understand and this made her unhappy. She found herself at loss. One more thing which disturbed her a lot was that the kids were not learning about God and scriptures in the school. Instead they were given music lessons which was not an honourable thing in her opinion. To her music was not meant for gentle folk. It was meant for beggars and prostitutes only. She highly disapproved this and as she could not change it, she was dismayed and withdrew herself to some extent. Perhaps she had realized that in the makeover of the child her role was finished and this very thought saddened her most. After finishing the school, Khushwant went to a university. He was given a separate room. The common link of their friendship was snapped. His grandmother confined herself to a self-imposed seclusion. She spent most of her time in reciting prayers and by sitting beside her spinning wheel. She rarely talked to anyone. The only recreation for her was in the afternoon when she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. As a kind-hearted person, in village she used to feed street dogs, here in city, she focused on birds and they too became very friendly with her. This was the phase when she found herself totally isolated and aloof but she braved this isolation with grace and dignity. Khushwant's grandmother was a strong character. She had always restrained herself from demonstrating her emotions. He recalls that when he went abroad for further studies his grandmother was there to see him off on railway station quite calm busy telling the beads of her rosary and reciting prayers as always. When he came back after five years he found her more and more religious and more and more self-contained. She spent still more time in prayers and spinning the wheel.

### **Pastime in City**

Feeding the birds, spinning the wheel and saying her prayers in city was her only happy pastime. But, just the day before her death for the first time she broke this routine and gave up her prayers. That day, she sang the songs of the home coming of the warriors on a withered drum, along with the ladies of neighbourhood, in order to celebrate her grandson's return from abroad. Next morning she got ill. Although the doctor said it was a mild fever and would go away, she could foresee that her end was near. She was upset that she omitted her prayers just before the final departure from the world. She did not want to waste any more time talking to anybody. She lay peacefully in her bed praying and telling the beads, till her lips stopped moving and rosary fell from her lifeless fingers.

### **Result of Love and Affection - Sparrows Mourning her Death**

To mourn her death, hundreds of sparrows flew in and sat scattered around her body in utter silence. They even ignored the bread crumbs thrown for them. They only flew away after the corpse was carried away for last rites.

## **CHAPTER-2**

# **“WE’RE NOT AFRAID TO DIE... IF WE CAN ALL BE TOGETHER”**

—Gordon Cook & Alan East

### **Introduction**

This chapter signifies the meaning of its title. It is a fact if people gather together, they can face any kind of danger. It is interesting to read how the family of the narrator duplicates, around the world voyage successfully.

### **Summary**

#### **Dream Came True**

A 37 year old businessman and his family had dreamt of sailing in the wake of the famous explorer Captain James Cook and for the past sixteen years, the members of the family had spent all their leisure time honing their seafaring skills in British waters. The narrator, his wife Mary, son Jonathan 6, daughter Suzanne (Sue) 7, set sail from Plymouth, England to duplicate a round-the-world voyage, earlier made by Captain James Cook.

#### **First Leg Covered**

The first leg of 1 ,05,000 kms spanning over three years, passed pleasantly from the west coast of Africa to Cape Town. They took two crewmen, American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Seigler to tackle the roughest sea, the Southern Indian Ocean.

### **Change in Weather**

On the second day out of Cape Town, they faced strong gales and the waves began to rise high. Their size which was upto 15 metres, alarmed them. They were at East of Cape Town on Dec. 25, 3500 kms away. Despite bad weather, they celebrated Christmas. New Year's Day saw no improvement in weather and it changed from bad to worse.

### **Got Prepared for the Disaster**

At the dawn on January 2, the waves were quite huge. As their ship rose to the top of each wave, they could see endless enormous seas rolling towards them. They dropped the storm jib to slow the boat down. Then, they double-lashed everything and went through their life raft drill, put on oil-skins and life jackets and waited for the worst.

### **The Worst Came**

The first indication of the coming disaster came at about 6:00 pm. The wind dropped and the sky got dark. A huge wave like a cloud came over the ship. The roar became a thunder as it struck the ship. The deck shook. A torrent of sea water broke over the ship. The narrator's head got smashed onto the wheel. He accepted the approaching death and started losing consciousness.

### **Sailors' Struggle**

The narrator's head rose out of the water. He saw Wavewalker capsizing. Then, a huge wave turned her upright. The narrator caught the guard rails. Waves tossed him. His ribs cracked and his mouth was full with blood and broken teeth. The water was everywhere. But, he did not leave the wheel to investigate.

### **Fear of Sinking**

Suddenly, the front hatch was thrown open and Mary appeared. She cried as they were drowning. Larry and Herb were pumping like mad men. The broken things lay scattered here and there. The narrator swam to the children's cabin and asked if they were all right. They replied positively, though Sue had a bump above her eyes. The narrator took a hammer, screws and canvas. They put canvas over the gaping holes due to which some water was deflected. The debris had started to block the hand pumps. The electric pump had stopped working. The narrator worked with the help of another hand pump. They were not getting any replies to their May Day calls.

