

## 2.5 The Happy Prince

### WARMING UP

1. There are different types of short stories. Use a dictionary / internet and find out what each of the following types refers to.

- (a) fable : .....
- (b) anecdote : .....
- (c) fairytale : .....
- (d) parable : .....
- (e) tragedy : .....
- (f) humorous story : .....
- (g) detective story : .....
- (h) myth : .....

2. Have you heard of birds that fly from one part of the world to another in small or large flocks?

They are called Migratory birds.

Discuss and write down two reasons why they migrate and return.

.....

.....

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3. Speech or dialogues can be reported in two ways – Direct and Indirect. When the exact words of the speaker are reported we call it Direct Speech. When the exact words of the speaker are not reported, but just its contents we call it Indirect Speech.

**Direct Speech :** Amar said, “I shall come to meet you tomorrow, Sanket.”

**Indirect Speech :** Amar told Sanket that he would go to meet him the next day.

**Note down the changes you observe in the Indirect Speech.**

- (1) .....
- (2) .....
- (3) .....
- (4) .....

## The Happy Prince

◆ *Why did people admire the statue?*



◆ *What were the drops that fell on the swallow?*

◆ *When did the Happy Prince realize about his suffering people?*

The statue of the Happy Prince stood high above the city. It was covered with gold, its eyes were bright blue jewels, and a red jewel hung from its waist. Everyone thought that it was very beautiful.

‘Why aren’t you like the Happy Prince?’ mothers said to their little boys when they cried.

Sad men looked at the statue and said, ‘I am glad that someone in the world is happy.’

One night a little Swallow flew alone over the city. His friends had gone away but he had stayed behind for six weeks, ‘Where can I stay tonight?’ he thought. Then he saw the statue. ‘I will stay there,’ he thought. ‘It is high up, so there is plenty of fresh air.’

He landed between the feet of the Happy Prince. ‘I have a golden bedroom!’ he thought. But as he put his head under his wing, a large drop of water fell on him.

He looked up ‘That is very strange!’ he thought. There is not a cloud in the sky, but it is raining!’

Then another drop fell. ‘I cannot stay on a statue that does not keep me dry,’ he thought. ‘I must find another place.’ And he decided to fly away. But as he opened his wings, a third drop fell. He looked up and saw - Ah! What did he see?

The eyes of the Happy Prince were full of tears. Tears rolled down his golden face. The face was very beautiful in the moonlight, and the Swallow felt sorry for him.

‘Who are you?’ asked the bird.

‘I am the Happy Prince.’

‘Then why are you crying? I am wet with your tears.’

‘When I was alive,’ said the prince, ‘I had a heart like every other man. But I did not know what tears were. I lived in a palace where there was no sadness. In the daytime I played with my friends in a beautiful garden, and in the evening I danced. There was a high wall round the garden. But I did not know what lay on the other side. So I was called the Happy Prince. I was pleased with my little world. Now I am dead, and

they have put me up here. I can see all the unhappiness of my city. My heart now is made of a cheap metal. But even that poor heart can feel, and so I cry.'

'Oh,' said the Swallow to himself, 'he is not only gold on the outside.'

'Far away from here,' said the Happy Prince in a low voice, 'there is a poor house in a little street. Through an open window, I can see a woman at a table. Her face is very thin and she has rough, red hands. She is making a dress for one of the queen's ladies, for a dance in the palace. Her little boy is lying on a bed in the corner of the room. He is very ill. He is crying because she can only give him water from the river. Little bird, will you take my red jewel to her? I cannot move from here.'

'My friends are waiting for me in Egypt,' said the Swallow.

'Little bird, little bird,' said the prince, 'Please stay! The boy is crying and his mother is so unhappy.'

The Happy Prince looked very sad, and the little Swallow was sorry for him. 'It is very cold here,' he said 'but I will stay with you for one night. Tomorrow I will take the jewel.'

'Thank you, little bird,' said the prince.

So, the Swallow took the great red jewel from the prince's waist and flew away with it over the roofs of the town. He passed the palace and heard the sound of dancing.

The bird passed over the river and flew and flew. At last he came to the poor little house and looked inside. The boy was lying on the bed. The mother was asleep; she was so tired. He flew in and put the great red jewel on the table. Then he flew round the bed, moving the air around the boy's face with his wings.

