

UNIT-2 Nehru's letter to daughter Indira on her Birthday

Discuss Nehru's understanding of the worldly conditions and interests of the people.

(or)

Estimate how Nehru imparted leadership qualities to his daughter Indira, through his letter.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a prominent states man, leader, historian and a writer As a writer he wrote some of the famous books like *A Discovery of India*, *Glimpes of World History*, *An Autobiography*, *Letters From a father to his Daughter* etc. Nehru writes 30 letters to his young daughter Indira when she was in the school. The main aim of writing these letters is to teach Indira a wide range of issues.

Every father wishes to pass on the knowledge to his kids. In the same way Nehru wants to impart his knowledge which he got through by studying, reading and understanding. During the summer of 1928 Nehru begins to write letters to his daughter Indira who was studying in Mussoorie at that time. In the first letter , 'Book of Nature', he talks about how life began in the Universe.

Nehru crafts letters carefully where he does not talk more about personal matters and emotional things but he concentrates more on workings of the world, so that he wants to be a good father although he is far away from her. In a letter Nehru says to his daughter what presents he can send to her. He says his presents will not be of any material or solid but of mind and spirit.

He describes how life on the earth had begun. He teaches her the importance of values like co-living and non-violence. He insists the importance of history in human life. He says that history informs us about the great periods of nations, great men and women, and he reminds how Indira is influenced by reading the story of Jeanne d'Arc.

Nehru says that ordinary men and women are not usually heroic. They think of their bread and butter, of their children, of their household worries and so on . But a time comes when ordinary people become interested in a great cause, then these ordinary and simple people become heroes. He refers that the great leaders have something in them which inspires a whole people and makes them do great deeds. He says that he dislikes sermonizing and giving advice, rather the best way to find solution is not by giving sermons but by talking and discussing.

He tells Indira that a great leader, Mahatma Gandhi, has inspired our people to great actions and noble sacrifice. He helped the starving, the poor and the oppressed free and happy. He says that the magic of Gandhi's message has stolen the hearts of India's millions. He could inspire men and women and even little children to come out of their little shells and became India's soldiers of freedom. He tells her to develop qualities which will help her to respect India's honour. While talking about Gandhi's leadership, he tells her to be fearless and asks her not to do anything in secret. He tells her not to hide anything and asks her to do everything in the light.

To conclude, this letter shows Nehru's passion for teaching and remarkable friendliness to his daughter. Nehru through this letter appears to be a great teacher.
