



Prose – 1
THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY
 (ஒரு பெண்மணியின் ஓவியம்)
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Nuclear family:

A typical **nuclear family** consists of a husband, a wife, and a couple of children. The number of members is very few in a nuclear family.



Joint family:

In Joint family system, the number of dependents living under the roof is much larger. It may include grandparents, married brothers, sisters, wives of sons, grandsons, granddaughters, other dependents and relatives along with a husband, a wife, and a couple of children.

Here is a story that brings out the bond between the author and his loving grandmother.

இந்தக் கதை ஆசிரியருக்கும், அவருடைய அன்பான பாட்டிக்கும் இடையிலான அன்பை வெளிப்படுத்துகிறது.

My grandmother, like everybody's grandmother, was an old woman. She had been old and wrinkled for the twenty years that I had known her. People said that she had once been young and pretty and had even had a husband, but that was hard to believe. My grandfather's portrait hung above the **mantelpiece** in the drawing room. He wore a big turban and loose-fitting clothes. His long, white beard covered the best part of his chest and he looked at least a hundred years old. He did not look the sort of person who would have a wife or children. He looked as if he could only have lots and lots of grandchildren. As for my grandmother being young and pretty, the thought was almost revolting. She often told us of the games she used to play as a child. That seemed quite **absurd** and undignified on her part and we treated it like the **fables** of the Prophets she used to tell us.

She had always been short and fat and slightly bent. Her face was a criss-cross of wrinkles running from everywhere to everywhere.

என்னுடைய பாட்டி, எல்லோருடைய பாட்டியைப் போலவே ஒரு வயதான பெண்ணாக இருந்தாள். நான் இருபது வருடங்களாக அவளை முதிய, அதே சுருக்கம் விழுந்த முகத்துடனே அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். அவள் ஒரு சமயத்தில் (காலத்தில்) இளமையாகவும் கவர்ச்சியாகவும் இருந்ததாகவும், மேலும் ஒரு கணவன் இருந்ததாகவும் மக்கள் பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். ஆனால் அதை நம்புவதற்குக் கடினமாக இருந்தது. என்னுடைய தாத்தாவினுடைய உருவப்படம் வரவேற்பறையில் உள்ள ஒரு மாடத்திற்கு மேல் தொங்கியது. அவர் ஒரு பெரிய தலைப்பாகை மற்றும் பெரிய தளர்ந்த ஆடைகளை அணிந்திருந்தார். அவருடைய நீளமான வெள்ளை தாடி அவருடைய மார்புப் பகுதியை மறைத்திருந்தது. அவர் குறைந்தபட்சம் நூறு வயதைக் கடந்தவராகவே தோற்றமளித்தார். ஒரு மனைவியோ அல்லது குழந்தைகளோ இருக்கின்ற ஒரு நபராக மட்டும் அவர் தோன்றவில்லை. அவர் மிக மிக அதிகமான பேர்க்குழந்தைகள் உள்ளவராகவே தோற்றமளித்தார். என்னுடைய பாட்டி இளமையாகவும் கவர்ச்சியாகவும் இருந்தார் என்பது ஏற்க்குறைய ஒரு விரும்பத்தகாத விஷயமாகவே எனக்குப் பட்டது. அவள் ஒரு குழந்தையாக தான் விளையாடிய விளையாட்டுக்களைப் பற்றி எங்களிடம் கூறுவாள். அது முழுவதும் அற்பத்தனமானதாகவும், அவளுடைய நிலைக்கு பொருத்தமற்றதாகவும் தெரிந்தது. அதனை அவள் எங்களிடம் கூறும்போதெல்லாம் அவள் வழக்கமாக கூறும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் பற்றிய நீதிக்கதைகளைப் போல அதையும் நினைத்துக் கொண்டோம்.

அவள் எப்பொழுதும் குள்ளமாகவும், சற்று குண்டாகவும், சற்று முதுகு வளைந்தும் காணப்பட்டாள். அவளுடைய முகத்தில் எந்த இடத்திலிருந்து எந்த இடத்துக்கும் குறுக்கும் நெடுக்குமாக கோடுகளும் சுருக்கங்களும் அதிகமாக இருந்தது.

<p>No, we were certain she had always been as we had known her. Old, so terribly old that she could not have grown older, and had stayed at the same age for twenty years. She could never have been pretty; but she was always beautiful. She hobbled about the house in spotless white with one hand resting on her waist to balance her stoop and the other telling the beads of her rosary. Her silver locks were scattered untidily over her pale, puckered face, and her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer. Yes, she was beautiful. She was like the winter landscape in the mountains, an expanse of pure white serenity breathing peace and contentment.</p>	<p>நாங்கள் அவளை அறிந்தவரை இது போலவே அவள் எப்பொழுதும் இருந்து கொண்டிருந்தாள் என்பதை நாங்கள் உறுதியாகச் சொல்ல முடியவில்லை. எந்த அளவுக்கு மோசமான முதுமை என்றால் இதற்குமேல் அவள் முதுமை அடைய முடியாது என்பதால் அதே வயதில் கடந்த 20 வருடங்களில் அப்படியே இருந்தாள். அவள் ஒருபோதும் கவர்ச்சியாக இருக்க முடியாது. ஆனால் அவள் எப்பொழுதும் அழகாக இருந்தாள். அவளுடைய கூனிக்குறுகிய உடலை தாங்குவதற்காக அவளுடைய இடுப்பில் ஒரு கையை வைத்துக் கொண்டு, தூய்மையான வெள்ளை உடையில் மற்றொரு கையால் அவளுடைய ஜெபமாலையை உருட்டிக்கொண்டே அவள் வீட்டில் தள்ளாடி தடுமாறியபடி நடந்துகொண்டிருந்தாள். அவளுடைய வெள்ளி போன்ற மயிர்கற்றைகள், அழுக்காக, அவளுடைய வெளிர்ந்த முகத்தில் சிதறிகிடந்தது. முகம் சுருக்கமாக, அவளுடைய உதடுகள் தொடர்ச்சியாக மந்திரம் ஒன்றை முணுமுணுத்துக் கொண்டே இருந்தன. ஆம் அவள் அழகாக இருந்தாள். அவள் தூய வெண்மையான, அமைதியான உயிர் உள்ளதுபோன்ற, மகிழ்வூட்டுகின்ற மலைகளில் உள்ள குளிக்கால நில அமைப்பு போல் இருந்தாள்.</p>
<p>My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayer in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would listen and get to know it by heart; I listened because I loved her voice but never bothered to learn it. Then she would fetch my wooden slate which she had already washed and plastered with yellow chalk, a tiny earthen ink-pot and a red pen, tie them all in a bundle and hand it to me. After a breakfast of a thick, stale chapatti with a little butter and sugar spread on it, we went to school. She carried several stale chapattis with her for the village dogs.</p>	<p>என்னுடைய பாட்டியும், நானும் நல்ல நண்பர்களாக இருந்தோம். என்னுடைய பெற்றோர்கள் நகரத்தில் வசிப்பதற்கு சென்றபொழுது அவர்கள் என்னை அவளுடன் விட்டுச் சென்றார்கள். நாங்கள் எப்போதும் தொடர்ச்சியாக ஒன்றாக இருந்தோம். அவள் வழக்கமாக என்னைக் காலையில் எழுப்பிவிட்டு பள்ளி செல்ல என்னை தயார்படுத்துவாள். என்னை குளிப்பாட்டும்பொழுதும் உடை அணிவிக்கும்போதும் சலிப்பூட்டுகிற அவளுடைய காலை நேர பிரார்த்தனைப் பாடலை, நான் கவனிக்க வேண்டும், மனப்பாடம் செய்ய வேண்டும் என்ற நம்பிக்கையில் அவள் பாடினாள். நான் கவனித்தேன் ஏனெனில் நான் அவளுடைய குரலை நேசித்தேன். ஆனால் அதை கற்றுக் கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று ஒரு போதும் எண்ணியதில்லை. பிறகு அவள் என்னுடைய மரத்திலான எழுதுபலகையைக் கொண்டு வருவாள். ஏற்கனவே அவள் சுத்தம் செய்திருப்பாள். நீரில் நனைக்கப்பட்ட மஞ்சள் நிற சுண்ணக்கட்டி, ஒரு சிறிய மண்ணால் செய்யப்பட்ட மை புட்டி, ஒரு சிவப்பு பேனா, அவைகள் எல்லாம் ஒன்றாகக் கட்டி, அதை என்னிடம் கொடுப்பாள். தடிமனான காய்ந்துபோன சப்பாத்தியின் மேல் சிறிதளவு வெண்ணெய் மற்றும் சர்க்கரை தடவி, நல்ல காலை உணவு சாப்பிட்ட பிறகு, நாங்கள் பள்ளிக்கு சென்றோம். அவள் கிராமத்து நாய்களுக்காக காய்ந்துபோன பல சப்பாத்திகளை அவளுடன் எடுத்து வருவாள்.</p>
<p>My grandmother always went to school with me because the school was attached to the temple. The priest taught us the alphabet and the morning prayer. While the children sat in rows on either side of the verandah singing the alphabet or the prayer in a chorus, my grandmother sat inside reading the scriptures. When we had both finished, we would walk back together. This time the village dogs would meet us at the temple door. They followed us to our home growling and fighting with each other for the chapatti we threw to them.</p>	<p>எனது பாட்டி எப்பொழுதும் என்னுடன் பள்ளிக்கு வருவாள். ஏனெனில் அந்தப் பள்ளி ஒரு கோயிலுடன் இணைந்துள்ளது. அர்ச்சகர் எங்களுக்கு எழுத்துக்களையும் காலை இறை வழிபாட்டையும் சொல்லிக்கொடுத்தார். குழந்தைகள் எதிர்எதிர் வரிசையில் வரண்டாவில் அமர்ந்து எழுத்துக்களையோ ஜெபங்களையோ எல்லோரும் சேர்ந்து குழுவாக பாடிக் கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, எனது பாட்டி உள்ளே அமர்ந்து திருமறை நூல்களை வாசித்துக் கொண்டிருப்பாள். இரண்டு வேலைகளும் முடிந்தது, நாங்கள் இருவரும் ஒன்றாகவே வீடுதிரும்புவோம். இந்த நேரத்தில் கோயில் வாயிற்படியில் கிராமத்து நாய்கள் எங்களை சந்திக்கும். அவை நாங்கள் தூக்கி எறியும் சப்பாத்திகளுக்காக உறுமிக் கொண்டும், ஒன்றோடு ஒன்று சண்டையிட்டுக் கொண்டும் எங்களுடைய வீடுவரை எங்களை பின் தொடர்ந்து வரும்.</p>

<p>When my parents were comfortably settled in the city, they sent for us. That was a turning-point in our friendship. Although we shared the same room, my grandmother no longer came to school with me. I used to go to an English school in a motor bus. There were no dogs in the streets and she took to feeding sparrows in the courtyard of our city house.</p>	<p>என்னுடைய பெற்றோர்கள் நகரத்தில் நல்லபடியாக செட்டிலான பிறகு, எங்களை (நகரத்திற்கு) வரச்சொன்னார்கள். அது எங்களுக்கிடையேயான (பாட்டிக்கும் எனக்குமான) நட்பில் ஒரு திருப்பு முனையாக அமைந்தது. (நகரத்தில்) நாங்கள் ஒரே அறையில் தங்கி இருந்த போதிலும், என்னுடைய பாட்டி என்னுடன் பள்ளிக்கு இப்பொழுது வருவது இல்லை. நான் வழக்கமாக ஒரு மோட்டார் பேருந்தில் ஒரு ஆங்கிலப் பள்ளிக்கு செல்வேன். அங்கே தெருக்களில் நாய்கள் இல்லை. அவள் எங்களுடைய நகரத்து வீட்டில் உள்ள முற்றத்தில் சிட்டுக்குருவிகளுக்கு உணவளித்தாள்.</p>
<p>As the years rolled by, we saw less of each other. For some time she continued to wake me up and get me ready for school. When I came back she would ask me what the teacher had taught me. I would tell her English words and little things of western science and learning, the law of gravity, Archimedes' Principle, the world being round, etc. This made her unhappy. She could not help me with my lessons. She did not believe in the things they taught at the English school and was distressed that there was no teaching about God and the scriptures. One day I announced that we were being given music lessons. She said nothing but her silence meant disapproval. She rarely talked to me after that.</p>	<p>இவ்வாறு வருடங்கள் உருண்டோடிக்கொண்டிருந்த போது நாங்கள் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் மிகக்குறைந்த நேரமே பார்த்துக்கொண்டோம். சில நேரங்களில் என்னை எழுப்பிவிட்டு பள்ளி செல்ல தயார்செய்து விடுவதைத் தொடர்ந்தாள். நான் பள்ளியிலிருந்து திரும்பி வந்த உடன், ஆசிரியர்கள் எனக்கு என்ன கற்பித்தார்கள் என்று அவள் என்னிடம் கேட்பாள். ஆங்கில வார்த்தைகள், மேலை நாட்டு அறிவியலின் சிறிய சிறிய விசயங்கள், புவியீர்ப்பு விதி, ஆர்க்கிமிடீஸ் கோட்பாடு, உலகம் உருண்டையாக இருப்பது போன்ற தகவல்களை அவளிடம் கூறுவேன். இது அவளை மகிழ்ச்சியற்றவளாக ஆக்கியது. என்னுடைய பாடங்களில் எனக்கு அவளால் உதவிசெய்ய முடியவில்லை. அந்த ஆங்கிலப் பள்ளியில் அவர்கள் கற்பிக்கும் இந்த விசயங்களை அவள் நம்பவில்லை. அங்கே கடவுள் மற்றும் திருமறை நூல்களைப் பற்றி கற்பிக்கவில்லை என்று அவள் மனவேதனையில் இருந்தாள். ஒருநாள் இசைப் பாடங்கள் எங்களுக்கு கொடுக்கப்பட்டு கொண்டிருக்கின்றன என்று நான் தெரிவித்தேன். அவள் எதுவும் கூறவில்லை. ஆனால் அவளுடைய அந்த அமைதி அவள் அதை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை என்பதைக் காட்டியது. அதன் பிறகு அவள் என்னிடம் பேசுவது மிகவும் அரிதாகிவிட்டது.</p>
<p>When I went up to University, I was given a room of my own. The common link of friendship was snapped. My grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation. She rarely left her spinning-wheel to talk to anyone. From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers. Only in the afternoon she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. While she sat in the verandah breaking the bread into little bits, hundreds of little birds collected round her creating a veritable bedlam of chirruping. Some came and perched on her legs, others on her shoulders. Some even sat on her head. She smiled but never shooed them away. It used to be the happiest half - hour of the day for her.</p>	<p>நான் பல்கலைக்கழகம் செல்லத்தொடங்கியபோதே எனக்கு தனியாக அறை ஒன்று ஒதுக்கப்பட்டது. நட்புக்கிடையேயான பொதுவான பிணைப்பு துண்டிக்கப்பட்டது. என்னுடைய பாட்டி அவளுடைய தனிமையைச் சகித்துக் கொண்டு ஏற்றுக் கொண்டாள். அவள் அவளது கைராட்டையை சுழற்றி நூல் நூற்கும் வேலையை மிகவும் அரிதாக யாரிடமாவது பேச வேண்டியிருந்தால் மட்டுமே நிறுத்துவாள். சூரியன் உதயத்திலிருந்து மறையும் வரை கைராட்டை அருகிலேயே அமர்ந்துகொண்டு அதனைச்சுழற்றி நூல் நூற்றுக்கொண்டே இறை வணக்கப் பாடல்களை ஒப்பித்துக் கொண்டே அமர்ந்திருந்தாள். அவள் மதியம் மட்டும் கொஞ்சநேரம் குருவிகளுக்கு உணவு கொடுக்கும் நேரத்தில் ஓய்வு எடுத்துக்கொள்வாள். அவள் முற்றத்தில் உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு, ரொட்டித் துண்டை சிறுசிறு துண்டுகளாக்கி பறவைகளுக்கு கொடுப்பாள். நூற்றுக்கணக்கான சிறிய பறவைகள் கிளர்ச்சியூட்டுகிற மிக அதிக குழப்பமான சத்தம் கொடுத்துக்கொண்டு அவளைச் சுற்றி ரொட்டித் துண்டுகளை பொறுக்கிக் கொண்டு செல்லும். சில பறவைகள் அவளுடைய கால்களில் வந்து அமர்ந்துகொள்ளும், மற்ற சில பறவைகள் அவளுடைய தோள்பட்டையிலும், இன்னும் சில பறவைகள் அவளுடைய தலையிலும் கூட அமர்ந்துகொள்ளும். அவள் சிரிப்பாள். ஆனால் அவைகளை 'சூ' என்று கூறி ஒருபோதும் விரட்டமாட்டாள். அந்த அரைமணி நேரம்தான் அவளைப் பொருத்தவரை அந்நாளின் மகிழ்ச்சியான தருணம்.</p>