'Oh,' said the boy, my face does not feel so hot. I think I am getting better.' And he fell asleep.

Then the Swallow flew back to the Happy Prince. 'It is strange,' the Swallow said. 'It is very cold, but I feel quite warm.'

'That is because you have done a good thing,' said the prince. The little Swallow fell asleep.

When day came, the Swallow flew down to the river for a bath. A clever man saw him. 'That is very

◆ *What was the first gift from the Happy Prince?*

◆ *Why was the mother forced to ignore her ailing son?*

◆ *Why had the Swallow felt warm?*

◆ *What surprised the clever man?*

◆ *Why was the writer unable to complete his story?*

◆ *What did the writer conclude when he saw the blue jewel?*

unusual!’ he said. ‘That kind of bird, here in winter!

I must write that down!’

‘I will go to Egypt tonight,’ thought the Swallow.

When the moon came up, he flew back to the Happy Prince. ‘Can I do anything for you in Egypt?’ he said.

‘Little bird, little bird,’ said the prince, ‘please will you stay with me for one more night?’

‘My friends are waiting for me,’ answered the bird.

‘Far away across the city’, said the prince, ‘I can see a young writer in a little room at the top of a house. He is sitting at a table that is covered with papers. At his side there are some dead flowers. He is trying to finish a story. But he is very cold and he cannot write. There is no fire in the room, and he is weak and hungry.’

‘I will wait with you for one more night,’ said the Swallow kindly. ‘What shall I take to him?’

‘Take him one of my eyes,’ said the prince. ‘They are made of beautiful blue stones. ‘The young man can sell it and buy wood and food. He can finish his story.’

‘Take out your eye, dear prince?’ said the Swallow. ‘I cannot do that!’ And he began to cry.

‘Do it!’ said the prince.

So the Swallow took out the prince’s eye and flew away to the young man’s room. It was easy to get in because there was a hole in the roof. The young man was sitting with his head in his hands, so he did not hear the bird’s wings. When he looked up, a beautiful blue jewel was lying on the dead flowers.

‘Someone likes my stories!’ he cried happily. ‘This is a gift from someone who has read my books, now I can finish writing this story!’

On the next day the Swallow flew down to the river. He watched the seamen working on the ships. ‘I am going to Egypt!’ he cried, but no one listened to him.

When the moon came up, he flew back to the Happy Prince. ‘I have come to say goodbye to you,’ he said.

‘Little bird, little bird,’ said the prince, ‘please will you stay with me for one more night?’



‘It is winter,’ answered the Swallow.’ The snow will soon come. In Egypt the sun is warm and the trees are green. Dear prince, I must leave you; but I will never forget you.’

‘A little girl is standing there in the square below. She is selling eggs. Her eggs have fallen on the ground and they are broken. She has no money to take home. Her father will hit her. Take out my other eye and give it to her.’

‘I will stay with you for one more night,’ said the Swallow, ‘but I cannot take out your other eye. You will not be able to see!’

‘Do it!’ said the prince.

So the Swallow took out the prince’s other eye and flew down with it. He flew to the girl and put the jewel in her hand.

‘This is a beautiful piece of glass!’ cried the little girl. She ran home, laughing.

Then the Swallow flew back to the prince. ‘You cannot see now,’ he said, ‘so I will stay with you.’

‘No,’ said the poor prince, ‘you must go to Egypt.’

‘I will stay with you,’ repeated the Swallow, and he slept at the prince’s feet.

The next day he stayed with the prince. He told the prince stories about the strange lands that he knew.

‘Dear little bird,’ said the prince, ‘you are telling me about strange and wonderful things, but the suffering of men and women is stranger than anything. Fly over my city, little bird. Tell me what you see there.’

So the swallow flew over the great city. He saw the poor people sitting at the gate. He flew into the dark streets and saw the white faces of hungry children with sad eyes. Under a bridge, two little boys were lying close together to keep warm. ‘We are so hungry!’ they said. ‘You cannot lie there!’ shouted a guard.

Then the Swallow flew back and told the prince.

‘I am covered with fine gold,’ said the prince. ‘Take it off, piece by piece, and give it to my poor people.’

The Swallow pulled off the gold, until the Happy Prince looked grey and ugly. The Swallow took the gold to the poor, and the children’s faces became brighter.