### **Search for an Island**

On January 3, the water level had come under control. The boat's main rib frames had nearly broken down. They had survived for 15 hours since the waves hit. The narrator checked the charts and found that there were two small islands, a few hundred kms. to the east. The boat wouldn't take them to Australia in that broken condition. One island was Ile Amsterdam. On January 4, after 36 hours of continuous pumping they had drained out the water. Now, they were heading for Ile Amsterdam island. They ate their first meal in almost two days with corned beef and cracker biscuits. But their respite was short lived. At 4:00 pm, black clouds began building up behind them. Within the hour the wind was back to 40 knots and the seas were getting higher. The weather continued to deteriorate throughout the night and by dawn on January 5, their situation was again desperate.

### **Hoping for Relief**

The narrator went in to comfort the children. John asked if they were dying. He assured them that they would make out. But John added that they were not afraid of dying if they could be all together. The narrator took every care to protect the undamaged part of the hull with heavy nylon rope and plastic barrels of paraffin.

### **Wavewalker riding out the storm**

Wavewalker rode out of the storm by morning of January 6. The narrator tried to get a reading on the sextant. He found that they were looking for a 65 km wide island. When he was thinking, Sue came to him with a card she had made which had caricatures of the narrator and made him laugh. She had written message inside. It was : 'How I love you both'.

### **A Ray of Hope**

The narrator checked and rechecked the calculations. They had lost their main compass. He had been using the spare one. At about 2:00 pm, he went on the deck and asked Larry to steer a course of 185 degrees. He expected to see the island at about 5:00 pm. Then he went below with a heavy heart and dozed off till 6:00 pm.

### **Narrator Cheered up by Children**

The narrator woke up. Jonathan came and asked if he could have a hug. He asked the reason and Jonathan added that he was the best daddy and the best captain in the whole world. Sue added that he was as he had found the island. It was in front of them.

### **Achieved the Goal 'Ile Amsterdam'**

He rushed on the deck and looked at the outline of 'Ile Amsterdam'. It was only a bleak piece of volcanic rock with little vegetation. It was the most beautiful island in the world. All the 28 inhabitants of the island welcomed and cheered them as they landed on the shore.

### **Narrator Thinking About Crewmen**

With the land under his feet again, the narrator thought of his crewmen Harry and Herbie who were optimistic under the stress and fought with the odds successfully. He also thought of Mary who fought with courage and did not lose hope. He also thought of Sue with a head injury and Jonathan who was not afraid to die.

## CHAPTER-3

# DISCOVERING TUT : THE SAGA CONTINUES

—A. R. Williams

### Introduction

Tut died more than 3300 years ago. He was the last teen-aged ruler of a powerful family who had ruled Egyptian empire for centuries. He ruled for about nine years and then died unexpectedly. His tomb was discovered and investigated in 1922 by a British archaeologist, Howard Carter. Later it was taken out again for CT scan to solve the mystery of his death. The mummy was scanned after a thousand years to find a cause of his untimely death but technology hasn't been able to give us a definite answer to Tut's death. However, it has given us a direction to think and proceed.

### Summary

Tutankhamun, the 11<sup>th</sup> Pharaoh of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty of Ancient Egypt is famous due to the discovery of his completely intact tomb by the British archaeologist, Howard Carter in 1922.

#### Family History

Tut was a teenaged heir to the royal throne of Egypt. The family had ruled Egypt for centuries. But Tut died young. He was the last of the family line. His father or grandfather Amenhotep-III was a powerful Pharaoh who ruled for almost 40 years. His son, Amenhotep-IV succeeded him but he shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major God, smashing his images and closing all his temples. His family had ruled for centuries before the boy King, Tut took over. However, Tut ruled for nine years and then died unexpectedly.

#### Howard Carter's Investigations

Centuries passed. In the year 1920, an archaeologist, Howard Carter, discovered his tomb after 3300 hundred years of Tut's burial. Carter was a British citizen and therefore he didn't have the beliefs of the Egyptians. The Egyptians never tried to go near Tut's tomb because they had feared that going near Tut's tomb was disastrous. It could invite the Pharaoh's curse! Like other British Citizens, Carter also believed that this was just a superstition to keep thieves away from the tomb and from the enormous wealth buried with the little Pharaoh. Anyway Carter was not scared. He decided to take Tut's body out.

#### Carter took out the body after severing it

But taking Tut's body wasn't that easy. Carter and his team broke the three gold coffins one after the other. Finally, they broke the innermost coffin and saw the dried, hard body of Tut. It was really wonderful to see the dead body of a 3300 year old mummy and to know for sure that his name was Tutankhamun. He then decided to take the body out of the coffin but soon realized that it was not so easy because the body had got hardened with the resins and separating the body from the coffin was impossible. But Carter could not think of leaving the body there. He feared the thieves could destroy the mummy for stealing the valuable wealth inside, so Carter decided to cut Tut's body into pieces.

#### Missing Bone

After some years, probably after Carter's death, a doctor performed an X-ray and found out that one of Tut's bones was missing from his reassembled body. How did it happen? No one knew! Years passed and archaeologists and scientists performed a number of studies and experiments.

#### Tut's Mummy Scanned

Today, CT scan takes hundreds of X-rays and creates a three dimensional image of the body. Tut's mummy was put into a CT scanner on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 to answer two questions – How did he die? and how old was he at the time of death? King Tut was one of the first mummies to be scanned in death as in life. The process took less than three hours. The Pharaoh was taken back in the tomb again. The CT scan dispelled all doubts. Nothing had gone seriously wrong. Tut is resting in peace in his tomb in the valley of the departed Kings of Egypt.