<p>When I decided to go abroad for further studies, I was sure my grandmother would be upset. I would be away for five years, and at her age one could never tell. But my grandmother could. She was not even sentimental. She came to leave me at the railway station but did not talk or show any emotion. Her lips moved in prayer, her mind was lost in prayer. Her fingers were busy telling the beads of her rosary. Silently she kissed my forehead, and when I left I cherished the moist imprint as perhaps the last sign of physical contact between us.</p>	<p>நான் மேல்படிப்பிற்காக வெளிநாடு செல்ல முடிவு செய்தபோது. என்னுடைய பாட்டி மிகவும் வருத்தமடைந்திருக்க வேண்டும் என்று எனக்கு உறுதியாகத் தோன்றியது. நான் ஐந்து வருடங்கள் அவளை விட்டு விலகிச் செல்ல இருப்பதை வயதான அவளிடம், ஒருவராலும் சொல்ல முடியவில்லை. ஆனால் என்னுடைய பாட்டியால் முடிந்தது. அவள் உணர்வுகளுக்கு அடிமையானவளாகக் கூட தோன்றவில்லை. என்னை வழி அனுப்புவதற்கு புகைவண்டி நிலையத்திற்கு வந்திருந்தாள். ஆனால் அவள் பேசவும் இல்லை. எவ்வித மனக்கிளர்ச்சியையும் வெளிக்காட்டவும் இல்லை. அவளுடைய எண்ணங்கள் இறைவணக்கத்தில் நிரம்பியிருந்தது. அவளுடைய உதடுகள் மந்திரங்களை உச்சரித்துக் கொண்டிருந்தது. அவளுடைய மனம் முழுவதும் ஜெபத்தில் லயித்திருந்தது. விரல்கள் அவளுடைய ஜெபமாலையின் மணிகளை உருட்டிக்கொண்டே இருந்தன. அமைதியாக என்னுடைய நெற்றியில் முத்தமிட்டாள். நான் கிளம்பும் போது, அந்த ஈரமான அடையாள முத்திரையை நான் நெஞ்சார நேசித்தேன். எங்களுக்கு இடையில் உடல் ரீதியான தொடர்பின் கடைசி அடையாளமாக அது இருக்கலாம்.</p>
<p>But that was not so. After five years I came back home and was met by her at the station. She did not look a day older. She still had no time for words, and while she clasped me in her arms I could hear her reciting her prayers. Even on the first day of my arrival, her happiest moments were with her sparrows whom she fed longer and with frivolous rebukes.</p>	<p>ஆனால் அது அவ்வாறு இருக்கவில்லை. ஐந்து வருடங்களுக்குப் பிறகு மீண்டும் நான் வீட்டிற்குத் திரும்பி வந்தேன். புகைவண்டி நிலையத்தில் நான் அவளை சந்தித்தேன். அவள் ஒரு நாள் கூட முதுமையடைந்ததாகத் தோன்றவில்லை. அவள் இப்பொழுதும் அப்படித்தான். வார்த்தைகளுக்கு அங்கு இடம் இல்லை. என்னை அவளுடைய கரங்களால் தழுவும் பொழுது, அவளுடைய இறைவணக்க பாடல்கள் சொல்லிக் கொண்டிருந்ததை என்னால் கேட்க முடிந்தது. என்னுடைய வருகையின் முதல் நாள் கூட, விளையாட்டுத்தனமான கடிந்துரைகளுடன் யாருக்கு அவள் நீண்ட நாள் உணவு ஊட்டினாளோ, அந்த சிட்டுக்குருவிகளுடன் அவளுடைய மகிழ்ச்சியான தருணங்களை கழித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தாள்.</p>
<p>In the evening a change came over her. She did not pray. She collected the women of the neighbourhood, got an old drum and started to sing. For several hours she thumped the sagging skins of the dilapidated drum and sang of the home-coming of warriors. We had to persuade her to stop to avoid overstraining. That was the first time since I had known her that she did not pray.</p>	<p>மாலை நேரத்தில் அவளிடம் ஒரு மாற்றம் வெளிப்பட்டது. அவள் வழிபடவில்லை. அண்டை வீட்டிலுள்ள பெண்களை அவள் ஒன்று சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு ஒரு பழைய முரசை வைத்துக்கொண்டு அவள் பாடத் தொடங்கிவிட்டாள். தளர்ந்து தொங்குகிற தோலை உடைய வேண்டாம் என்று ஓரம்கட்டப்பட்ட முரசை வைத்துக்கொண்டு பல மணி நேரங்களாக முரசு கொட்டினாள். தாயகம் திரும்புகிற போர்ப்படை வீரர்களின் பாடலைப் பாடினாள். கடுஞ்சோர்வைத் தவிர்ப்பதற்கு, அதை நிறுத்துவதற்கு நாங்கள் அவளை ஒப்புக்கொள்ள வைத்தோம். எனக்கு தெரிந்தவரை அவள் இறைவனை வழிபடாமல் இருந்தது இதுதான் முதல் முறை.</p>
<p>The next morning she was taken ill. It was a mild fever and the doctor told us that it would go. But my grandmother thought differently. She told us that her end was near. She said that, since only a few hours before the close of the last chapter of her life she had omitted to pray, she was not going to waste any more time talking to us.</p>	<p>அடுத்த நாள் காலையில் அவள் நோய்வாய்ப்பட்டாள். அது ஒரு இலேசான காய்ச்சலாக இருந்தது. அது சரியாகிவிடும் என்று மருத்துவர் எங்களிடம் கூறினார். ஆனால் என்னுடைய பாட்டி வேறுவிதமாகச் சிந்தித்தாள். அவளுடைய இறப்பு (கடைசி நாள்) அருகில் இருப்பதாக அவள் எங்களிடம் கூறினாள். அவளுடைய வாழ்க்கையின் கடைசி அத்தியாயத்திற்கு இன்னும் ஒரு சில மணி நேரமே இருப்பதால் ஜெபம் செய்ய மறந்து விட்டதாக அவள் எங்களிடம் கூறினாள். எங்களிடம் மேலும் பேசிக் கொண்டு நேரத்தை வீணடிப்பதற்கும் விரும்பவில்லை.</p>
<p>We protested. But she ignored our protests. She lay peacefully in bed praying and telling her beads. Even before we could suspect, her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers. A peaceful pallor spread on her face and we knew that she was dead.</p>	<p>நாங்கள் அவளது பேச்சை கண்டித்தோம் (எதிர்த்தோம்). ஆனால் அவள் அதை பொருட்படுத்தவில்லை. அவள் ஜெபித்துக்கொண்டும், அவளுடைய ஜெபமாலையின் மணிகளை உருட்டிக்கொண்டும் படுக்கையில் அமைதியாக படுத்திருந்தாள். நாங்கள் சந்தேகம் கொள்வதற்கு முன், அவளுடைய உதடுகள் அசைவற்று நின்றது. அவளுடைய உயிரற்ற விரல்களிலிருந்து ஜெபமாலை கீழே விழுந்தது. ஒரு அமைதியான வெளிறிய நிறம் அவளுடைய முகத்தில் பரவியது. அவள் இறந்துவிட்டாள் என்பதை நாங்கள் தெரிந்துகொண்டோம்.</p>

<p>We lifted her off the bed and, as is customary, laid her on the ground and covered her with a red shroud. After a few hours of mourning we left her alone to make arrangements for her funeral. In the evening we went to her room with a crude stretcher to take her to be cremated. The sun was setting and had lit her room and verandah with a blaze of golden light. We stopped half-way in the courtyard. All over the verandah and in her room right up to where she lay dead and stiff wrapped in the red shroud, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. We felt sorry for the birds and my mother fetched some bread for them. She broke it into little crumbs, the way my grandmother used to, and threw it to them. The sparrows took no notice of the bread. When we carried my grandmother's corpse off, they flew away quietly. Next morning the sweeper swept the bread crumbs into the dustbin.</p>	<p>எங்களுடைய வழக்கப்படி நாங்கள் அவளை மெத்தையில் இருந்து தூக்கி தரையில் படுக்க வைத்தோம். இறந்தவர்களை மூடும் சிவப்பு துணியால் அவளை மூடினோம். ஒரு சில மணி நேரத்திற்குப் பிறகு வருத்தத்துடன், அவளுடைய இறுதி சடங்கிற்கான ஆயத்தப் பணிகளை மேற்கொள்வதற்கு நாங்கள் அவளைத் தனியே விட்டுவிட்டுச் சென்றோம். மாலை நேரத்தில் அவளது உடலை எரியூட்டுவதற்காக கரடு முரடான தூக்குப் படுக்கையுடன் அவளுடைய அறைக்கு நாங்கள் சென்றோம். சூரியன் மறைந்து கொண்டிருந்த நேரம் என்பதால் அவளுடைய அறையிலும் முற்றத்திலும் தங்க நிறத்திலான பேரொளி ஏற்பட்டது. முற்றத்தின் பாதி வழியில் நாங்கள் நின்றோம். அங்கே முற்றம் முழுவதும், சிவப்பு துணியால் போர்த்தி, கிடத்தப் பட்டிருந்த அந்த அறை முழுவதும் ஆங்காங்கே ஆயிரக்கணக்கான சிட்டுக்குருவிகள் தரையில் அமாந்திருந்தன. அங்கே பறவைகளின் மகிழ்ச்சியூட்டுகிற ஒலி இல்லை. அந்தப் பறவைகளுக்காக நாங்கள் வருத்தம் அடைந்தோம். என்னுடைய அம்மா அவைகளுக்காக சில ரொட்டித் துண்டுகள் கொண்டுவந்தாள். அவள் என்னுடைய பாட்டியின் வழக்கமான இடத்தில் பாட்டி செய்ததுபோலவே அதை சிறுசிறு துண்டுகளாக பறவைகளுக்கு உடைத்துப் போட்டாள். ஆனால் சிட்டுக்குருவிகளோ ரொட்டித்துண்டுகளை கண்டுகொள்ளவே இல்லை. என்னுடைய பாட்டியின் சடலத்தை நாங்கள் தூக்கிய பொழுது, அவைகள் அமைதியாகப் பறந்து சென்றன. அடுத்த நாள் காலையில் சுத்தம் செய்பவர் சிறுசிறு ரொட்டித் துண்டுகளை பொறுக்கி சுத்தம் செய்து குப்பைத் தொட்டிக்குள் போட்டார்.</p>
<p>About the author Khushwant Singh is an Indian novelist and lawyer. He studied at St. Stephen's College, Delhi and King's college, London. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1947. As a writer, he is best known for his keen secularism, sarcasm and love for poetry. He served as the editor of several literary and news magazines as well as two newspapers. Khushwant Singh was awarded with Padma Bhushan in 1974, Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India and Sahitya Akademi Fellowship by Sahitya Academy of India. <i>The Mark of Vishnu, A History of Sikhs, The Train to Pakistan, Success Mantra, We Indians and Death at my Doorstep</i> are some of his brilliant works.</p>	<p>எழுத்தாளரைப்பற்றி..... குஷ்வந்த் சிங் ஒரு இந்திய கதை எழுத்தாளர் மற்றும் வழக்கறிஞர். அவர் டெல்லியிலுள்ள செயின்ட் ஸ்டீபன்ஸ் கல்லூரியிலும் லண்டனில் உள்ள கிங்ஸ் கல்லூரியிலும் கல்வி பயின்றவர். அவர் இந்திய வெளியுறவுத்துறையில் 1947ல் பணியில் சேர்ந்தார். இவர் எழுத்தாளராக இருந்தாலும் மதச்சார்பின்மை, விமர்சனம் (கிண்டல்), கவிதை ஆகியவற்றில் அவருக்கு இருந்த ஆர்வத்தால் மக்களிடையே பிரபலமானார். பல்வேறு இலக்கியம் மற்றும் செய்தி இதழ்களில் இவர் எட்டடராகப் பணியாற்றியதோடு இரண்டு செய்தித்தாள்களிலும் பணிபுரிந்துள்ளார். இவர் இந்திய அரசின் பத்மபூசன் விருதினை 1974ம் ஆண்டிலும் பத்ம விபூசன் விருதினை 2007ம் ஆண்டிலும் பெற்றார். இவருடைய இலக்கியப் பணிகளுக்காக சாகித்ய அகாடமி விருதையும் பெற்றிருக்கிறார். தி மார்ச் ஆஃப் விஷ்ணு, எ ஹிஸ்டரி ஆஃப் சீக்ஸ், எ ட்ரெயின் டு பாகிஸ்தான், சக்ஸ்ஸ் மந்த்ரா, வீ இண்டியன்ஸ், டெத் அட் மை டோர்ஸ்டெப் போன்றவை இவருடைய புத்திசாலித்தனம் நிறைந்த படைப்புகள்.</p>



Mantelpiece



Wrinkled face



Grandfather's

Portrait



Street dogs waiting



Feeding Sparrows

GLOSSARY:

mantelpiece	shelf above the fireplace	வீட்டின் எரிமாடம்
absurd	inconsistent / illogical	அற்பத்தனமான, பொருத்தமற்ற
fables	tales / stories	கதைகள்
hobbled	walked unsteadily	தள்ளாடி நடத்தல்

pucker	to contract the face into wrinkles	சுருக்கங்கள், மடிப்புகள்
expanse	widespread	பரவுதல்
monotonous	boring, unchanging	தனிமை, சலிப்பு
snapped	broke / cut	துண்டித்தல்
seclusion	isolation, separation	தனிமைப்படுத்து
bedlam	noise and confusion	கூச்சலான குழப்பம்
perched	sat comfortably, rested	சௌகரியமாக அமர்ந்து ஓய்வெடுத்தல்
rebukes	scoldings	எதிர்ப்பு, திட்டூதல்
dilapidated	damaged	சேதமான, ஓரங்கட்டப்பட்ட
pallor	an unhealthy pale appearance	வெளிறிய தோற்றம்
shroud	cloth used to wrap or cover a dead person	இறந்த உடலை மூடும் துணி