◆ *Why did the swallow wish to go to Egypt?*

◆ *Why did the swallow refuse to take off the other eye?*



◆ *What sufferings did the Swallow discover and report to the Happy Prince?*

◆ *In what state did the important man in the city find the statue?*

◆ *What do you think, was the part of statue which did not melt?*

◆ *Why did the servants of God take the broken heart and the dead bird to God?*

‘We have bread now!’ they cried.

Then the snow came. Ice followed the snow, and hung down from the roofs of the houses. Everyone wore thick coats.

The little Swallow became colder. He did not leave the prince, because he loved him very much. But he was dying.

‘Goodbye, dear prince!’ he said.

‘I am glad that you are going to Egypt,’ said the prince. ‘You have stayed too long.

‘I am not going to Egypt,’ said the Swallow. ‘I am going to the House of God’. It fell down dead at his feet. Then there was a strange sound inside the statue. CRACK — the metal heart broke into two pieces.

Early next morning, an important man in the city was walking below with two of his friends. He looked up at the statue.’ The Happy Prince does not look very bright!’ he said. ‘The red stone has disappeared, his eyes are not there, and he is not golden. He looks like a beggar.’

‘Yes he does!’ said the man’s friends.

‘Here is a dead Swallow at his feet!’ said the officer. ‘We must make an order that birds cannot die here.’

They pulled down the statue of the Happy Prince and put it in the fire. A stream of bright metal ran out.

‘This is strange!’ said the workmen. ‘This broken piece in the middle of the statue has stayed hard. We must throw it away.’ So they threw it away with the dead bird.

God said to his servants, ‘Bring me the two best things in the city.’ They brought Him the broken heart and the dead bird.

‘Yes, you have brought the right things,’ God said. ‘This little Swallow will sing for ever in my garden, and the Happy Prince will stand in my city of gold.’

– Oscar Wilde

**1. Say whether these sentences are true or false and correct the false ones.**

- (a) The writer of the story is William Blake.
- (b) Everyone admired the statue of the Happy Prince.
- (c) The mother was working, when the Swallow brought the yellow jewel.
- (d) The two best things the servants brought to God were gold and jewel stones.

**2. Find from the story the Homophones of the following words**

(Words that sound the same, but differ in spellings and meanings.)

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) weak .....  | (b) their ..... |
| (c) blew .....  | (d) sea .....   |
| (e) read .....  | (f) waste ..... |
| (g) know .....  | (h) knot .....  |
| (i) threw ..... | (j) right ..... |

**3. Answer the given questions in your own words.**

- (a) Where was the Happy Prince's statue located?
- (b) Why did the swallow decide to stay under the statue of the Happy Prince at night?
- (c) Why was the Prince sad?
- (d) What was the first task given to the Swallow?
- (e) To whom did the Prince gift the two gemstones of his eyes?
- (f) What decision did the Swallow finally make? Was it a wise one? Comment.
- (g) Why did the Swallow finally decide not to leave the Prince?
- (h) What message do you get from this story?

**4. Infinitives, Participles, Gerunds**

**(a) Infinitives**

In the sentences 'I have to study' and 'I must study', 'study' is in the infinitive form, because it does not take -s, -es or -ed after it even if the number or person of the Subject changes.

Infinitives are generally preceded by 'to' or sometimes by a modal auxiliary.

## (b) Participles

In the sentences ‘She dived into the swimming pool’ and ‘The writing table is in a mess’ ‘Swimming’ and ‘writing’ are in the verb + ing form and function as Adjectives. These are Present Participles.

In the sentences, ‘The police recovered the stolen jewels’ and ‘He bandaged his bruised arm’, stolen and bruised are in the verb + en / ed form and function as Adjectives.

## (c) Gerunds

In the sentences, ‘I love swimming’ and ‘Reading is a good habit’, the verb + ing form function as Nouns (as the Subject or Object). These are called Verbal Nouns or Gerunds.

### • Say whether the underlined are Infinitives / Participles (Present or Past) / Gerunds.

- (1) I wish to go to Egypt.
- (2) They liked his written stories.
- (3) He is trying to finish a story.
- (4) Suffering is stranger than anything.
- (5) The dying swallow fell at his feet.
- (6) He began to cry.
- (7) He watched the working seamen.