The modern world has turned impossibilities to possibilities. William's report gives an insight into this. The mummy scanned after a thousand years has opened new avenues regarding the cause of its death but technology hasn't been able to give us a definite answer to Tut's death. However, it has given us a direction to think and proceed. Maybe in future, technology would solve it for us.

## CHAPTER-4

# THE ADVENTURE

—Jayant Narlikar

### Introduction

The story 'The Adventure' belongs to a science fiction. Professor Gangadhar Pant Gaitonde finds himself in a strange world. No doubt he is in Pune, but the facts do not agree with history. He decides to go to Bombay and consult history books. Bombay is not what he expected to find it. East India Company is still ruling there. According to the history known to him, the East India Company was wound up just after the events of 1857. He goes to the library and finds the answer. The events took a different course after the battle of Panipat. The Marathas had won the battle, not lost it.

### Summary

#### **Professor Pant goes to Deshpande**

Professor Gangadhar Pant goes to his physicist friend Rajendra Deshpande and asks him to explain what he has been feeling and experiencing. He gave the following narrative.

#### **A Surprising Landmark**

Professor Pant or Gaitonde, as he was called, travelled from Pune to Bombay by Jijamata Express. On the train, he met Mr. Khan who was bound for Peshawar. Gaitonde had come to Bombay for the first time. As he emerged from the station, he saw a big building. He was surprised to see the writing on the building. It indicated that it was the headquarters of the East India Company. He had read that East India Company had been wound up after the events of 1857.

#### **Battle of Panipat**

He walked along Hornby Road. Then he turned right along Home Street and entered Forbe's building. There, he told the receptionist that he wished to meet Mr. Vinay Gaitonde. The receptionist, however, told him that there was no one of that name in the office. From there, he went to Town Hall which housed the library. In the library, he asked for the history books. In the books he read about the Battle of Panipat. He read that the Marathas won and Abdali was routed. It was a book written by himself, yet he was reading this account for the first time.

#### **A New Account**

This was a totally new account and Gangadhar Pant began to appreciate it. The account showed that India was never subjected to slavery. But only for commercial reasons, it had allowed the British to retain Bombay. The lease was to expire in the year 2001.

#### **Bhausahebanchi Bakhar**

Yet, he wanted to know how Marathas won the battle. He found this in a book called Bhausahebanchi Bakhar. He kept on reading until it was time for the library to close.

#### **The Public-meeting**

He went to a guest house from the library where he hired a room. After taking his meals, he set out for a stroll towards the Azad Maidan. A public meeting was being held at the Maidan. However, he found that the presidential chair was unoccupied. As if mesmerised, he moved towards the chair. Everyone including the speaker shouted against this attempt. But Prof. Gaitonde caught the mike and began to speak about the necessity of the chair being occupied.

#### **The Violence**

The people began to attack him trying to eject him out bodily. Soon, he was nowhere to be seen.

#### **Regains Consciousness**

Gangadhar Pant stopped now. He said that it was all what he remembered when he regained consciousness. He wanted Rajendra to explain his experience. To prove that his narrative was not false, he showed a page from Bakhar which he had brought from the library unknowingly.

### **Catastrophic Theory**

Rajendra rationalized his experience on the basis of the catastrophic theory of science. He applied this theory first to the battle of Panipat. The point at which Vishwasrao was killed was the turning point. For the army, his loss was crucial. There followed an utter rout.

### **The New History**

Now, the description in Bakhar shows that Vishwasrao had won and consequently the whole history changes.

### **The Explanation**

Reality is not really limited to what we see. Physics has discovered that when an electron is fired from a source, its direction cannot be determined. It may be, here, there anywhere. An observer can see it only at one place and he knows it there only. To another observer, its location is different. All the different worlds can exist together. What is more, an electron can jump from one energy orbit to another. Rajendra said that Gangadhar Pant's mind had suffered such a transition—from one world to another and back again.

### **Two Worlds**

By making a transition, he was able to experience two worlds. One has the history we know, the other is a different history. At the time he was hit by the truck, he was thinking about the course of history, if the result of the battle of Panipat had gone the other way. In his conscious state he reached that world and on regaining consciousness he came back to this world again.

## **CHAPTER-5**

## **SILK ROAD**

—Nick Middleton

### **Introduction**

The writer describes his pilgrimage to Mount Kailash. He wants to be more adventurous than to be religious. As he starts from Ravu towards Kailash, he describes all the things he sees—landscape, people and animals. He goes to Mount Kailash to do the Kora with other pilgrims.

### **Summary**

#### **The Journey Begins**

It was early morning when the author left Ravu. He told Lhamo that he was going towards Mount Kailash to complete the Kora. At this Lhamo gave him a gift of a long sleeved sheep skin coat.

#### **Took Short Cut**

Tsetan was the driver of their vehicle. He knew the route to Mount Kailash. He told the author that if there was no snow, ~~there~~ would be no problem, Tsetan took a short cut from Ravu. This took them across the vast open grassy plains to the stony plains. The air was clean. Sometimes they saw a few gazelles and wild asses.