IMPORTANT SYNONYMS:

wrinkled	crumpled	சுருக்கங்கள் கொண்ட
portrait	picture	படம்
revolting	disgusting	எதிர்த்து பேசக்கூடிய
undignified	dishonoured	கேவலப்படுத்து
prophets	seers, saints	தீர்க்கதரிசிகள்
criss cross	blend, intersecting lines	குறுக்கும் நெடுக்குமான கோடுகள்
pale	bloodless, whitish	வெளுத்துப்போன
puckered	contracted into wrinkles	சுருக்கங்கள் விழுந்த
constantly	repeatedly	திரும்பத்திரும்ப, தொடர்ச்சியாக
inaudible	unheard	கேட்கஇயலாத
expanse	widespread, range	விரவுதல், பரவுதல்
serenity	calm, relaxed mood	அமைதியாக, தளர்வாக
contentment	self satisfaction	திருப்திபட்டுக் கொள்ளுதல்
bothered	troubled	கவலைப்படு
fetch	go and bring	கொண்டுவா
plastered	covered	நீரில் நனைக்கப்பட்ட
earthen	clay	மண்ணால் செய்யப்பட்ட
stale	dried	காய்ந்துபோன
scriptures	holy books, divine books, puranas	வேதங்கள், புனித நூல்கள்
growling	barking	உறுமுதல், குரைத்தல்
distressed	upset, disappointed	விரக்தியடைந்த
resignation	abandonment, relinquishment of responsibility	துறத்தல்
reciting	chanting	மனப்பாடமாக ஒப்பித்தல்
upset	disappointed	விரக்தியடைதல்
cherished	enjoyed	மகிழ்வடைதல்
moist	slightly wet	ஈரமான
imprint	mark	அடையாளம், முத்திரை
clasped	held tightly	இறுக்கமாக பிடித்துக்கொள்தல்
frivolous	playful	விளையாட்டான
sagging	bulging	தளர்ந்து தொங்குகிற
warriors	soldiers	இராணுவ வீரர்கள்
persuade	cajole	திருப்திப்படுத்து
protested	opposed	எதிர்த்த
peacefully	calmly, quietly	அமைதியாக
suspect	doubt	சந்தேகி
customary	of religious, usual	பாரம்பரிய வழக்கம்
corpse	dead body	இறந்தவர் உடல், பிணம், பிரேதம்

Antonyms:

wrinkled	சுருக்கம் விழுந்த	X	smooth, unwrinkled	மென்மையான, சுருக்கமற்ற
hard	கடினமான	X	easy	இலகுவான
pretty	கவர்ச்சியான	X	ugly	அசிங்கமான, அழுக்கான
absurd	அற்பத்தனமான	X	logical	சரியான, அர்த்தமான
undignified	தரமற்ற	X	honoured, respected	மரியாதைக்குரிய
scattered	சிதறிய	X	gathered	சேகரிக்கப்பட்ட
inaudible	கேட்க இயலாத	X	audible, heard	கேட்கக் கூடிய
expanse	பரந்த	X	narrow	குறுகிய
serenity	அமைதியான, ஆழ்ந்த	X	agitation	கலவரமான
contentment	திருப்தி	X	greediness	பேராசை
monotonous	சலிப்பூட்டும்	X	interesting	ஆர்வமூட்டும்
plastered	ஈரமான	X	dried	காய்ந்த
attached	இணைக்கப்பட்ட	X	detached	பிரித்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட
taught	கற்பிக்கப்பட்ட	X	learnt	கற்றுக்கொண்டுவிட்ட
creating	உருவாக்குதல்	X	destroying	அழித்தல்
shooed	விரட்டப்பட்ட	X	pulled	இழுக்கப்பட்ட
happiest	மகிழ்ச்சியான	X	saddest	துக்கமான
upset	விரக்தி	X	happy	மகிழ்ச்சி
silently	அமைதியாக	X	noisily	மிகுந்த சத்தமாக
physical	உடல் தன்மை	X	mental	மனத்தன்மை
mild	லேசான	X	severe	கடுமையான
omitted	விடுபட்ட	X	included, agreed, accepted	சேர்க்கப்பட்ட
protested	எதிர்ப்பு காட்டுதல்	X	supported	ஒத்துழைத்தல்
ignored	கண்டுகொள்ளப்படாத	X	heeded	கவனிக்கப்பட்ட
mourning	துக்கம் கடைபிடித்தல்	X	rejoicing	மகிழ்ச்சியாக கொண்டாடுதல்
dead	இறந்த	X	alive	உயிருடன் வாழும்
cremated	எரியூட்டப்பட்ட	X	buried, interred	புதைக்கப்பட்ட
blaze	பிரகாசமான வெளிச்சம்	X	dim	வெளிச்சம் குறைந்த
wrapped	மூடப்பட்ட, உறையிட்ட	X	unwrapped, uncovered	மூடப்படாத
rebukes	கடும் சொற்கள்	X	blessings	ஆசீர்வாதம்
persuade	சாந்தப்படுத்து	X	dissuade	வெறுப்பூட்டு

Question & Answers:**1. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences based on your understanding of the story.****a. Describe the grandfather as seen in the portrait.**

The author's grandfather wore a big turban and loose fitting clothes. His long white beard covered his chest. He looked at least hundred years old.

b. Why was the author left with his grandmother in the village?

The author's parents had gone to the city in order to earn their bread. They were not settled comfortably. Hence the author was left with his grandmother in the village.

c. Where did the author study in his childhood?

During his childhood the author studied in the village school which is attached to the temple.

d. Why did the grandmother accompany the author to school?

The author's grandmother went to temple which was attached to the school. At the school hours she sat inside the temple reading the Holy Scriptures, Moreover she wanted to escort her grandson. So she accompanied the author to school.

e. What made the dogs follow the grandmother after school hours?

While going to school and returning home the grandmother carried the stale chapattis and fed the dogs. This made the dogs follow the grandmother after school hours.

f. Why didn't the grandmother feel sentimental when the author went abroad for higher education?

The author's grandmother did not feel sentimental when the author went abroad for his higher education. Because she was not even sentimental. She did not talk or show any emotion at the time of his departure. Her lips moved in prayer, her mind was lost in prayer. She bore the fact silently.

g. What was the happiest time of the day for grandmother?

The whole morning the author's grandmother was busy with her spinning wheel. In the afternoon, she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. She broke the bread into little bits and fed hundreds of little birds. This was the happiest time of the day for grandmother.

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

a. Describe the author's grandmother.

The author's grandmother had been old and wrinkled. She had always been short and fat and slightly bent. Her face was a criss-cross of wrinkles. She had been terribly old. She could never have been pretty but she was always beautiful.

b. What was the daily routine of the grandmother at home?

Grandmother woke her grandson up in the morning. She got him ready for the school. She said her morning prayers. Simultaneously she bathed and dressed her grandson. She made all the arrangements for him. She accompanied him to the school. She read the Holy Scriptures at the temple and in the evening both returned home. This was the daily routine of the grandmother.

c. How is school education in the village different from that in the city?

In the village school the author had studied alphabet and learnt to recite morning prayers. But in the city he was taught English words and western science. He also learnt the law of gravity, Archimedes' principle, the world being round etc.

d. The grandmother appreciated the value of education. Give instances in support of your answer.

While studying in the village school, the author's grandmother accompanied him to school every day. The author had studied alphabet and learnt to recite morning prayers. Being a very pious woman, the grandmother appreciated the value of education.

e. The grandmother was strong-minded. Justify.

One day the grandmother did not pray. She started to sing about the home coming warriors i.e. is her grandson. She ignored the protests of the members of the family. She had mild fever then. Others thought that she would recover. But she thought differently. She is ready to face her own death boldly. These instances showed that she was strong-minded.

f. How did the grandmother spend the last few hours of her life?

During the last few hours, the author's grandmother did not pray. She called the women of her neighbourhood and started to sing about the home-coming warriors. She had mild fever then. She knew that her end would come soon. She lied peacefully in bed praying and telling her beads. Suddenly her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers.

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

a) The grandmother played a vital role in the author's formative years. Give your own example of how elders have a positive influence on the younger generation. Include examples from the story also.

My grandmother is a great inspiration to me. She had a positive influence on me. When I did my schooling she used to narrate a lot of stories to me. Though she did not help me in my academic side, her stories had a close link with my school curriculum. Like Kushwant Singh's grandma, my grandma was too pious. My grandma inculcated morality in me through her stories in the form of narrating bed time tales. Actually she taught me a lot through her bed time stories. Sometimes she spun her own story. Later only I could realize it. She introduced to me many

Puranas. She was a secularist. She told me stories from the Holy Bible too. She cited the quotes even from the Quran. I missed her a lot when she was in deathbed. As soon as I heard of her ailment, I rushed but I was late. I was unfortunate to be by her side when she left the world. Thanks to my grandmother, I am a person of morality now.

b) As young Khushwant Singh, write a letter to your parents describing your daily routine along with your thoughts and feelings about staying in the village.

Hadali,
2nd March 2018.

Dear Dad and Mom,

Well and wish to hear the same from you. Here I am fine. Grandma is also fine. She fills my belly with her hand made-delicious chapattis. Not only that, she teaches me a lot of moral stories. She helps me even in arithmetics too. We go to school regularly in the morning. At that moment she feeds the stray dogs with stale chapattis. When I attend my school, she is praying at the temple which is beside the school. When we return home in the evening the dogs follow us. They fight with one another for the chapattis we give them. I feel very happy for being here with my sweet grandma. Take care of your health. There is no need to worry about me. I enjoy my life with my sweet grandma.

With regards,
Yours loving son,
Kushwant Singh.

Address on the envelope:

To Sir Sobha Singh,
3, Sixth Avenue,
Hadali, Kushab district,
Punjab.

c) Animals are capable of empathy. Substantiate this statement with examples from the story as well as your own experiences.

In the village, grandmother used to feed the dogs with stale chapattis both in the morning and evening. When she came to the city her life had been changed a lot. She could not move freely as in the village. She spent most of her time with her spinning wheel. During the afternoon she came to the verandah and fed the sparrows regularly. This was the happiest part of the day. The grandmother lay dead. Thousands of sparrows came there. They did not chirrup. They paid their last homage to the old lady silently. The narrator's mother threw some crumbs of bread to them. They took no notice of them. As soon as the grandmother's corpse was carried off, the sparrows flew away quietly.

The same thing happened in my life too. My uncle had a pet dog. On the sudden demise of my uncle the dog did not have any intake for another one week and it starved to death itself. When I read this story that incident came to my mind. Hence animals are capable of empathy.

Vocabulary

a) Read the following words and choose the correct antonyms from the options given:

Words	Options				Answers
moist	a. marshy	b. arid	c. slimy	d. sultry	moist x b) arid
frivolous	a. serious	b. sad	c. furious	d. happy	frivolous x a) serious
omitted	a. isolated	b. rejected	c. contracted	d. included	omitted x d) included
protest	a. promote	b. apprehend	c. accept	d. project	protest x c) accept
serenity	a. simplicity	b. anxiety	c. absurdity	d. stupidity	serenity x b) anxiety
scattered	a. sprinkled	b. multiplied	c. gathered	d. covered	scattered x c) gathered
monotonous	a. interesting	b. tiresome	c. fragrant	d. satisfying	monotonous x a) interesting

b) Fill in the blanks choosing the appropriate compound words from those given in the box.

Reeta hurried along the road, dressed in her _____1_____ new dress towards the bus stop. Before _____2_____, she had to reach the house of her _____3_____. But the first _____4_____ of her travel was slow due to traffic jam. Her _____5_____ would be regarded with joy. She was _____6_____ herself to reach the place. When she finally stepped into the _____7_____, she was received with a big hug by her kind aunt. She was in time to join the _____8_____ at the village, for a _____9_____.

singsong	overstraining	spotless	gentlefolk	grandmother
courtyard	sunset	half-hour	homecoming	

Answer: 1.spotless 2.sunset 3.grandmother 4.half-hour 5.homecoming
 6.overstraining 7.courtyard 8.gentlefolk 9.singsong.

c) Match the words in Column A with their pairs in Column B to form compound words and write them in Column C

A	B	C
mantel	lashes	mantelpiece
eye	wheel	eyelashes
water	gate	waterproof
bee	knob	beehive
toll	piece	tollgate
door	proof	doorknob
spinning	hive	spinning wheel

d) Frame meaningful sentences of your own using the following expressions from the story. Use a dictionary if required.

- i. the thought was almost revolting
My brother's thought of selling our ancestral house is revolting to me.
- ii. an expanse of pure white serenity
Prema is an expanse of pure white serenity.
- iii. a turning point
My friendship with Latha is a turning point in my life.
- iv. accepted her seclusion with resignation
My parents proposed to me to study medicine, though I did not like it. But I accepted their seclusion with resignation.
- v. frivolous rebukes
I got frivolous rebukes often from my father.

e) Prefixes and Suffixes.

Form two derivatives from each of the following words.

- e.g. honest – dishonest, honesty
- manage - management, manager
 - differ - different, difference
 - beauty - beautiful, beautician
 - peace - peaceful, peacefully
 - arrange - arrangement, disarrange
 - collect - collection, collector
 - approve - unapproved, approval
 - narrate - narrative, narration
 - class - classic, classify

f) Homophones:

Fill in the blanks with suitable homophones:

i) brake /break

- a) We have a short _____ between the sessions. **(break- இடைவேளை)**
- b) The car skidded to a halt when I applied the _____. **(brake- தடை)**

ii) waste/waist

- a) Shivani wears a belt around her _____. (waist- இடை)
 b) We should never misuse or _____ natural resources. (waste-வீணாக்குதல்)

iii) principle/principal

- a) Oxygen is the _____ element present in the earth's crust. (principal-முதன்மை)
 b) Both these machines work on the same _____. (principle-கொள்கை)

iv) bread/bred

- a) Turtles should be _____ in a healthy environment. (bred- இனப்பெருக்கம் செய்தல்)
 b) I like to have toasted _____ for breakfast. (bread-ரொட்டித்துண்டு)

v) lesson/lessen

- a) This medicine will _____ your pain. (lessen-குறைக்கும்)
 b) Finally, the manager learnt a _____ the hard way. (lesson-பாடம்)

vi) pale/pail

- a) The child looks very sick and _____. (pale -வெளுத்துப்போய்)
 b) I need a _____ of water to wash these cups. (pail - வாளி)

vii) through/threw

- a) Ravi picked the banana peel and _____ it in the dustbin. (threw -தூக்கி எறிதல்)
 b) The soldiers had to pass _____ a dark tunnel. (through - வழியாக)

viii) corps/corpse *

- a) The _____ was covered with a shroud. (corpse -சடலம்)
 b) A five-day annual training camp for the senior cadets of the National Cadet _____ has been organized. (corps - படை)

(* These words are not homophones: corpse - / kɔ:ps / கா(ஓ)ப்ஸ் corps - / kɔ: / கா(ஓ))

Listening Activity

Read the following statements and the given options. Now, listen to your teacher read aloud a passage or play it on a recorder. You may listen to it again if required, to help you choose the right options.