## 5. Write the following dialogues from the story in the Indirect Speech.

- (a) ‘Who are you?’ asked the bird. ‘I am the Happy Prince.’  
‘Then why are you crying? I am wet with your tears.’
- (b) The Happy Prince looked very sad, and the little Swallow was sorry for him. ‘It is very cold here,’ he said ‘but I will stay with you for one night. Tomorrow I will take the jewel.’  
‘Thank you, little bird,’ said the prince.
- (c) ‘Little bird, little bird,’ said the prince, ‘please will you stay with me for one more night?’  
‘My friends are waiting for me,’ answered the bird.
- (d) Under a bridge, two little boys were lying close together to keep warm.  
‘We are so hungry!’ they said. ‘You cannot lie there!’ shouted a guard.
- (e) ‘Goodbye, dear prince!’ he said.  
‘I am glad that you are going to Egypt,’ said the prince. ‘You have stayed too long.’ ‘I am not going to Egypt,’ said the Swallow. ‘I am going to the House of God’



6. Divide the story into parts. Make 4 groups in your class. Each group should take one of the 4 parts to convert the story into a play and enact your part.
7. If you could change the end of the story i.e. after the Swallow refused to fly to Egypt, how would you change it? Summarise your idea in 10 to 12 lines.
8. Think of one of your favourite stories. Fill in the following facts about the story.

- Name of the story : .....
- Type of story : .....
- Setting (time and place) : .....
- Important characters : .....
- Theme / Plot : .....
- Conflict / Dilemma : .....
- Solution : .....
- End : .....



## WORD PLAY

### WORD LADDER

(1) **Word Ladder** is a word game.

- Players can get a starting word and an ending word.
  - Starting and ending words must be of the same length.
  - Players can change one letter at a time, attempting to move from the starting word to the ending word.
  - Each intermediate step must be a valid word and no proper nouns allowed!
- See the following word chain –

(1) HARD to EASY :hard-hare-care-cart-cast-east-easy

(2) Taking a pig to a sty.

Pig - wig - wag - way - say - sty

**Work in pairs and try to build a ladder.**

- COLD to HEAT
- CAT to DOG
- MAN to APE
- TEA to POT

### WORD CHAIN

(2) **Word chain** : Word chain is a word game that begins with the letter that the previous word ended with.

**Activity** : Arrange the participants in a circle and explain the rules of the game, any variations and the theme of the word chain.

For example :

Theme : (1) Types of fruit (Noun)

(2) Adjectives

(3) Verbs

(4) in general

**Now prepare a word chain beginning with the given theme and words.**

Theme - School

(1) Teacher → ..... → ..... → .....

(2) Verbs → ..... → ..... → .....

(3) Sports and games → ..... → ..... → .....

### TONGUE TWISTER

(3) **Tongue Twister** : Tongue Twister is a sequence of words or sounds, typically of an alternative kind, that are difficult to pronounce quickly and correctly.

- For Example :
- Peter piper picked a pack of pickled pepper.
  - Saina leads, Sayali needs.
  - A big black bear sat on a big black rug.

**Activity** : Use the internet and find out minimum 5 tongue twisters and present them in the class.

### (A) Build a Word Pyramid

Starting with one / two letter-words make word pyramids as shown below, adding one letter at a time for each step. Add as many steps as possible to your pyramid.

You may use a dictionary, if needed.

Make sure the words are meaningful and are not Proper Nouns.

US  
USE  
MUSE  
AMUSE

I  
IN  
WIN  
TWIN  
TWINE

### (B) Express with a Difference!

A fixed group of words, whose meaning is quite different from that of individual words used in it are called **Idioms**.

For example : • to throw light on ( means to explain clearly in detail)

- within a stone's throw away (at a short distance)
- a child's play (very easy)

Make a collection of such Idioms that you come across in storybooks, magazines and other reading material.

Use a good dictionary to find their meanings.

Write them down in a special book or diary. You can refer to it when you do creative writing, to make it impressive.

Also try to use them in your conversation.

### (C) Better your Work!

- Find words which sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings:  
For example : write and right  
They are called **Homophones**.
- Find words which have the same spelling, but can have different pronunciations.  
For example : 'read' can be pronounced as 'reed' or as 'red'.  
These are called **Heteronyms**.
- Find words that spell the same, sound the same but have different meanings in different contexts.  
For example : light can mean 'not heavy'. It can also mean 'brightness which makes things visible'.  
Such words are called **Homographs**.