#### **The Mastiffs**

The way through the hills started. On the way they met solitary drokba tending their flocks. Seeing the car they would pause and stare at it. They also came across nomads' dark tents. Giant Tibetan mastiffs stood guard before these tents. These dogs would chase the author's car for a hundred metres or so.

#### **The First Big Hinderance**

They could see snow capped mountains far away as they entered a valley where the river was wide. The turns now became sharper and the ride more uncomfortable. After a while the driver Tsetan had to stop. The author's companion Daniel also came out of the car. There was snow capped route ahead for about fifteen metres, after which the dusty trail could be seen again. The three men took handfuls of dirt and flung it on the icy surface. Then Tsetan got in and drove the car carefully across the dusty snow. It happened at the height of 5210 metres.

#### **Next Hurdle**

There was another blockage after about ten minutes but somehow Tsetan negotiated it. The author felt a terrible headache.

**The Cairn'**

Finally, they reached the top of the pass at 5515 metres. It was marked by a large cairn of rocks. They all took a turn round the cairn according to the tradition. Then they careered down the other side of the pass. Now, the author's headache had cleared and they stopped for lunch.

**The Town 'Hor'**

By late afternoon, they had reached the small town of Hor. Here Deniel parted company as he returned to Lhasa. Hor seemed a grim place. Although the town was on the shore of Lake Man Sarovar, the most venerated stretch of water, it seemed a dirty place. Anyway, the author was within striking distance of Mount Kailash and was eager to forge ahead. But he had to wait. The car tyres had suffered two punctures one after the other and they had to be fixed.

**The Town 'Darchen':** They started after about half an hour. It was 10.30 pm. when the car drew up outside a guest house in Darchen. The author had to pass a troublesome night at the height of 4,760 metres. In the morning Tsetan took him to the Darchen Medical College. The Tibetan Doctor gave him some medicine and assured him that he would be able to do the Kora. The medicine had its effect and that night, the author slept well. Seeing that the author was now well, Tsetan went back leaving him alone.

**The Author's Worry:** The town Darchen seemed tolerable but the author was worried because he could not see the pilgrims which he very much expected. In fact, he had timed his arrival to coincide with the season for pilgrimage.

**Arrival of Norbu:** There was a cafe in Darchen. One afternoon, the author sat there thinking what to do. He thought that he could only wait because he dared not go alone on pilgrimage. While he was thus lost in his thoughts, a man called Norbu came there. Seeing an English novel, in the author's hand he came to him. He sought the author's permission to sit opposite him. After introducing himself, he told the author that he had come to do the Kora. The author was as glad to find his company as Norbu was to find the author.

**POETRY****CHAPTER-6****A PHOTOGRAPH**

—Shirley Toulson

**Introduction**

The poet describes her feelings about the photographs of her mother taken when she was twelve years or so. She feels that human life is short lived. It is ever changing. A human being grows older and older. The memories of the past make us sad. The poet feels how her mother twenty or thirty years later would comment on it. But in the event of her death, there is silence only.

**Summary****Scene in the Photograph**

The poet states that the cardboard frame shows a photograph of how it was when they went out to the sea. Their uncle took a photograph of her mother and her two cousins. They stood on the beach and were dressed in beach clothes which they used to wear in those days. They stood still and smiled. Her mother's face was sweet before she (poetess) was born.

**Prediction of the Future**

The poet reminisces that after twenty-thirty years her mother would have laughed at the photo. She would have asked Betty and Dolly how they dressed for the sea beach. The sea holiday became her past and her death became past for the poetess.

**Present Truthfulness of the Photograph**

The poet's mother had been dead for nearly twenty-thirty years. There is nothing to say about the situation given in the photograph. There is silence and stillness only.

## CHAPTER-7

# THE LABURNUM TOP

—Ted Hughes

### Introduction

‘The Laburnum Top’ is all about the tree named Laburnum and how the gold finch comes to it and settles in it. It comes to life with its chattering and subsides to emptiness when it flies away.

### Summary

#### Arrival of Goldfinch at the Laburnum

The Laburnum top is silent in the afternoon sunlight of the month of September. Its few leaves have become yellow and seeds have fallen. The goldfinch comes with its sharp chirrup at an end of its branch. Suddenly, the goldfinch enters a tree. She is alert like a lizard. The moment, she enters the thickness of the tree, her baby-birds start chirping. It seems as if a machine has started.

#### Goldfinch Chirrups

Then, the chirrup of the bird starts like a machine. Wings tremor and the whole tree trembles due to the sharp chirrup of the bird. It becomes the engine of her family. The goldfinch flies to an end of a branch to show her face.

#### Bird’s flying back leaves silence

After reaching there, the bird gives out a strange delicate whistle. It amounts to a whispering. Then she flies out in the sky towards the infinite. The Laburnum is left with its emptiness and its silence.

## CHAPTER-8

# THE VOICE OF THE RAIN

—Walt Whitman

### Introduction

The poem is in the form of a conversation between the poet and the ‘rain’. The poet asks the rain ‘who are you?’. To this question, the rain replies that it is the poem of the earth; it rises continuously in the form of vapours and returns to earth in the form of rain. It says that it purifies earth and also gives life to it. It returns to earth exactly like a song, which finally return to its singer in the form of appreciation after it is heard everywhere round the globe.