- i) According to Napoleon 'Good mothers make good _____.'
 a) housewives b) jobs c) nations d) ideas
- ii) Mothers exhibit _____ love.
 a) unauthorized b) unapproved c) unacceptable d) unconditional
- iii) _____ mothers care much for their children.
 a) Adapted b) Adopted c) Adoptive d) Adaptable
- iv) _____ is the most important thing in the world.
 a) Wealth b) Power b) Love d) Influence
- v) Love should be extended to _____ too.
 a) friends b) relatives c) countrymen d) creatures

Speaking Activity (Page-9)

a. Work in pairs and arrive at five points that bring out the benefits and challenges of living in either a nuclear family or a joint family. Share your views with your class.

Benefits and challenges of living in a nuclear family

- The number of members is very few in a nuclear family.
- Children are more close to the parents.
- Mother gets enough time to look after her children.
- Husband can devote more attention to the wife and children.
- Guidance of elders is absent here.

Benefits and challenges of living in a joint family.

- In Joint family system, the number of dependents living under one roof is much larger.
- The eldest male member is usually the head of the joint family.
- He is entitled to take economic and social decisions on behalf of the family.
- Every member is expected to make some financial contribution to the common fund.
- Every member should make their daily expenditure from common fund.
- Helping each other, adjustment, selflessness, sacrifice are commonly seen in the joint family.
- Children get more affection and guidance from the elders of the family.

b. Build a conversation of eight to ten sets of exchange, with your grandmother discussing the incidents that happened in your school that day.

- Grandma : Hai Vishnu, Where are you?
 Vishnu : I am here grandma.
 Grandma : You look so tired today.
 Vishnu : Just now I have returned from school.
 Grandma : Refresh yourself and Have some snacks first.
 Vishnu : Today, we planted trees in our school campus.
 Grandma : Very good. That is the need of the hour.
 Vishnu : I planted a neem tree there.
 Grandma : The tree will tell your name in future.
 Vishnu : Ok grandma, I have a lot of homework today.
 Grandma : Can I help you in doing home work?
 Vishnu : No need grandma, My friend will come now and he will help me.
 Grandma : Good. Is he an outstanding student?
 Vishnu : Yes, He is one of the toppers like me.
 Grandma : Very good. Go and get ready.

c. Every member contributes to forming a happy family. Share your views for a minute or two with your class.

Father: Father is a primarily responsible person for a happy family. He has to work for the family's welfare. He has more responsibilities in family as well as in his work. In order to bring happiness, he should have balance between work and home.

Mother: Mother is the main root of a family. She should adjust with her husband and her children to lead a happy family. She has to satisfy everyone's wish in the family. For this, every one in the family should support her.

Children: Children are the beautiful flowers in a family garden. They only bring happiness to the family. The discipline of the children can make the family proud. At times Children may be reluctant to follow instructions, when their parents command them. Then Parents should be a role model to them.

Grand parents: Grandparents are the respectable persons in a family. In times of facing problems, their experience and guidance will help us to run our family smoothly. We should not ignore their knowledge and experience for the welfare of a happy family.

Friends & Relatives: Friends & Relatives are essential for a happy family. We live in a society. We always depend on the society for our all needs. Friends and relatives too contribute their support at the time of functions, festivals and also sad happenings in a family. They are inevitable.

Answer the following (Page No 10).

a. How does laughter help one to cope with stress?

Laughter provides full-scale support for your muscles and unleashes a rush of stress busting endorphins.

b. Which word in the text (para 2) means the same as ‘dedicated’?

The word “committed” means the same as dedicated.

c. Why do you think voluntary laughter provides the same physiological as well as psychological benefits as spontaneous laughter?

It is believed by everyone that laughter yoga is the best substitute for every medicine. Madan Kataria wrote the benefits of laughing in his book “Laugh for no reason”. Purely it is the belief of everyone.

d. ‘Laughter is the best medicine’. Explain.

Other physical exercises should be done with proper stretch of body. They should be practised systematically whereas laughing is done easily without any stress and strain. It cures all the diseases and ailments. Hence laughter is the best medicine.

e. Given below is a set of activities. Which of these are followed in the 'Laughter Yoga' technique?

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| ◆ sitting on the ground with legs crossed | ◆ body movements |
| ◆ clapping | ◆ closed eyes |
| ◆ breathing exercises | ◆ chanting |
| ◆ stretching of arms and legs | ◆ bending backwards |
| ◆ running/jogging | ◆ eye contact |

Body movements, clapping, chanting, eye contact are followed in the “Laughter Yoga technique”.

f. ‘Laughter therapy also plays a crucial role in social bonding’. How?

Laughter Yoga is a practice involving people in groups. When they gather for this yoga, they become cordial with one another. Naturally it develops the social bonding. They understand each other. They gather for one common aim. They are happy and can improve their interpersonal skills.

Articles and Determiners

a. Read the paragraph below and fill in the blanks using ‘a, an,’ or ‘the’.

It is said that __1__ computer is __2__ electronic extension of the human brain. Therefore, in principle, __3__ computer can do all those activities which __4__ human brain can do. Today computers are found to be __5__ most useful devices as knowledge providers. Another important field of application of computers is __6__ development of robots. __7__ internet has brought __8__ drastic change in communication systems.

1.a 2. an 3.the 4. the 5.the 6.the 7.The 8.a

b. In the following paragraph, insert ‘a, an,’ or ‘the’ wherever necessary and rewrite the sentences.

In our family, we have planned to take children to __1__ zoo next Sunday. __2__ Van has been arranged and we are sure to have __3__ comfortable journey. Zoo is __4__ interesting place for __5__ children who enjoy watching animals and want to know more about them. Even __6__ youngsters love to visit __7__ zoo.

1. the 2. A 3. a 4. an 5. the 6. the 7. the

c. Fill in the blanks with appropriate determiners. (Articles have been included)

Once the emperor gave a bag of seeds to his council of ministers and said that he would give them six months' time to grow the seeds. Whoever does a good job will be made the 1 emperor of that empire. 2 of the ministers took their task seriously. After six months 3 ministers had small plants in their pots. A 4 had very large plants. 5 had medium sized plants. The emperor entered the hall. He was 6 amused to see 7 plants. He called the 8 minister and asked him what he did with the seed. 9 minister explained the process he adopted to make 10 plant grow. The emperor called 11 other ministers to explain what they did. Only 12 minister had come with an empty pot. They laughed loudly at the foolishness of this minister. But the Emperor applauded him and made him the 13 Emperor. Do you know why? He had given them boiled seeds which will not grow. Only 14 minister was honest.

1. next 2. Many 3. some 4. few 5. Some 6. much 7. the
8. first 9. That 10. the 11. the 12. one 13. next 14. that

d. Fill in the blanks with appropriate determiners.

- i. They came early but there was _____ (little/ a little) work to do.
- ii. Anand invited _____ (few/ a few) friends for the birthday party.
- iii. The teacher gave _____ (all /every) student a separate topic for the assignment.
- iv. _____ (Most of/Many) the water overflowed from the tank.
- v. Each one of my _____ (friend/friends) wished me on my birthday.
- vi. Vijay had _____ (no/ any) idea about the problem.
- vii. Adhi had taken _____ (much /many) photos during the programme.
- viii. _____ (Some/Few) girls who attended the class informed the others about the tests.

Tenses**a. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets and read the completed passage aloud.**

The people of India, as a whole, _____ (1) _____ (be) warm-hearted and hospitable. Any calamity in any part of the world immediately _____ (2) _____ (arouse) their charity and generosity and a committee _____ (3) _____ (be) promptly _____ (4) _____ (set) up to collect funds to help the distressed. The most endearing quality in them _____ (5) _____ (be) the respect they show for the work done in any capacity. They _____ (6) _____ (believe) in what we _____ (7) _____ (call) the dignity of labour.

1. are 2. arouses 3. is 4. set 5. is 6. believe 7. call

b. Now, use the verbs given in brackets in the following sentences in their correct forms.

1. I (like) to spend time with my friend, whenever I (be) free.
2. He (be) likely to miss the train. He (run) up to the station.
3. At the moment they (wait) at the bus stop. But I (not know) their plans for the journey.
4. They firmly (believe) in the existence of God.
5. We (hear) a lot of noise because the new buildings (transmit) sound vacant.
6. She always (make) excuses for coming late.
7. The Prime Minister (leave) for America to meet the delegates tomorrow.

1. like, am 2. is, runs 3. are waiting, do not know 4. believe
5. hear, transmit 6. makes 7. leaves

c. You are a commentator for a 5000 metre running race. Use simple present and present continuous tenses and complete the commentary from the beginning to the end of the race. Read the completed passage aloud.

The 5000 metre race is about to begin. Lined up at the starting point, from left to right, are John of Great Britain, Peter of Nigeria and Jeeva of India. The runners are warming up for the great event. Now they 1 _____ (take) their positions on the track. They 2 _____ (be) all ready for the start. There 3 _____ (go) the starter's gun! Yes, the race has begun. John 4 _____ (lead) with Jeeva 5 _____ (close) behind him.

1. are taking 2. are 3. goes 4. is leading 5. closing / close

d. Read the extract from Kayal's diary entry regarding her Nepal Trek, and fill in the blanks with the correct tense form of the verbs given in brackets.

DAY 1: We 1 (leave) Anna International Airport in Chennai two days ago catching a direct flight to Kathmandu in Nepal. We 2 (spend) a day sightseeing. Kathmandu is full of people, rickshaws and the smell of sandalwood. I've never 3 (be) on a trip like this before. So I'm really excited.

DAY 2: It 4 (rain) when we reached Pokhara, Nepal's second largest city, and saw the snowy peaks of the Himalayas for the first time. We 5 (reach) Pokhara after a hair-raising six-hour bus journey along very narrow roads with a lot of hairpin bends. The bus 6 (be) so full that one person had to share the driver's seat.

DAY 3: We 7 (begin) our trek at last. We are at about 900 metres and the weather is warm and humid. For lunch we had chips and yak cheese sandwiches. I didn't like them very much. I'm thrilled that we 8 (pitch) tents for our camps in the dense forests.

DAY 4: Yesterday a landslide 9 (block) our path and we had to use ropes to get over it. This morning we walked along the river Kali Gandaki through dense forests of oak trees and we pitched our camp at Tukuhe below the Annapurna mountain range. The main danger in addition to landslides, is 'yak attack'. Yaks 10 (be) not dangerous but you have to be careful if you meet a herd of them because they can push you off the sides of the mountain.

DAY 5: We met a lot of children on our trek through the villages. They 11 (play) in the pool of muddy rain water as we left the place. We have already climbed 2,400 metres. Up here, it never 12 (rain) and there are no trees. It 13 (be) windy and dusty and I am always thirsty.

DAY 6: Yesterday we 14 (go) up to the mountainside of the township of Mukthinath, at 3,600 metres. The thin air with less oxygen there 15 (leave) us breathless. We 16 (feel) that we couldn't go any further. We 17 (drink) a lot of extra fluids to prevent altitude sickness.

DAY 7: We turned around today and started to descend to Jomosom. As we went down, the oxygen filled our blood again and we seemed to 18 (fly) instead of walking.

DAY 8: We went back to Pokhara in a small plane yesterday. It 19 (excite) when we flew between the mountain peaks. We arrived in Kathmandu this afternoon and we 20 (spend) our last few hours in shopping. We leave for Chennai tomorrow. We've had a trip of a lifetime.

1. left 2. spent 3. been 4. was raining 5. reached 6. was 7. began 8. pitched
9. blocked 10. are 11. were playing 12. rains 13. is 14. went 15. left
16. felt 17. drank 18. fly 19. was exciting 20. spent

e. In the following passage, circle the verbs in simple present tense and underline the verbs in simple past. The first one has been done for you.

- i) Unless one is upright there is no use in being a charming fellow. Sometimes it is better to be honest than attractive. These are the great truths of modern life which Shyam never realised. He never said an ill-natured word in his life. He was always polite and spoke softly to everybody.
- ii) That night he strolled into the Palette Club about eleven o'clock, and found Trevor sitting by himself in the long room. "Well, Alan, did you get the picture finished all right?" he said, as he lit his cigarette. "Finished and framed, my boy!" answered Trevor, "and by-the-bye, you have made a conquest. That old model you saw is quite devoted to you. I had to tell him all about you – who you are, where you live, what your income is, what prospects you have."
- iii) "And now tell me how Laura is. The old model was quite interested in her." "You don't mean to say you talked to him about her?" said Hughie. "Certainly I did. He knows all about the relentless colonel, the lovely Laura, and the £10,000." "You told that old beggar all my private affairs?" cried Hughie, looking very red and angry. "My dear Alan," cried Hughie, "I shall probably find him waiting for me when I go home."

f. Fill in the blanks using Past tense forms of the verbs:

- i. I _____ never _____ (see) such a beautiful sunrise before I came here.
- ii. We were not able to stay overnight as we _____ not _____ (reserve) the tickets in advance.
- iii. Nirmala _____ (be) to the concert several times.
- iv. Mariappan knew Pudukottai so well because he _____ (live) there for five years.
- v. Yusuf understood the problem because he _____ (experience) the situation earlier.
- vi. Catherine did not have any cash because she _____ (lose) her purse.
- vii. My father _____ (be) to Mumbai once before.
- viii. The cat _____ (chase) the bird before it flew out of the yard.
- ix. Edith _____ (visit) several doctors before she found out what the problem was with her knee.
- x. If we _____ (call) the manager ahead, we would not have needed to wait so long for a table.

**i. had, seen ii. had, reserved iii. had been iv. had lived v. had experienced vi. had lost
vii. had been viii. had chased ix. had visited x. had called**

g. Read the following news report and underline the past perfect tense form of the verb and circle the simple past tense form of the verb.**INDIA BEAT PAKISTAN TO WIN - BLIND CRICKET WORLD CUP**

Chasing a huge target of 308 runs, India romped home in the penultimate over of the match to defeat Pakistan and win the Blind Cricket World Cup. India started off their chase in a cracking manner, but had lost two quick wickets. Sunil Ramesh rose to the occasion as he played a great knock to help India beat Pakistan and had scored 93 runs. Earlier India won the toss and had decided to bowl first. Pakistan amassed a huge score of 307 for eight in 40 overs. Their openers had given them a brisk start which the later batsmen capitalized on.

h. Read the following extract and fill in the spaces with the right form of verbs and complete the passage.**The first one is done for you.**

- (i) The poet stops to hear the maiden singing while she ___1___ (cut) and ___2___ (bind) the grain. The song of the lady ___3___ (fascinate) the poet, who ___4___ (stand) there to listen to the song. The girl ___5___ (sing) a sad song.

1. was cutting 2. binding 3. fascinated 4. stood 5. sang

- (ii) During the monsoon, a tender slightly warm breeze ___1___ (blow) on a cloudless afternoon. A sort of fragrance ___2___ (rise) from the wet grass and trees in the sunlight. It ___3___ (seem) as if the warm breath of the exhausted earth ___4___ (fall) against one's skin. A sweet-voiced bird somewhere ___5___ (chirp) repeatedly.