### Summary

‘The Voice of the Rain’ contains a dialogue between the poet and the rain itself. The rain, in its personified form, describes what it is and what it does. In other words, the poet describes the cycle of the rain and also celebrates the coming of the rain.

#### The poet inquires who the rain is

The poet asks the rain who she is. The rain promptly answers the question and the poet translates it.

#### The Reply of the Rain

Being personified the rain replies, “I am the poem of Earth. I rise out of the Land and the bottomless sea like something which cannot be touched. I rise upward to the sky where I change my form. Then I fall down on the surface of the earth to wash or bathe the droughts, atoms, dust etc. I also fall on the thing which cannot assume life without me”.

#### Functions of the rain

“Day and night I give life to my own origin and make it pure and beautify it. A song issuing from its birth-place after fulfilling and wandering as voice here and there acquires love when it returns. So, I return with love after giving life to anything that I touch.”

## CHAPTER-9

# CHILDHOOD

—Markus Natten

### Introduction

In this poem, the poet, Markus Natten wonders when and where he lost his childhood. In his quest to find the moment when he grew up, Markus highlights the innocence and faith he lost even as he gained rational individuality.

### Summary

The poet Markus Natten wonders when did he lose the innocence of his childhood. He is perhaps sad that; step by step he has lost that innocence and its place has been filled by a foolish craze for individuality; the so called rationalism and the hypocrisy. Childhood is a special period in everyone's life. Once gone, never comes back. He thinks of a few stages in his life time, when there was a change in his thoughts and perception of the world around him. The poet thinks of the place where his childhood has gone. Here, he has no doubt that he can find it hidden in the innocence of an infant.

#### **Feelings of Rationalism**

The poet is surprised at which point of life he ceased to be a child. He asks himself if it was when he entered the twelfth year of his life or perhaps it was when he became sensible enough to realise that Hell and Heaven are not to be found in geography and so they must be fragments of imagination only.

#### **Learning of Hypocrisy**

Slowly, as the poet grew in age he found that the world of adults was different. The adults are not what they seem to be. They pretend a lot. They are hypocrites who preach love and all good things but behave in a different manner. Slowly, he too began to learn this art and lost his childhood.

#### **Individuality**

Then, there came a time when the poet learnt the art of thinking independently. He learnt that his mind is his own and he should apply it to think in his own original way. In short, he learnt that a man need not always be guided in his thinking by others. May be, it was that day when he learnt to be an individual that he lost his childhood.

#### **Where has the Childhood gone?**

In the last stanza, the poet does not think of the time he lost his childhood. He wants to know the place where he has lost it and where it can be found again. He cannot remember the place. However, when he looks at a child's face, he becomes sure that the place is hidden in that innocence. Thus, the poet concludes that the loss of innocence was the loss of childhood.

## CHAPTER-10

# FATHER TO SON

—Elizabeth Jennings

### Introduction

Usually, by the time parents accept the new individuality of their children, the damage has already been done and the process of coming together is difficult and painful. Respecting each others' differences is the only way to alleviate the distance, the strange and awkward silence.

While the father's anguish and frustration is highlighted, the ego comes through as well.

## Summary

The poet speaks of the wide differences between a father and his son. Both live under the same roof but their worlds are poles apart. His son has his own way of life, which the father cannot understand.

Yet, the experiences of the father is universal. The difference in the outlook of generations brings some grief in life. But it is something that cannot be helped.

### The Father's Sorrow

The father is unhappy that he does not understand his own son though he has been living with him since his birth. He feels that he knows nothing about his son. He therefore makes a new attempt. He thinks how his son was when he was a small child. From that point, he thinks, he should be able to build up a relationship.

### Strangers to Each Other

The father thinks that his son is like a seed which he had sown on the land which was not his own. Now, that the plant (the son) has grown up, it seems to be a stranger. There is no sign of mutual understanding between the father and the son. The son has grown up just as the father had planned. Yet, the father cannot share what the child loves.

### The Father's Desire

There is no dialogue between the father and the son. Father is not happy to see the son making his own way in life. He would rather have him waste all his money and return to his old home. The two will, in that case, perhaps be able to revive the old affection. He would love to forgive all mistakes of his son. He would then like to see him desire something new but with his permission.

### Desire to Forgive

The father and the son have no option but to exist in the same world at the same time. The father is not happy at what his son says. He is grieved because of the strangeness of the ideas and this grief makes him angry. In fact both of them are unhappy. Both want that the other should come to him with some regret. Then the other would embrace him and forgive.

## SUPPLEMENTARY READER : SNAPSHOTS

### CHAPTER-1

## THE SUMMER OF THE BEAUTIFUL WHITE HORSE

—William Saroyan

## Introduction

'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse' is narrated by nine-year-old Aram Garoghtianian, a member of an Armenian community, living among the lush fruit orchards and vineyards of California.

## Summary

### Mourad comes with a Horse

One morning, Aram is awakened before dawn by his thirteen-year-old cousin Mourad, who is thought to be demented by everyone except Aram, and has a way with animals. Aram is astonished to see that Mourad is sitting on a beautiful white horse. Aram has always wanted to ride a horse, but his family is too poor to afford one.