1. was blowing 2. rose 3. seemed 4. was falling 5. was chirping

i. Read the news item that appeared in a daily and fill in the blanks with suitable forms of the verbs given in brackets.

Ever since social networking sites entered our lives, they ___1___ (serve) as platforms where users could use the virtual space offered by these social media. However, recent incidents ___2___ (cause) many to question the freedom to express views on various issues and in some cases, it ___3___ (become) a dangerous platform. Social Contact ___4___ (transform) people. They ___5___ (develop) an addiction to it.

1. have served 2. have caused 3. has become 4. has transformed 5. have developed

j. Read the following passage and correct the errors you come across.

1. Rajan slowly settle down in his retired life. His pension plus what his wife bring from the household work she does helped them to meet their requirements. Life is easy until one Sunday. His granddaughter Madhu come crying. The clay doll in her hand had broken into two. Rajan pacify her and promise to mend it. This small repair work become the founding stone of a very prosperous venture into making clay dolls which earn him great respect.

Answer: Rajan slowly settled down in his retired life. His pension plus what his wife brought from the household work she had helped them to meet their requirements. Life is easy until one Sunday. His granddaughter Madhu came crying. The clay doll in her hand had broken into two. Rajan pacified her and promised to mend it. This small repair work became the founding stone of a very prosperous venture into making clay dolls which earned him great respect.

2. Games and sports helps in recreation. Soccer, cricket, lawn tennis or wrestling is eagerly watched by millions of fans all over a world. It helps one got a temporary relief from the tensions of a day. The dedication displayed by all player in the field indicates the mental and spiritual development of the player.

Answer: Games and sports help in recreation. Soccer, cricket, lawn tennis or wrestling are eagerly watched by millions of fans all over the world. It helps one get a temporary relief from the tensions of a day. The dedication displayed by all the players in the field indicate the mental and spiritual development of the player.

WRITING

- i. Prepare a notice to be displayed on the notice board of your school for the students of class 11, informing them about the educational tour that has been arranged for them the next month. (TB-17)

NOTICE

ABC HR. SEC.SCHOOL, TRICHY 4.
EDUCATIONAL TOUR

1STDecember 2018

This is to inform class 11 students that an educational tour has been arranged to Mahabalipuram and Puducherry on 2nd January. Interested students can contact the undersigned for further details.

(Sd/-)

Anjana

School Pupil Leader.

- ii. Write a notice about the inauguration of a laughter club in your school.

NOTICE

St. Joesph's HSS, Kanyakumari.

5th July, 2018

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

We are glad to inform all the students that a laughter club is going to be inaugurated by our management on 13thJuly.

Venue: PETERS AUDITORIUM

Time: 3.00 PM

(Sd/-)

Sanjana

School Pupil Leader

ALL ARE WELCOME

Example given in the Text Book:

NOTICE

Government Hr. Sec. School, Minjur

1st February 2018

Workshop on Precis Writing

This is to inform all the students of Class XI and XII that a workshop on Precis Writing, will be held at 9.00 a.m. on 2nd February 2018 (Friday), in the school auditorium. It is mandatory for all the students to attend the workshop. For any type of query, please contact the under-signed

(Sd/-)

Evangeline

(Head-girl)

b. Message

Valli attends a phone call during her father's absence. It is from her father's friend. Later, she leaves a message for him, as she has to leave for her dance class. (Example given in Text Book)

2 p.m. 15 Feb.
Hi dad, Your friend Mr. Bala, from Salem, called this morning, to inform you that he has come to Chennai and will be visiting us this evening with his family.
Valli

You are the Sports Captain of your school. Write a message to the Physical Director, requesting him to be present during the football team selection scheduled for tomorrow.

2 p.m. 15 Feb.
Respected sir, Our school football team selection is scheduled for tomorrow. Please be present at 11 a.m. at the Sports Room.
Xxx Sports Captain

c. Do you exercise regularly? If you do, which of these following activities do you prefer? Discuss and share with your partner a few lines about your preference.

- a) walking b) working out in a gym c) swimming d) cycling

I prefer walking. It is economical. It is pollution free. We never depend upon any machines and electricity for walking. Especially early morning walking gives us more freshness to the whole day.

Task : You are Mani/Megalai of Class XI, President of the English Club of your school. Draft a speech on the topic 'Reading Maketh a Complete Man' to be delivered in the school assembly.

Good morning everyone! Respected Principal, teachers and friends; I am Mani/Megalai of Class XI and I stand before you to share a few thoughts on 'Reading Maketh a Complete Man'.

Reading is an essential basic skill-building activity. One's language fluency is determined by the quality of reading. Besides, vocabulary enrichment, ideas collection, familiarization with different types of writing formats, speaking fluency, etc, all depend upon reading. In all cultures and civilizations, much stress is laid on reading. Schools, colleges, and other academic institutes use reading as a major tool in imparting education to students. It is true that a person who has the reading habit, never feels lonely and bored. The books open up a magical world for him or her and he or she lives among angels in the pages of the books. Books never let the readers go astray. They make them wise and pragmatic. We must endeavour to develop the habit of reading.

I wish to thank you all for having given me the opportunity to speak on the importance of Reading. Let us pledge to read more and more in our life.

Study Skill questions:**1. Name the skills you would be able to acquire while Reading.**

- Intensive and extensive reading
- Grasping meaning from the contexts
- Expressing what you have understood, in appropriate words.

2. What is skimming?

Skimming is the fastest reading speed and is generally used for getting an overall idea of the material read. Scanning is another useful tool for speeding up reading.

3. What is Scanning?

While scanning, you look for specific information without reading everything.

4. What is Decoding?

Decoding is the process by which graphic representations such as tables and graphs are interpreted. The data are made meaningful to the readers.

5. What is Encoding?

Encoding is the process by which data (facts, figures) are presented in a non-verbal form. (i.e. as tables, graphs)

6. What is a prefix?

A prefix is a letter or a group of letters which is added to the beginning of a root word in order to modify it. Usually, the new word formed is the opposite of the given word.

7. What is a suffix?

A suffix is a letter or a group of letters added to the end of a root word. Some suffixes change the grammatical function of the word.

8. What are derivatives?

Words that are derived or formed from the base word by adding prefixes and suffixes are called **derivatives**.

9. What are Determiners?

Determiners are words placed in front of a noun to clarify what the noun refers to.

10. What are Tenses?

Tenses of verbs are used to express time. They indicate the time and state of the action.

11. What are the tips to be followed while writing notice?



- Enclose in a box
- Do not exceed 50 words.
- Be brief,
- Include details of event/ Programme.
- Avoid pronouns.
- Use passive form.

12. What is a message?

A message is a verbal, written, or recorded communication sent to or left for a recipient who cannot be contacted directly.

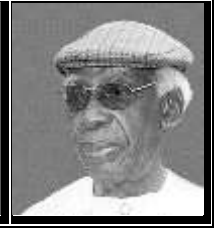
13. What is the format for drafting a speech?**Format**

- Analyse the topic and be clear about the purpose of the speech.
- Gather enough material.
- Construct an outline. Don't forget to greet and thank the audience.
- Add supporting details.
- Think of an effective opening.
- Sum up your points in your conclusion.
- Write your speech and edit it

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Poem – 1
ONCE UPON A TIME
 (முன்னொரு காலத்தில்...)
 Gabriel Okara



<p>Once upon a time, son They used to laugh with their hearts And laugh with their eyes: But now they only laugh with their teeth While their ice-block-cold eyes Search behind my shadow.</p>	<p>முன்னொரு காலத்தில் மகனே, அவர்கள் வழக்கமாக இதயபூர்வமாக சிரிப்பார்கள் வெகுளியான கண்களால் சிரிப்பார்கள் - ஆனால் இப்பொழுது அவர்கள் பற்களால் போலியாகச் சிரிக்கிறார்கள். அதே சமயம் அவர்களுடைய உணர்வு இல்லாத கண்கள் எனது நிழலுக்குப் பின்னால் எதையோ தேடுகின்றன.</p>
<p>There was a time indeed They used to shake hands with their hearts But that's gone, son Now they shake hands without hearts While their left hands search My empty pockets.</p>	<p>அப்படி ஒரு காலம் உண்மையாகவே இருந்தது. அவர்கள் வழக்கமாக இதயப்பூர்வமாக கைகுலுக்குவார்கள். ஆனால் அது போய்விட்டது, மகனே - அவர்கள் இப்பொழுது இதயபூர்வமாக இல்லாமல் கைகுலுக்குகிறார்கள் அவர்களது இடது கையோ தேடுகிறது. எனது காலியான சட்டைப்பைகளை</p>
<p>“Feel at home!”, “Come again”: They say, and when I come Again and feel At home, once, twice There will be no thrice – For then I find doors shut on me.</p>	<p>“சொந்த வீடுபோல் நினைத்துக்கொள்”, “மீண்டும் வா.” என்று அவர்கள் கூறுகிறார்கள், நான் மீண்டும் வரும்போது மீண்டும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது சொந்த வீடுபோல் நினைத்துக்கொள் என, ஒரு முறை இரண்டு முறை. ஆனால் மூன்றாம் முறை சொல்லமாட்டார்கள். அதன் பிறகு எனக்கான கதவுகள் மூடப்படுவதையே பார்க்கிறேன்.</p>
<p>So I have learnt many things, son I have learned to wear many faces Like dresses – home face Office face, street face, host face Cocktail face, with all their conforming smiles Like a fixed portrait smile.</p>	<p>ஆகவே நான் பல விசயங்களை கற்றிருக்கிறேன், மகனே நான் பல முகங்களை அணிந்து கொள்ளக் கற்றிருக்கிறேன். உடைகள் மாற்றுவது போலவே, - வீட்டு முகம், அலுவலக முகம், தெரு முகம், விருந்தளிப்பவர் முகம், அனைத்தும் கலந்த முகம், அனைத்திலும் சிரித்த முகம் நிலையான ஒரு ஓவியத்தின் புன்னகை போல</p>
<p>And I have learned too To laugh with only my teeth And shake hands without my heart I have also learned to say “Goodbye” When I mean “Good-riddance”: To say “Glad to meet you” Without being glad; and to say “It’s been Nice talking to you”, after being bored.</p>	<p>நானும் கூட கற்றிருக்கிறேன், போலியாக பற்களால் மட்டும் சிரிப்பதற்கு இதயபூர்வமாக இல்லாமல் கைகளை குலுக்குவதற்கு நானும் கற்றிருக்கிறேன். “குட் பை” என்று சொல்வதற்கு அதற்கு நான்கொள்ளும் பொருள் “நல்ல நிம்மதி” “உங்களை சந்திப்பதில் மகிழ்ச்சி” என்று சொல்வதற்கு மகிழ்ச்சியே இல்லாமல் “உங்களிடம் பேசியது நன்றாக இருந்தது” என்று சலிப்படைந்தபின் சொல்வதற்கு (கற்றிருக்கிறேன்)</p>
<p>But believe me, son. I want to be what I used to be When I was like you. I want to unlearn all these muting things. Most of all, I want to relearn how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror shows only my teeth like a snake’s bare fangs!</p>	<p>ஆனால் என்னை நம்பு, மகனே, நான் எப்படி இருக்கிறேனோ, அதுபோலவே இருக்க விரும்பினேன் நான் உன்னைப் போல் இருக்கும்பொழுது, இத்தகைய மறைக்கும் விசயங்களை கல்லாமல் இருப்பதற்கு மற்றவர்களுக்காக நான் மீண்டும் கற்க விரும்பினேன் எப்படிச் சிரிப்பது கண்ணாடியில் என் சிரிப்பைக் காண பற்களை மட்டும் காட்டி பாம்பின் கொடிய விஷப் பல் போல</p>
<p>So show me, son, how to laugh; show me how I used to laugh and smile once upon a time when I was like you.</p>	<p>ஆகையால் எனக்குக் காண்பி, மகனே எப்படிச் சிரிப்பது, எப்படி என்று எனக்குக் காண்பி, நான் வழக்கமாகச் சிரிப்பதற்கும் புன்னகைப்பதற்கும்.. ஒரு காலத்தில் நான் உன்னைப் போல்தான் இருந்தேன்.</p>

Answers for Warm Up:**a. Guess what friendly words of two gentlemen exchange when shaking hands.**

- A. Hi, friend very glad to meet you
 B. Hai I am glad too.
 A. Very much memorable moment this is!
 B. Yeah I agree with you.

b. The children in the picture are watching an exciting sporting event their school team is winning. Suggest suitable utterances reflecting their feelings:

- Hurrah! Our team has won the match
 Hey! We are the winners
 Ooooooo! Our team deserves the winning

c. Given a chance, any adult would wish to become a child again for many reasons. Fill the boxes with some of what you imagine could be the reasons.

e.g. I need not worry about project deadlines.	I will be forgiven for simple mistakes.	I can play without worries.	I can joyfully fight with my siblings.
I can wear my pajamas the whole day.	I will have stress-free life.	I don't have responsibilities except my studies.	I can enjoy the school life with my friends.
I can sleep as long as I like.	I am being fondled by my grandparents.	I can easily climb the trees and pluck the fruits.	I can have more friends.

Appreciation Questions: Page 23**1. Based on your understanding of the poem answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.****i. What do you associate with the title of the poem?**

The title clearly **indicates about the past**. I associate that **a fairytale may be in a poetic form**. Here '*Once upon a Time*' suggests how people were once. It is far from what is being witnessed in the society now.

ii. What is the relationship between the narrator and the listener?

The relationship between the narrator and the listener is **father and son**.

iii. What happens to the poet when he visits someone for the third time?

When the poet visits someone for the third time, **they will get fed up and slam the doors shut**. In other words they won't allow him to come into their house.

iv. Pick out the expressions that indicate conflicting ideas.

The expressions that indicate conflicting ideas are "laugh with their hearts and laugh with their eyes", and "laugh with their teeth". Laughing with one's heart and eyes reveal real gladness. But laughing with one's teeth reveals one's external showy love.

v. How does the poet compare his face with dresses?

The poet learnt how to change faces in different situations. Like changing dresses, he is forced to wear facial expressions.

vi. What does the poet mean when he says 'good bye'?

The poet has been able to change with the society. He has learnt learnt to say 'good bye' in an unnatural way.

vii. What pleasantries does the poet use to fake cordiality?

In the first line of the third stanza "Feel at home!", "Come again" the poet uses fake cordiality. People welcome the guests for two times but the third time they will treat the guests differently.

viii. What does he desire to relearn and unlearn?

The poet desires to learn how to say goodbye in a nice way. He desires to unlearn all the bad habits he has picked up over the years.

ix. How is the poet's laugh reflected in the mirror?

The poet's laugh reflected in the mirror is like a snake's bare teeth.

x. What does the poet long for?

The poet longs for child-like innocence.

xi. Mention the qualities the child in the poem symbolizes.

Innocence and ignorance are the qualities of the child in the poem symbolizes.

Book Back Questions (Page 24):**2. Fill in the blanks choosing the words from the box given and complete the summary of the poem:**

The poet Okara in this narrative monologue painfully condemns the __ (a) __ displayed by adults, both in their words and actions. Here, a father laments to his son about the negative changes that creep into the attitude and behaviour of humans, when they grow into __ (b) __. He says that people used to be __ (c) __ when they laugh and the honesty would be reflected in their eyes. But, people of modern times laugh __ (d) __. Their handshakes used to be warm and happy conveying a sense of togetherness, but nowadays the handshakes have become a mere __ (e) __. He warns his son that people are not trust-worthy and have become so selfish that they are concerned only about their own __ (f) __ benefits. People utter words of welcome and exchange __ (g) __, but those words come only from the tip of their tongues and not from the depth of their hearts. Humans have learnt the art of changing their __ (h) __ expressions according to situations merely to ensure social acceptance. They wear __ (i) __ and exhibit multiple faces. The narrator admits that he has also changed into a hypocrite. However, he tells his son that though he __ (j) __ his expressions, he does all these against his will. He says he wants to become a __ (k) __ again and laugh genuinely. He wants to __ (l) __ the unreal things and __ (m) __ how to laugh as he had done once upon a time. When he laughs before the __ (n) __, he sees no expression. His teeth are bare like that of the __ (o) __ of a snake. So, he asks his son to show him how to laugh the way he used to laugh, when he was a kid like him.

a) duplicity b) adults c) genuine d) superficially e) fakes f) personal g) pleasantries
h) facial i) falsity j) masks k) child l) unlearn m) relearn n) mirror o) fangs

3A. Interpret each of the following expressions used in the poem, in one or two lines:**i. Laugh with their eyes**

The poet means once the people laugh whole heartedly.

ii. Shake hands without hearts

The poet means nowadays people shake their hands without any involvement. They shake just for formality.

iii. Like a fixed portrait smile

Just like people keep changing dresses to suit different occasions, the poet has learnt to behave differently in different situations

iv. Hands search my empty pockets

Nowadays people introduce themselves without any involvement and they estimate other's value.

v. To unlearn all these muting things

The poet wants to get rid of this false laugh showing only the teeth.

3B. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow:

- i. *'But now they only laugh with their teeth,
While their ice-block -cold eyes...'*

a) Who are 'they'?

They are people of modern days.

b) Explain: ice-block-cold eyes.

The expression 'ice-block-cold eyes' refers to eyes without any warmth of feeling.

c) Identify the figure of speech used here.

Metaphor

ii. Most of all, I want to relearn

How to laugh, for my life in the mirror

Shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!

a) Why does the poet want to relearn how to laugh?

The poet wants to show his real feelings. Hence he wants to relearn how to laugh.

b) Whom does the poet want to relearn from?

The poet wants to relearn from his son.

c) Mention the figure of speech used here.

like a snake's bare fangs - Simile

ADDITIONAL APPRECIATION QUESTIONS:

1. Once upon a time, son,

they used to laugh with their hearts

and laugh with their eyes:

but now they only laugh with their teeth,

while their ice-block-cold eyes

search behind my shadow.

a) What does the poet convey through the oft-repeated phrase, 'once upon a time?'

Here 'Once upon a Time' suggests how people behaved in the past. Maybe the poet thinks that expecting sincerity in people's actions is like a fairy tale, which is not real.

b) Whom is the poet talking to?

The poet is talking to his son.

c) What does the poet mean by "laugh with their hearts" and "laugh with their teeth?"

Laughing with one's heart reveals real gladness while laughing with one's teeth reveals one's external showy love.

d) What are 'they' searching behind the poet's shadow?

Search behind one's shadow means that people have a habit of accepting shadows rather than accepting real people.

e) What do you understand by 'laughing with teeth?'

Laughter or smile is the outcome of happiness. When we pretend to be happy, then we smile by showing our teeth by opening the mouth as wide as possible.

f) How is laughing with heart different from that with teeth?

Laughing with heart is the genuine expression of happiness and harmony. On the other hand, laughing with teeth is fake.

g) What does 'ice-block-cold eyes' suggest?

'Ice-block-cold eyes' refers to people's insensitivity and lack of gentle emotions to fellow beings in the society.

h) Why does the poet address the poem to his son?

The poet is sad that he belongs to a fake society, fake expressions and smile. He doesn't want his son to have this hollowness of the society. So he addresses his poem to his son.

i) What is the poet's emotion when he says, 'Once upon a time, son, they used to laugh with their hearts?'

The poet is sad and helpless. He feels nostalgic about the lost charm of the society, once upon a time.

2. *There was a time indeed
they used to shake hands with their hearts:
but that's gone, son.
Now they shake hands without hearts
while their left hands search
my empty pockets.*

a) How do people shake hands without hearts?

People express fake intimacy with people they don't like. They shake hands without hearts.

b) What do people's left hands do while their right hands shake hands with people?

While shaking hands with their right hands, people send their left hands into their friends' pockets. It means friendship and intimacy is all for selfish motives.

3. *'Feel at home!' 'Come again':*

*They say, and when I come
Again and feel
At home, once, twice,
There will be no thrice-
For then I find doors shut on me.*

a) Why do people invite repeatedly?

People repeatedly invite their friends but they don't expect them to accept the invitations. They invite without any sincerity.

b) Why is there no 'third time' for the poet to feel at his host's home?

When the poet visits someone for the third time, the host will get fed up and slam the doors shut. The host won't allow the author to come into his house.

4. *So I have learned many things, son.
I have learned to wear many faces
like dresses – home face,
office face, street face, host face,
cocktail face, with all their conforming smiles
like a fixed portrait smile.*

a) What has the poet learnt about faces?

The poet has learnt how to change faces according to different situations.

b) Why is the poet forced to wear faces?

The poet is forced to wear faces because many people wear smiles like dresses and none is sincere and honest.

5. *And I have learned too
to laugh with only my teeth
and shake hands without my heart.
I have also learned to say, 'Goodbye',
when I mean 'Good-riddance':
to say 'Glad to meet you',
without being glad; and to say 'It's been
nice talking to you', after being bored.*

a) Do you think that the poet has been able to change with the society? Give an example.

Yes, I think that the poet has been able to change with the society. He has learnt to laugh artificially and learnt to say hello in an unnatural way.

b) What do you mean by ‘good riddance’?

It is an expression of relief at being free of any unwanted person,

c) Mention the poetic device employed here. Explain with an example.

The poet used Oxymoron here. It is known from the line “It’s been nice talking to you’ after being bored.

6. *But believe me, son.*

I want to be what I used to be

when I was like you. I want

to unlearn all these muting things.

Most of all, I want to relearn

how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror

shows only my teeth like a snake’s bare fangs!

a) What is the poet asking his son to teach him? Why?

The poet is asking his son to teach how to behave as a young boy. The poet is getting tired of all the artificial and unnatural attitude of people.

b) Which muting things is the poet referring to?

Laughing unnaturally and shaking hands inwardly with contempt and hatred but outwardly with a fake smile are the muting things the poet is referring to.

c) What made the poet’s teeth look in the mirror like those of a snake?

The artificial smile of the poet made his teeth look in the mirror like those of a snake.

7. *So show me, son,*

how to laugh; show me how

I used to laugh and smile

once upon a time when I was like you.

a) Who is the speaker here?

The poet is the speaker here.

b) What does the poet ask his son to show?

The poet asks his son to show how to laugh and smile.

c) What is the figure of speech employed in the last line?

when I was like you - Simile

d) What is the message conveyed in these last lines?

The poet wants the younger generation to behave naturally and sincerely.

Book Back Questions (Text page 24):**3C. Explain the following lines with reference to the context:**

i. *Once upon a time, son*

They used to laugh with their hearts

Context:

The above lines are taken from the poem “Once upon a Time” written by Gabriel Okara, a Nigerian poet.

Explanation:

The poem is a father’s address to his son., where the father wants to learn from his son how to go back to normality and no longer fake. The poem starts by the father telling his son how the people used to laugh with their hearts in olden times.

Comment:

This description in the poem gives the impression of genuine emotion given off by the people in the past

ii. *There will be no thrice***Context:**

The above lines are taken from the poem “Once upon a Time” written by Gabriel Okara, a Nigerian poet.

Explanation:

In the first line of the third stanza “Feel at home!”, “Come again” the poet uses fake cordiality. People welcome the guests for two times but the third time they will treat differently.

Comment: Their falseness is reflected in the language they use.

iii. *I have learned to wear my faces*

Like dresses.....

Context:

The above lines are taken from the poem “Once upon a Time” written by Gabriel Okara, a Nigerian poet.

Explanation:

The poet presents the adaptations and solutions that the man has found to counter the problems. He tells of the false personalities or of his ‘many faces’. He says that he has an ‘office-face, street-face, and host-face, proving that he acts differently under different circumstances. He then adds that they have, ‘conforming smiles, like a fixed portrait’.

Comment: This suggests, even more, falseness and changes.

iv. *I want to be what I used to be***Context:**

The above lines are taken from the poem “Once upon a Time” written by Gabriel Okara, a Nigerian poet.

Explanation:

The poet tells his son that he wants to go back to his childhood. He wants to get back his lost identity. He expresses a desire to unlearn whatever he has forced himself to learn.

Comment:

He asks his son to help him be happy once again and acquire the childlike innocence he once possessed as a child.

ADDITIONAL ERCS:**Stanza 1**

Once upon a time, son

They used to laugh with their eyes:

But now they only laugh with their teeth,

While their ice-block-cold eyes

Search behind my shadow.

Context:

The above lines are from the poem “Once upon a Time” written by “Gabriel Okara”, a Nigerian Poet.

Explanation

Here ‘Once upon a Time’ suggests how people behaved in the past. ‘Once upon a Time’ is a phrase used in ‘fairy tales’. Maybe the poet thinks that expecting sincerity in people’s actions is like a fairy tale, which is not real. In the past people were honest, sincere in their dealings with one another. But now the laugh does not express any real happiness. People laugh showing their teeth. “Ice-block-cold eyes” refers to absence of any real feeling. The idiom “to be under somebody’s shadow” means to receive less attention than another person. Here the poet means that while greeting each other people don’t have any real love or attraction.

Comment: These lines give the impression of genuine emotion given off by the people.

Stanza 2

*There was a time indeed
They used to shake hands with their hearts:
But that's gone, son.
Now they shake hands without hearts:
While their left hands search
My empty pockets.*

Context:

The above lines are from the poem "Once upon a Time" written by "Gaberiel Okara", a Nigerian Poet.

Explanation

The poet uses the words 'hearts' and 'faces' to refer to emotion. He says that people in the past showed emotions on their faces coming from the heart when shaking hands or when laughing. It is true that we can see the emotion in one's eyes.

Comment:

These lines give the impression of genuine emotion given off by the people in the past.

Stanza 3

*'Feel at home!' 'Come again':
They say, and when I come
Again and feel
At home, once, twice,
There will be no thrice –
For then I find doors shut on me.*

Context:

The above lines are from the poem "Once upon a time" written by 'Gaberiel Okara', a Nigerian Poet.

Explanation

The poet says that people these days are not sincere when they say 'feel at home' and 'come again'. They do not really invite other people. The words are used only for the sake of formality.

Comment: These lines brings out the false love and respect expressed.

Stanza 4

*So I have learned many things, son.
I have learned to wear many faces
Like dresses – home face,
office face, street face, host face,
cocktail face, with all their conforming smiles
like a fixed portrait smile.*

Context:

The above lines are from the poem "Once upon a Time" written by 'Gaberiel Okara', a Nigerian Poet.

Explanation

The speaker tells us that he has learnt to deal with this fake, insincere world by changing himself like other those people. Like others, he too hides his real feelings. He says that he has learnt "to wear many faces like dresses" Just like people keep changing dresses to suit different occasions, the poet has learnt to behave differently in different situations.

Comment:

The poet dramatically pictures falseness and changes.

Stanza 5

*And I have learned too
To laugh with only my teeth*

*And shake hands without my heart.
I have also learned to say, 'Goodbye',
When I mean 'Good-riddance';
To say 'Glad to meet you',
Without being glad; and to say 'It's been
Nice talking to you', after being bored.*

Context:

The above lines are from the poem "Once upon a Time" written by 'Gaberiel Okara', a Nigerian Poet.

Explanation

The poet admits that he has learnt to say what fits each situation instead of speaking the truth. He fakes his behaviour. When he feels like saying 'Good-riddance', he says 'Goodbye'. When he feels like saying 'Good-riddance', He says 'Glad to meet you', without feeling glad.

Comment:

The poet says he has also learnt to greet people with pretended gladness.

Stanza 6

*But believe me, son.
I want to be what I used to be
When I was like you. I want
To unlearn all these muting things
Most of all, I want to relearn
How to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
Shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!*

Context:

The above lines are from the poem "Once upon a time" written by "Gaberiel Okara", a Nigerian Poet.

Explanation:

Here 'muting' refers to 'changing all the time'. The poet has learnt to behave with pretended gladness. He tells his son that he wants to get rid of this false laugh showing only the teeth. The comparison of his laugh in the mirror to a snake's bare fangs brings out the fact that the smile is artificial and might be dangerous. The poet regrets his fake behaviour and so expresses his desire to unlearn all those bad things and learn how to laugh sincerely.

Comment:

These lines express the poet's longing to go back in time and have his childlike innocence and sincerity.

Stanza 7

*So, show me, son,
How to laugh; show me how
I used to laugh and smile
Once upon a time when I was like you.*

Context:

The above lines are from the poem "Once upon a Time" written by "Gaberiel Okara", a Nigerian Poet.

Explanation

The poet asks his son to show how to laugh sincerely. Children do not fake things. They show what they really feel. Again, the phrase 'once upon a time' reiterates the fact that he wants to be what he used to be long time ago as a boy.

Comment:

The poet asks his son to help him be happy once again and acquire the childlike innocence he once possessed as a boy.

Book Back Paragraph Questions:**4. Answer the following questions in about 100 – 150 words each:****i) Explain the things the poet has learnt when he grew into an adult.**

Gabriel Okara (the Nigerian poet) brings out the difference between the behaviour of the people in the past and their behaviour at present. In the past people laughed with their hearts sincerely. They greeted one another with real gladness. But now, people laugh with any real happiness and greet one another with an artificial, pretended smile. Okara says that he has also learnt to behave in an artificial manner like other people.

ii) This poem is nothing but a criticism of modern life. Justify this statement.

The background of the poem is that the poet remembers the way people used to behave and interact with each other in the past and how people interact with others now. The purpose of this poem is to try to bring them back to the past behaviour with emotion and with their heart. The poem is a father's address to his son. The son is a small boy and he does things with real emotion. The father wants to forget his fake personality and re-learn really the cordial behaviour. And he is asking the son to show him how to express true love and show real feelings to others.

iii. Face is the index of the mind. Does this adage concur with the views of the poet?

“Face is the index of the mind” is a proverb. It means that our facial expressions reveal our feelings---joy, anger, sorrow, disapproval etc. This is true to some extent. But in the poem “Once upon a time”, Okara disproves this proverb. Nowadays people greet one another with a smile, but there is no real happiness. On meeting somebody they say “glad to see you”, but they are not really glad, but they are bored. When somebody says, “good bye” with a smiling face, he (she) is thinking “good riddance” with these examples, Okara proves that the proverb “Face is the index of the mind” cannot be always true.

ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:**iv. Justify the title of the poem “once upon a time” (or) What does the title of the poem “Once upon a time” indicate?**

Gabriel Okara, a Nigerian poet is the composer of the poem “Once upon a time”. This is very catchy title. It clearly indicates the past. The poet remembers that in the past, people used to show happiness from their hearts on meeting someone. But nowadays people think that the arrival of a guest creates big problem. So they want riddance at the earliest possible. Artificiality has taken the place of reality. He remarks that there was a time when people felt real joy on meeting their friends and relatives. Their behaviour was so genuine and full of warmth affection. But nowadays people shake hands with their rights, while their left hands search their friend's pocket to get something. In the poem the poet has contrasted the past with the present, so the title is justified and appropriate.

CREATIVE PARAGRAPH: (HOTS QUESTIONS)**v. Childishness is a great virtue - Elucidate this point with special reference to the poem ‘Once Upon a Time’. (OR) What are the values and African cultures presented by the poet? (HOTS-Higher Order Thinking Skill Questions)**

Okara's poem “Once upon a Time” presents an interesting reading. The poem is a monologue---the poet addresses his son, but his son does not say anything.

The poet compares the behavior of the people in the past and their behavior at present. Once upon a time people laughed with their hearts, that is sincerely. Their eyes shone with real happiness. But now people laugh without real feelings. They only show their teeth while laughing and their eyes are “ice-block-cold”. Now people shake hands without real gladness. A person

shakes his right hand with another, but his left hand is trying to pick the other man's pocket. "Feel at home" and "Come again" are simply said without sincere feeling. When the poet visits someone for a third time the doors are shut on him!

Now the poet says that he has also learnt to behave like other people. He puts an artificial gladness. He changes his facial expression according to different situations. He has become a fake. Now the poet feels sorry for his behavior. He wishes to go back to his boyhood days and show real feelings. He wants his son to make him (the poet) unlearn the artificial behavior. The poet's son is a small boy and he has the childlike innocence. "Childishness is a great virtue", because children are simple and they do not know the pretended behavior. Okara feels that colonization of Africa by European countries (England, France and others) has spoilt the native African simplicity and sincerity.

Book Back Exercise (Text pg 24):


5. Listening Activity: First read the questions given below. Next, listen to an excerpt from a poem read out by your teacher or played on a recorder. Note how a child admires and praises the abilities of his/her father. Then tick the right answers from the options given.

- i) When the _____ needs to be repaired, they have to hire a man.
 a) heater b) furnace c) stove d) oven
- ii) Father knows no word like _____
 a) fail b) frail c) jail d) snail
- iii) It is certain that the father would restore the _____ of the family members.
 a) glory b) prosperity c) confidence d) happiness
- iv) The father not be able to mend a broken _____
 a) table b) bench c) chair d) stool
- v) The children expect their _____ to guide them in action.
 a) mother b) father c) teacher d) guardian


Answer: i) b) furnace ii) a) fail iii) c) confidence iv) c) chair v) a) mother

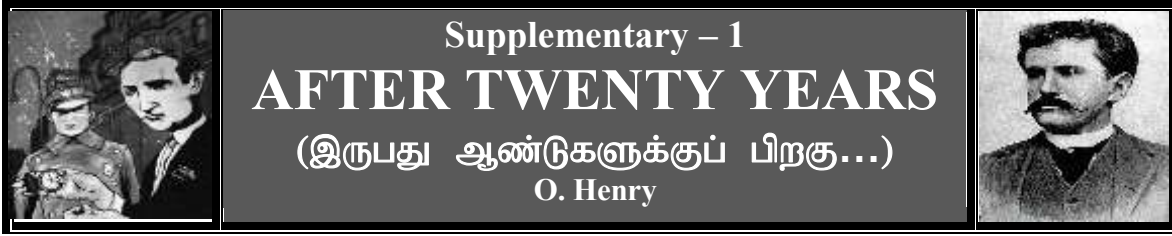
Poetic Devices:

1. Repetition: "Once upon a time" in the 1st and last lines
2. Simile: Like dresses – home face (Line 21)
3. Simile: "...conforming smile like a fixed portrait smile." (Line 24)
4. When I was like you. I want (Line 35)
5. once upon a time when I was like you. (Line 43)
6. Metaphor: "Ice-block cold eyes" (Line 5)
7. Sarcasm: "feel at home!" "come again" (Line 13)



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**Warm Up:**

a. What do you expect your close friends to do for you? Beautify the petals with your thoughts.

1. entertain 2. share 3. help 4. care 5. advice 6. co-operate 7. trust 8. comfort

b. i) Find out when the International Day of Friendship is celebrated.

The International Day of Friendship is celebrated on 30th July of every year.

ii) How is that day celebrated?

To mark the International Day of Friendship, the UN encourages governments, organizations, and community groups to hold events, activities and initiatives that promote solidarity, mutual understanding and reconciliation. The International Day of Friendship is a UN observance and not a public holiday. The UN wanted to involve young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity.

c. We have heard of the proverb '*Familiarity breeds contempt*'. Do you think that the passage of time strengthens friendship? Share your reasons with your class.

We never value the things which we are always closely associated with. We never consider those things a valuable one. For example, We never value the affection between us and our parents and also the friendship between us and our close friends. Our intimacy with our friends will get strength, if we leave from them. The passage of time makes us always think of our friends. It will strengthen the friendship.

<p>Here is a story entitled 'After Twenty Years' which is about two best friends who had to part ways. They return to keep an appointment they had made twenty years ago. Read to find out what happens when they meet again.</p>	<p>பிரிந்து சென்ற இரண்டு சிறந்த நண்பர்களைப் பற்றி "இருபது வருடங்களுக்குப் பிறகு" என்ற தலைப்பில் இங்கு ஒரு கதை கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. அவர்கள் இருபது வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னால் அவர்களது நட்பு தொடர்வதற்கு ஒரு சந்திப்புத் திட்டத்தை உருவாக்கிக் கொண்டு மீண்டும் வந்து சந்திக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் மீண்டும் சந்திக்கும் பொழுது என்ன நடக்கிறது என்பதைப் படித்துத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள்.</p>
<p>The policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively. The impressiveness was habitual and not for show, for spectators were few. The time was barely 10 o'clock at night, but chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain in them had well nigh depeopled the streets.</p>	<p>ஒரு காவலர் அகலமான அந்தத் தெருவில் சுறுசுறுப்பாக உலாவந்துகொண்டிருந்தார். அந்த சுறுசுறுப்பு வழக்கமான ஒன்றுதான். பார்வையாளர்கள் குறைவு என்பதால் மற்றவர்கள் பார்ப்பதற்காக அவர் அப்படி செய்யவில்லை. நேரம் இரவு 10 மணியை நெருங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்தது. மழை வாசனையுடன் வீசிய குளிர்ச்சியான காற்றுடன் ஏறக்குறைய மக்கள் குடியிருக்கக்கூடிய தெருக்களாக இருந்தது.</p>
<p>Trying doors as he went, twirling his club with many intricate and artful movements, turning now and then to cast his watchful eye adown the pacific thoroughfare, the officer, with his stalwart form and slight swagger, made a fine picture of a guardian of the peace. The vicinity was one that kept early hours. Now and then you might see the lights of a cigar store or of an all night lunch counter; but the majority of the doors belonged to business places that had long since been closed.</p>	<p>செல்லும்போதே பூட்டியிருந்த ஒவ்வொரு கதவுகளையும் சோதித்துக்கொண்டே, தான் வைத்திருந்த கம்புகளை சுழற்றிக்கொண்டே, பல ஆண்டுகள் தாம் பெற்ற பயிற்சிகளின் விளைவாக பல சிக்கலான மற்றும் கலைநயமிக்க அசைவுகளுடனும், அவ்வப்போது திரும்பிப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டு தன்னுடைய ஜாக்கிரதையான கண்களால் அந்த தெருவின் கீழ்பகுதி முழுவதும் அளவெடுத்துக்கொண்டே வந்த அந்த அதிகாரி மிகவும் பொறுப்பானவராக கொஞ்சம் கண்டிப்பானவராக ஒரு அமைதியின் காவலருக்குண்டான அனைத்து அம்சங்களுடனும் தென்பட்டார். அந்தப்பகுதி பேக்கரிகள் அதிகமுள்ள பகுதி என்பதால் வியாபாரிகள் விடியற்காலையில்தான் சுறுசுறுப்பாக இயங்குவார்கள். சுருட்டுக் கடை மற்றும் இரவுநேர உணவகங்களின் வெளிச்சங்களை மட்டுமே ஆங்காங்கே நீங்கள் பார்க்கலாம். மற்றபடி வியாபாரம் நடைபெறும் கடைகள் அனைத்தும் மூடப்பட்டு வெகு நேரமாகிவிட்டது.</p>

<p>When about midway of a certain block the policeman suddenly slowed his walk. In the doorway of a darkened hardware store a man leaned, with an unlighted cigar in his mouth. As the policeman walked up to him the man spoke up quickly.</p>	<p>ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட பிளாக்கின் நடுப்பகுதியில், காவலரின் நடை வேகம் திடீரென குறைந்தது. ஒரு மனிதன் ஒரு பூட்டப்பட்ட இருட்டான இரும்பு ஜாமான்கள் விற்கும் கடையின் நுழைவாயிலில், வாயில் பற்றவைக்கப்படாத ஒரு சுருட்டுடன் சாய்ந்து நின்றுகொண்டிருந்தான். காவலர் அவனை நோக்கி நடந்து சென்றதால், அந்த மனிதன் உடனே பேசினான்.</p>
<p>"It's all right, officer," he said, reassuringly. "I'm just waiting for a friend. It's an appointment made twenty years ago. Sounds a little funny to you, doesn't it? Well, I'll explain if you'd like to make certain it's all straight. About that long ago there used to be a restaurant where this store stands—Big Joe' Brady's restaurant."</p>	<p>"நல்லது, ஐயா" மிகவும் ஆர்வமாகச் சொன்னான். "நான் ஒரு நண்பருக்காக காத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். அது ஒரு இருபது ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்னால் தீட்டப்பட்ட சந்திப்புத் திட்டம். அது உங்களுக்கு வேடிக்கையாக இருக்கும் இல்லையா? சரி, அதனுடைய விவரங்களை நீங்கள் ஆர்வமாக இருந்தால் நான் நேரடியாகச் சொல்வேன். ஏற்குறைய பல வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பு இந்தக் கடை இருக்கும் இடத்தில், "பிக் ஜோ பிராடிஸ் ரெஸ்டாரெண்ட்" என்ற ஒன்று இருந்தது.</p>
<p>"Until five years ago," said the policeman. "It was torn down then." The man in the doorway struck a match and lit his cigar. The light showed a pale, square-jawed face with keen eyes, and a little white scar near his right eyebrow. His scarf pin was a large diamond, oddly set.</p>	<p>"ஐந்து வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பு வரை அது இருந்தது. அது பின்னர் இடிக்கப்பட்டுவிட்டது." காவலர் சொன்னார். அந்த மனிதன் கடையாயிலில் நின்று கொண்டு அவருடைய சுருட்டை ஒரு தீக்குச்சியால் உரசி நெருப்பைப் பற்றவைத்தார். அந்த வெளிச்சம் ஒரு வெளிநிய ஆர்வமான கண்கள் கொண்ட சதுர வடிவ தாடைகொண்ட முகத்தை வெளிச்சமிட்டுக் காட்டியது. வலதுகண் புருவத்தில் ஒரு சிறிய வெள்ளைத் தழுப்பு இருந்தது. அவன் கட்டியிருந்த டை, சட்டையோடு இணைக்கப்பட்டிருந்த பின்னானது ஒரு பெரிய வைரத்தைத் தாங்கியிருந்தது.</p>
<p>"Twenty years ago to-night," said the man, "I dined here at Big Joe Brady's with Jimmy Wells, my best chum, and the finest chap in the world. He and I were raised here in New York, just like two brothers, together. I was eighteen and Jimmy was twenty. The next morning I was to start for the West to make my fortune. You couldn't have dragged Jimmy out of New York; he thought it was the only place on earth. Well, we agreed that night that we would meet here again exactly twenty years from that date and time, no matter what our conditions might be or from what distance we might have to come. We figured that in twenty years each of us ought to have our destiny worked out and our fortunes made, whatever they were going to be."</p>	<p>"இருபது வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னால் இதே இரவில்" அந்த மனிதன் சொன்னான் "நான் இங்கே இந்த பிக் ஜோ பிராடிஸ் உணவகத்தில் என் ஆருயிர் நண்பனும் இவ்வூல்கிலேயே மிகச்சிறந்த நல்ல இளைஞனுமான ஜிம்மியுடன் உணவருந்திக்கொண்டிருந்தேன். அவனும் நானும் இங்கே இரண்டு சகோதரர்களைப்போல நியூயார்க்கில் வளர்ந்தவர்கள். எனக்கு 18 வயது ஜிம்மிக்கு 20 வயது. அடுத்த நாள் காலை செல்வம் சேர்ப்பதற்காக மேற்குப் பகுதிக்கு செல்ல இருந்தேன். ஆனால் நீங்கள் ஜிம்மியை நியூயார்க்கிலிருந்து பிரிக்க முடியாது. உலகிலேயே அது (நியூயார்க்) ஒன்றுதான் இருப்பதாக அவன் நினைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறான். நல்லது, நாங்கள் அந்த இரவு ஒரு ஒப்பந்தம் செய்துகொண்டோம். சரியாக இருபது ஆண்டுகள் கழித்து அதே தேதியில் அதே நேரத்தில் நாங்கள் எந்த நிலையில் இருந்தாலும் எவ்வளவு தூரத்தில் இருந்தாலும் இங்கே வந்து சேர வேண்டும் என்று முடிவு செய்தோம். எங்களுடைய தலைவிதி கண்டிப்பாக இருபது வருடங்களில் சரியாகிவிடும், செல்வங்கள் சேர்த்துவிடுவோம் என்ன நடந்தாலும் பரவாயில்லை."</p>
<p>"It sounds pretty interesting," said the policeman. "Rather a long time between meets, though, it seems to me. Haven't you heard from your friend since you left?"</p>	<p>"இது மிகவும் ஆர்வத்தை தூண்டக்கூடியதாக இருக்கிறதே" என்றார் காவலர். "உங்கள் சந்திப்புகளுக்கிடையே மிக நீண்ட இடைவெளி என்றபோதும் சுவாரசியமான விசயமாகவே எனக்குத் தோன்றுகிறது. நீங்கள் பிரிந்து சென்றதிலிருந்து உங்கள் நண்பனைப் பற்றி ஏதேனும் கேள்விப்பட்டீர்களா?"</p>
<p>"Well, yes, for a time we corresponded," said the other. "But after a year or two we lost track of each other. You see, the West is a pretty big proposition, and I kept hustling around over it pretty lively.</p>	<p>"நல்லது. ஆம், ஒரு முறை நாங்கள் தொடர்பு கொண்டோம்" அவன் கூறினான் "ஆனால் ஓரிரு வருடங்களுக்குப் பிறகு எங்களுக்கு இடையே தொடர்பு இல்லாமல் போய்விட்டது. உங்களுக்கு தெரியாததல்ல. மேற்கு என்பது ஒரு அழகான பெரிய செல்வங்கொடுக்கும் பகுதி. நான் அதன் அழகில் கவர்ச்சியில் மூழ்கி சுற்றிச்சுற்றி வந்தேன்."</p>