### The Garoghtianian Tribe

However, the Garoghtianian tribe is noted not only for its poverty but also for its honesty, so it is unthinkable that Mourad would have stolen the horse. So, Aram felt that his cousin couldn't have stolen the horse.

### Aram and Mourad ride the horse

Aram was invited to ride on the horse with Mourad. The idea of Mourad stealing the horse drained away from Aram's mind as he felt that it wouldn't become stealing until they offer to sell the horse. They enjoyed their riding on the horse for a long time.

### Uncle Khosrove's crazy streak

Mourad's crazy behaviour was considered to be a natural descent from their uncle Khosrove, even though his father, Zorab, was a practical man. Uncle Khosrove was an enormous man who was always furious, impatient and irritable. He would roar for everyone to stop talking and say *It is no harm, pay no attention to it*. In fact, one day, when his son came and told them that their house was on fire, Khosrove silenced him by roaring "Enough. It is no harm". After a long day of riding, Mourad wanted to ride alone on the horse. Aram had the same longing, but when he sat on the horse and kicked its muscles, it reared and snorted and raced forward, dropping Aram off its back.

### John Byro – the owner of the horse, comes to Aram's house

That afternoon, an Assyrian farmer named John Byro, an Assyrian friend of the Garoghlanians- came to Aram's house. He reported to Aram's mother that his white horse which had been stolen a month ago was still missing. Hearing this, Aram concludes that Mourad must have had the horse for a long time. Khosrove, who was at Aram's house when Byro came, shouted his dialogue "Its no harm" to such an extent that Byro was forced to spring out to avoid responding.

### The boys hid the horse and kept it with them

Aram ran to Mourad to inform him of Byro's arrival. Aram also pleaded to Mourad, not to return the horse until he could learn to ride. Mourad disagreed saying that Aram would take at least a year to learn, but promised he would keep it for six months. This became a routine. Mourad came daily to pick Aram to ride, and Aram continuously fell off the horse's back after every attempt.

### John Byro's trust in the family makes the boys change their minds

Two weeks later, they were going to take the horse back to its hiding place when they met Byro on the road. The farmer is extremely surprised. He recognizes his horse but refuses to believe that the boys had stolen it. He says "the horse is the twin of my horse" and "a suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart" and that night they return it to the farmer, John Byro. Thus, the Garoghlanian's fame of honesty saved them.

## CHAPTER-2

### THE ADDRESS

—Marga Minco

### Introduction

'The Address' by Marga Minco is a very touching story of psychological interest. It explores the working of a young mind in war times. During World War II, the German's (the Nazis under Hitler) invaded Holland where 90 percent of the people were Jews. Many of the Jews fled in fear to other countries. Thousands were imprisoned in concentration camps. A woman and her little daughter had also to leave their home. The women left all her things with a woman known to her.

After some time, the woman died. Her house was destroyed. However, her daughter remembered the place where she used to live with her mother. Long after the war, she came to the town where she used to live with her mother. She went to meet the woman with whom her mother had left all her things. But the woman refused to recognize her because she didn't want to return the things she had taken. In the story, the daughter describes how she felt during the visit and later on the second visit.

### Summary

#### The Narrator comes to see Mrs. Dorling

The story begins with the narrator coming back to her country after the war to see a woman named Mrs. Dorling. The narrator tells the lady that she is the daughter of "Mrs. S" and she has come to take her mother's belongings.

#### Mrs. Dorling reaction on seeing the narrator

The lady is surprised to see the narrator and hides herself behind the door, denying knowing anybody by the name of Mrs. S. The narrator, for a moment, believes that she has come to a wrong address but when she notices the lady wearing her mother's cardigan, she becomes sure that she has come to the right place.

### The narrator's past

The lady closes the door on the narrator. The narrator leaves and goes back to the station. On her way to the station, she remembers her past. In the past, when the narrator had come home, she had found some things missing. On asking, her mother had told her that Mrs. Dorling, an acquaintance of hers, was kind enough to take their valuables with her. She would keep them safely in her house so that during the war, if they had to leave the country, their valuables would be safely kept with her. The narrator got a glimpse of Mrs. Dorling while she was moving out of her house with a heavy suitcase. It was at that time that her mother had told her Mrs. Dorling's address, 46, Marconi Street.

### The narrator's second visit to Mrs. Dorling House

As she continued to walk back to the train station, she saw old streets that were burnt up and old memories ran through her body. She decided to make one more try and went back again to Mrs. Dorling's house. This time a little girl, Mrs. Dorling's daughter opens the door and invites the narrator in. As the narrator moves, she informs that her mother has not burnt table cloth, the pewter plates and even the silver cutlery was theirs.

### Disgusted to see her mother belongings

The narrator feels disgusted to see her things being used and arranged in a tasteless and callous manner. She realizes that those things were important to her as they were associated with her mother and her past life. Now, disconnected from them and being used so callously those things had no value for her. She leaves without meeting Mrs. Dorling or taking her mother's belongings and consoles herself thinking that she now lives in a small rented apartment and has no place to keep those things.

### Decides to go back

She decides to go back and forgets the address. She had let go off and forgotten many sorrowful things about the past. She feels that compared to that, this will be the easiest thing to forget.

## CHAPTER-3

## MOTHER'S DAY

—J. B. Priestley

### Introduction

The person whom we all adore next to God is our Mother. We can never repay our debt to her. It is ironical to note that she rarely gets her due. This play brings out the sad condition of the mother in most homes. A mother works from dawn till night to satisfy the needs of her husband and children. She cleans and sweeps. She cooks and washes. But sadly she gets no reward or praise for her labour. Her husband and children are most thoughtless. They never realize that she, too, is a human being and needs rest. We work for five or six days in a week and claim it as a right to have a day or two off. But do we allow the same right to our mother? Don't mothers, like all of us, have a body that can get tired and a mind that can get bored? Don't they, too, need some recreation? Do we ever think of it? If we don't, we need to be chastised in some way or other. This is what this play is all about.

### Summary

#### Mrs. Pearson's position in her family

Mrs. Pearson is very fond of her husband and children. But they are thoughtless and selfish. The children (Cyril the son, and Doris, the daughter) take no notice of the mother. They treat her like a servant.

#### Mrs. Fitzgerald offers a solution-they change personalities

Mrs. Pearson's neighbour Mrs. Fitzgerald, offers to set the Pearson's family right. She knows some magic. Mrs. Fitzgerald changes her personality with that of Mrs. Pearson. Now she looks like Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Pearson look like her. Mrs. Fitzgerald sends Mrs. Pearson to her house for some time.

#### Mrs. Pearson becomes firm and strict with her family

Soon Mrs. Pearson's daughter Doris, comes home from work. She feels shocked to see her mother smoking (Actually, as we know she is Mrs. Fitzgerald.) and playing cards. She gets a curt reply in incisive tone when she

asks for tea which is not ready. The mother says she might go later for dinner at Clarendan. Doris says angrily that she had been working hard all day and yet she can't get even tea.

The mother replies that she too has been working hard all day long. Doris is unable to understand why her mother is behaving so strangely.

Now, Mrs. Pearson's son Cyril comes in. He is back from work. He feels annoyed to find that his mother has not prepared tea for him. He asks his mother if his shirt has been mended. Mrs. Pearson replies sharply that she doesn't like mending. Cyril wonders what has happened to his mother. Mrs. Pearson says that they all work for fixed hours in their offices. They have two days off a week. She announces that she will also have off days in a week.

In the meantime, her husband, George Pearson comes in. He notices Doris in tears. He looks at Mrs. Pearson sipping stout at the odd hour of the day. He is surprised at her and annoyed to learn that there is no tea ready for him. He is further told that he is one of the standing jokes for club members. They call him Pompy-Ompy Pearson because he is so slow and pompous. George is horrified. He turns to Cyril for help. But Cyril only confirms Mum's observation that Dad is laughed at by club members at his back. George leaves the room, much put out Cyril angrily at mother and asks why she has hurt Dad's feelings and his too. Her answer is that truth ought not to hurt anybody. Secondly, if father did not go to the club so often they would stop laughing at him.

All the three can hardly believe the change they see in Mrs. Pearson. They have never seen her in such a terrible form. Now they are all scared of her. None dares her to oppose her in anyway. Meanwhile Mrs. Fitzgerald from next door knocks at the door. Cyril calls her a silly old woman which is object to his mom. She is let in. She enquires if everything is all right. Cyril doesn't like her interference in the family affairs. The mother silences him with a rebuke and calls him a silly, spoilt young pie can. But the next moment, the real Mrs. Pearson can no longer stand the shabby treatment of her family. George, Doris and Cyril are asked to leave the room for sometime.

#### **Family attitude changed**

The two ladies change back into their proper personalities. Mrs. Fitzgerald warns Mrs. Pearson not to go soft again or it would all be mere waste. George, Doris and Cyril have now changed a lot. They readily agree to do whatever Mrs. Pearson wants them to do.

## **CHAPTER-4**

## **BIRTH**

—A. J. Cronin

### **Introduction**

This chapter is an extract from A.J. Cronin's novel 'The Citadel (1937)'. It describes how a young doctor reviews a child that is thrown away as still born. Joe Morgan and his wife are a middle-aged couple. They have been married for twenty years but haven't any child so far. Now, Mrs. Morgan is expecting her first child. Both her husband and her mother are feeling very nervous because the delivery of the child is going to be before time. A young doctor named Andrew is called in. The doctor has to put in hard labour in the delivery of the child. When the child is born, it seems to be still born. This shock could be too much for the Morgans to bear. When the doctor is attending to the mother, the nurse places the baby under the bed among dirty newspapers. After assuring himself that the mother is safe, the doctor looks for the baby. Finding it under the bed, he at once pulls it out. It was a boy perfectly formed. The boy was warm but was not breathing. At once the doctor sets to revive the child's breath. After half an hour's terrible effort, he is at last successful. He thanks God and hands the child to the nurse. While going in the street he keeps thinking, "I have done something; ohh, God! I have done something real at last."

### **Summary**

#### **About Andrew Manson**

Andrew Manson had just completed his study of medicine. He began his medical practice as an assistant to Dr. Edward Page in a small town of Blainelly. He loved a girl, Christine but his experience was disappointing.

#### **Joe Morgan expecting his first baby – waiting for Andrew**

It was nearly midnight when he reached Bryngower. He found Joe Morgan waiting for him. Joe had been married for nearly twenty years and now his wife was expecting their first baby. An expression of relief came on Morgan's face at the sight of the doctor. He told the doctor that he had been waiting for him for an hour. He said that his wife needed his presence because the child was expected to be born before time.

### **Andrew waits for the delivery**

Andrew went into the house. He saw two ladies inside the room. One was Joe's mother-in-law and the other was the mid-wife. The mother was worried. She realized that the delivery might take some time. She was afraid that the doctor would leave the case, saying that he would return later. But looking at the family's concern, Andrew decided to wait. He drank the tea down in tile kitchen. He was tense. He knew that the case would demand all his attention. He made up his mind to remain there until everything was over.

An hour later, he went upstairs. He noted the progress made and came down once more. He sat down by the kitchen fire.

### **The child born lifeless**

At last the nurse's voice was heard calling from the top landing. Andrew looked at the clock. It now showed half past three. He rose and went up to the bedroom. He saw that he could now begin his work. An hour passed. It was a long, hard struggle. Then as the first rays of dawn appeared the child was born, lifeless.

### **Andrew's Dilemma**

Andrew was horrified to see the still-born child. His face chilled suddenly. There were two options before him—whether to attend to the child or save the mother, who too was in critical state. Blindly, he gave the child to the nurse and turned his attention to Susan Morgan. She lay collapsed, almost pulseless. She was still under the effect of ether. He gave an injection and worked feverishly until her heart strengthened. He realized that she was safe.

Swinging round to the nurse he asked for the child. The mid-wife made a frightened gesture. She had placed the child under the bed. In a flash, Andrew knelt down. Fishing among the sodden newspapers below the bed, he pulled out the child.

### **Andrew's efforts to revive the child**

When Andrew looked at the child, he at once knew that it was a case of asphyxia (unconsciousness due to lack of oxygen). Instantly he was on his feet. He asked for hot water and cold water and basins too. He laid the child into the icy cold water and then into the steaming hot water. Fifteen minutes passed.

Andrew was feeling a sense of defeat and hopelessness. The mid-wife was watching him in dismay and astonishment. The old women stood there leaning against the wall. He remembered how keen she was to have a child.

### **The child revived—Andrew feels he has done something meaningful**

And then like a miracle, the little chest gave a short heave and the child started gasping. The skin started changing colour and then came the child's cry. Andrew handed the child to the nurse. He dazed. He left the house thinking he had done something real at last.

## **CHAPTER-5**

### **THE TALE OF MELON CITY**

—Vikram Seth

### **Introduction**

'The Tale of Melon City' is a humorous poem. It makes fun of a crazy king who claimed himself to be just and peace loving. The poem highlights the funny pitfalls of the whole system of governance in a state where custom gets top priority, the ruler is a despot and the ignorant people are docile. Such a country is ruled by a brainless melon King. The people take no interest in who their ruler is as long as they are allowed to live in peace.

### **Summary**

#### **The King orders an arch to be made**

A king ruled over a city. He was a just King and was always cool. He ordered that a triumphal arch should be built across the major thoroughfare of his kingdom. The workmen built the arch as desired by the king.

#### **The falling of the King's Crown**

But, when the king rode through that arch, his crown hit against it and was knocked down. At once a frown appeared on the calm face of the king. He felt himself disgraced.

### King orders hanging

He ordered the chief of the builders to be hanged. The rope and the gallows were arranged for the hanging. But when the chief of the builders was being led there, he cried out as he passed by the king, "O King! it was the workmen's fault. The workmen said in self-defence that the bricks were defective, not identical in size. The king then sent for the masons who trembled with fear. They shifted the blame to the architect.

The king ordered the architect to be hanged. The architect then reminded the king that he himself had seen and approved the plan. Now, the king himself was cornered. He stood confused.

### The wisest man called

He sought the advice of the wisest man in the state. The wisest man was too old to see or walk. His voice was broken. He suggested that the arch itself being the real culprit, must be hanged. The arch had dared to hit the Crown of the King's head. The arch was taken to the gallows. Just then a councillor submitted that the arch had just touched the head of his majesty respectfully, so it would be shameful to hang a thing that had touched the King's head. By then the crowd had become restless. They had started grumbling because they had gathered there to see the hanging. On seeing the mood of the crowd the King trembled in fear. He said that the finer points related to guilt could be postponed but someone had to be hanged immediately.

### King gets hanged

So, the noose was set up a little high. Each man was measured one after the other. There was only one man that was tall enough to fit the noose. And that was the King himself. Therefore the king was hanged as per his own orders.

### Melon chosen as the New King

The ministers now faced another problem that the state must have a king urgently. The messengers heralded the royal proclamation, "The next person to pass the city gate will choose the ruler of the state". An idiot passed by the gate. The guards stopped him and asked who was to be the King of the state. The idiot replied "A melon" because it was his standard answer to all the questions. He liked melons so much. The ministers agreed to crown the 'melon'. They set it down on the throne.

This happened many years ago. Now, if anyone asks those people how they came to have a melon as their king. They say that it was the king's own choice what he wanted to be and they had nothing to do with it as long as their own peace and liberty were disturbed. Thus, the principles of Laissez faire (non-interference with individual) were established well in the state.