<p>But I know Jimmy will meet me here if he's alive, for he always was the truest, staunchest old chap in the world. He'll never forget. I came a thousand miles to stand in this door to- night, and it's worth it if my old partner turns up."</p>	<p>ஆனால் எனக்குத் தெரியும் ஜிம்மி உயிரோடு இருந்தால் நிச்சயமாக அவன் வந்து என்னைச் சந்திப்பான். அவன் உலகிலேயே உண்மையானவன் உறுதியானவன். பழைய நண்பன். அவன் ஒருபோதும் மறக்கமாட்டான். நான் ஆயிரம் மைல்கள் கடந்து இங்கே வந்து இந்த வாசலில் நிற்கிறேன். எனது பழைய நண்பன் இங்கு வருவானானால் நான் எடுத்த முயற்சிக்கு பலன் உண்டு."</p>
<p>The waiting man pulled out a handsome watch, the lids of it set with small diamonds. "Three minutes to ten," he announced. "It was exactly ten o'clock when we parted here at the restaurant door." "Did pretty well out West, didn't you?" asked the policeman.</p>	<p>காத்திருந்தவன் இப்போது ஒரு அழகான சிறுசிறு வைரங்கள் பதிக்கப்பட்ட கை கடிகாரத்தை வெளியே எடுத்து "பத்து மணிக்கு இன்னும் மூன்று நிமிடங்களே உள்ளன" என அறிவித்தான். "நாங்கள் சரியாக பத்து மணிக்கு அந்த உணவு விடுதியின் கதவின் அருகிலிருந்துதான் பிரிந்து சென்றோம்." காவலர் "மேற்கில் நீங்கள் செழிப்பாக இருந்தீர்கள் இல்லையா?" எனக் கேட்டார்.</p>
<p>"You bet! I hope Jimmy has done half as well. He was a kind of plodder, though, good fellow as he was. I've had to compete with some of the sharpest wits going to get my pile. A man gets in a groove in New York. It takes the West to put a razor-edge on him."</p>	<p>"நீங்கள் பந்தயம் கட்டலாம்! நான் நினைக்கிறேன் ஜிம்மி என்னில் பாதியளவுக்குதான் சம்பாதித்திருப்பான். அவன் நல்வளாக இருந்தாலும் ஒரு வகையில் சோம்பேறி. என்னுடைய அதிகப்படியான பணத்தை(செல்வத்தை) அடைவதற்கு சில நுட்பமான அறிவுடன் நான் போட்டியிட்டிருக்கிறேன். நியூயார்க்கில் இருப்பது ஒரு மனிதர் குகையில் இருப்பதுபோல. ஆனால் மேற்கில் வசிக்க புத்திக்கூர்மை வேண்டும்.</p>
<p>The policeman twirled his club and took a step or two. "I'll be on my way. Hope your friend comes around all right. Going to call time on him sharp?" "I should say not!" said the other. "I'll give him half an hour at least. If Jimmy is alive on earth he'll be here by that time. So long, officer." "Good-night, sir," said the policeman, passing on along his beat, trying doors as he went.</p>	<p>காவலர் கம்பைச் சுழற்றினார். மேலும் ஒன்றிரண்டு அடிகள் நடந்தார். "நான் செல்லவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. உங்களது நண்பன் நிச்சயம் வருவான். அவர் சரியான நேரத்துக்கு வராவிட்டால் சென்று விடுவீர்களா?" காத்திருந்தவன் சொன்னான் "நான் அப்படிச் செய்யமாட்டேன். அவனுக்குக் குறைந்தபட்சம் அரை மணி நேரம் அவகாசம் கொடுப்பேன். ஜிம்மி இந்த பூமியில் உயிருடன் இருந்தால் அவன் அந்த நேரத்திற்குள் வந்துவிடுவான். அவனைப் பார்த்து ரொம்ப நாளாகிவிட்டது ஐயா" காவலர் தனக்கே உரிய போலீஸ் நடையில் சென்றுகொண்டே "இரவு வணக்கம் ஐயா" சொன்னார். போகும்போது ஒவ்வொரு கதவையும் நோட்டமிட்டுக் கொண்டே சென்றார்.</p>
<p>There was now a fine, cold drizzle falling, and the wind had risen from its uncertain puffs into a steady blow. The few foot passengers astir in that quarter hurried dismally and silently along with coat collars turned high and pocketed hands. And in the door of the hardware store the man who had come a thousand miles to fill an appointment, uncertain almost to absurdity, with the friend of his youth, smoked his cigar and waited.</p>	<p>அங்கே இப்பொழுது, குளிரான பனி பெய்துகொண்டும், காற்று சற்று வேகமாக வீசி சற்று பயமுறுத்தியபிறகு சற்று மெதுவாக இதமானதாக வீசத் தொடங்கியது. சில நடையணிகள் அந்த நேரத்தில் சற்று கலவரமாகி தாங்கள் அணிந்திருந்த கோட்டின் காலர் பகுதியை உயர்த்தி தலையில் மாட்டிக்கொண்டு கைகளை கால்சட்டை பாக்கெட்டுக்குள் வைத்துக்கொண்டு சற்று வேகமாக இயங்கத்தொடங்கினர். அந்த இரும்பு ஜாமான் கடையின் கதவு அருகே ஆயிரம் மைல்களைக் கடந்து தன் நண்பனை சந்திக்க வந்தவன் அது நிச்சயமில்லாததால் தன் இளமைக்கால நண்பன்மீது சற்று கோபத்துடன் தன்னுடைய சுருட்டைப் புகைத்துக்கொண்டு காத்திருந்தான்.</p>
<p>About twenty minutes he waited, and then a tall man in a long overcoat, with collar turned up to his ears, hurried across from the opposite side of the street. He went directly to the waiting man. "Is that you, Bob?" he asked, doubtfully. "Is that you, Jimmy Wells?" cried the man in the door.</p>	<p>இருபது நிமிடங்களாக அவன் காத்திருந்த பிறகு, ஒரு உயரமான மனிதன் நீளமான மேலாடையில், அவருடைய மேலாடையின் காலர் பகுதியை தலைக்கு உயர்த்தி காதுகளையும் முடிவாறு அத்தொருவின் எதிர்புறமிருந்து வேகமாக வந்தான். வந்தவன் நேராக காத்திருந்தவனிடம் சென்றான். "நீ 'பாப்'தானே?" சந்தேகத்துடன் அவன் கேட்டான். "நீ ஜிம்மி வெல்ஸ்தானே" வாசலில் நின்றிருந்தவன் கத்தினான்.</p>

<p>"Bless my heart!" exclaimed the new arrival, grasping both the other's hands with his own. "It's Bob, sure as fate. I was certain I'd find you here if you were still in existence. Well, well, well!—twenty years is a long time. The old restaurant's gone, Bob; I wish it had lasted, so we could have had another dinner there. How has the West treated you, old man?"</p>	<p>"என் இதயம் ஆசிரவதிக்கப்பட்டது." புதிதாக வந்தவன் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டான். அவர்கள் ஒருவர் மற்றவரது கைகளை பிடித்துக்கொண்டார்கள். "பாப் நமது விதி நன்றாக இருக்கிறது. நீ உயிரோடு இருந்தால் நான் உன்னை இங்கு பார்ப்பேன் என்று உறுதியாக நம்பியிருந்தேன். நல்லது நல்லது நல்லது. இருபது ஆண்டுகள் என்பது மிக நீண்ட காலம். அந்த பழைய ரெஸ்டாரெண்ட் போய்விட்டது பாப். அது இருந்திருந்திருக்க வேண்டும். அங்கே நாம் இன்னொரு விருந்து சாப்பிட்டிருக்கலாம். மேற்கு எப்படி இருந்தது. அது உன்னை எப்படி கவனித்துக் கொண்டது, கிழவா?"</p>
<p>"Bully; it has given me everything I asked it for. You've changed lots, Jimmy. I never thought you were so tall by two or three inches."</p>	<p>"முரடனே! அது நான் கேட்ட எல்லாவற்றையும் தந்தது. நீதான் ரொம்ப மாறிவிட்டாய் ஜிம்மி. நீ இரண்டு மூன்று அங்குலம் கூடுதலாகி ரொம்ப உயரமாக இருப்பாய் என்று ஒருபோதும் நினைக்க வில்லை."</p>
<p>"Oh, I grew a bit after I was twenty." "Doing well in New York, Jimmy?" "Moderately. I have a position in one of the city departments. Come on, Bob; we'll go around to a place I know of, and have a good long talk about old times."</p>	<p>"ஓ! நான் இருபது வயதிற்குப் பிறகு கொஞ்சம் உயரமாக வளர்ந்துவிட்டேன்" "நியூயார்க் நன்றாக இருக்கிறதா ஜிம்மி?" "சுமாராக (மிதமாக) இருக்கிறது. நான் மாநகராட்சியின் ஒரு துறையில் ஒரு வேலையில் இருக்கிறேன். வா பாப், எனக்குத் தெரிந்த ஓரிடத்துக்கு நாம் போவோம். நமது பழைய காலத்தைப் பற்றி மிக நீண்ட நேரம் பேசவேண்டும்."</p>
<p>The two men started up the street, arm in arm. The man from the West, his egotism enlarged by success, was beginning to outline the history of his career. The other, submerged in his overcoat, listened with interest.</p>	<p>இருவரும் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் கைகளை சேர்த்துப் பிடித்தபடி தெருவில் இறங்கி நடக்கத் தொடங்கினார்கள். மேற்கிலிருந்து வந்தவன் வாழ்வில் வெற்றிபெற்ற மமதையில் இருந்ததால் வாழ்க்கை வரலாற்றை விவரிக்கத் தொடங்கினான். மற்றவன் தன்னுடைய மேற்சட்டைகாலரை சற்று இறக்கி விட்டுக்கொண்டு ஆர்வத்துடன் கவனிக்கத் தொடங்கினான்.</p>
<p>At the corner stood a drug store, brilliant with electric lights. When they came into this glare each of them turned simultaneously to gaze upon the other's face. The man from the West stopped suddenly and released his arm.</p>	<p>அந்தத் தெரு முனையில் மின்சார விளக்குகளால் அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு மருந்துக்கடை இருந்தது. அவர்கள் அங்கே வந்தபோது ஒரே நேரத்தில் ஒருவரை ஒருவர் முகத்தைக் கார்ந்து கவனித்தார்கள். மேற்கிலிருந்து வந்தவன் தன் கையை விடுவித்துக்கொண்டு அப்படியே நின்றான்.</p>
<p>"You're not Jimmy Wells," he snapped. "Twenty years is a long time, but not long enough to change a man's nose from a Roman to a pug." "It sometimes changes a good man into a bad one", said the tall man. "You've been under arrest for ten minutes, 'Silky' Bob. Chicago thinks you may have dropped over our way and wires us she wants to have a chat with you. Going quietly, are you? That's sensible. Now, before we go on to the station here's a note I was asked to hand you. You may read it here at the window. It's from Patrolman Wells." The man from the West unfolded the little piece of paper handed to him. His hand was steady when he began to read, but it trembled a little by the time he had finished. The note was rather short.</p>	<p>"நீ ஜிம்மி வெல்ஸ் இல்லை" அவன் வெட்டிய பேசினான். "இருபது ஆண்டுகள் என்பது மிக நீண்ட காலம்தான், ஆனால் ஒரு மனிதனின் முக்கை ரோமானிய குத்துச்சண்டை வீரனால் மாற்றிவிடக் கூடிய அளவுக்கு அது நீண்ட காலம் அல்ல" "ஆனால் அது ஒரு நல்ல மனிதனை கெட்ட மனிதனாக மாற்றி விட முடியும்" அந்த உயரமான மனிதன் சொன்னான் "நீ பத்து நிமிடங்களுக்கு முன்னரே கைது செய்யப்பட்டுவிட்டாய், 'சில்கி பாப்'. நீ எங்கள் கைகளிலிருந்து தப்பிச் சென்றுவிடக் கூடாது என்று சிகாக்கோ(காவல்துறை) செய்தி அனுப்பியிருக்கிறது. அது உன்னுடன் பேச விரும்புகிறது. அமைதியாகப் போகலாம், இல்லையா? அது அழகு! நாம் காவல் நிலையம் செல்லும் முன் உன்னிடம் கொடுக்க கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட குறிப்பு ஒன்று இதோ இருக்கிறது. அதை சன்னலோரம் சென்று படிக்கலாம். அது ரோந்துப்படை வீரர் வேல்ஸ் அவர்களிடமிருந்து வந்தது." மேற்கிலிருந்து வந்தவன் தன்னிடம் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட துண்டுத் தாளை விரித்தான். அவன் அதைப்படிக்கத் துவங்கியபோது அவனுடைய கைகள் உறுதியாகத்தான் இருந்தது. அதை படித்து முடித்ததும் கைகள் நடுங்கின. அந்தக் குறிப்பு மிகவும் சுருக்கமாகவே இருந்தது.</p>
<p>"Bob: I was at the appointed place on time. When you struck the match to light your cigar I saw it was the face of the man wanted in Chicago. Somehow I couldn't do it myself, so I went around and got a plain clothes man to do the job. -JIMMY."</p>	<p>"பாப், நான் திட்டமிட்ட இடத்துக்கு சரியான நேரத்தில்தான் வந்தேன். நீ சுருட்டு பற்றவைக்க தீக்குச்சியை உரசியபோது அங்கே நான் சிக்காக்கோவில் தேடப்படும் குற்றவாளியைப் பார்த்தேன். இருப்பினும் உன்னை 'நான்' கைது செய்ய முடியாதல்லவா! அதனால்தான் நான் சென்றுவிட்டு சாதாரண உடையணிந்த காவலரை உன்னை கைது செய்ய அனுப்பினேன் - இப்படிக்கு ஜிம்மி"</p>

About the Author

O.Henry(1862–1910) is a popular American short-story writer whose original name is William Sydney Porter. His works romanticized the life of ordinary people in New York City. His stories are well-known throughout the world. They expressed the effect of coincidence on character and often had unexpected twists in the end. His stories are also noted for their witticism and clever wordplay. O. Henry's prolific writing period began in 1902 in New York City, where he wrote 381 short stories. He wrote one story a week for The New York World Sunday Magazine for over a year.

O.Henry's short story '**After Twenty Years**' was first published in the Sunday edition of the *New York World* in 1905. The story was included in the 1906 anthology *The Four Million*, and it has since been re-published in many short story collections. A few of his other popular short stories are **The Gift of the Magi**, **The Cop and the Anthem**, **The Ransom of Red Chief**, **A Retrieved Reformation** and **The Third Ingredient**.

எழுத்தாளரைப் பற்றி.....

ஓ.ஹென்றி (1862-1910) ஒரு பிரபல அமெரிக்கச் சிறுகதை எழுத்தாளர். இவருடைய இயற்பெயர் வில்லியம் எட்னி போர்ட்டர். இவருடைய கதைகள் பொதுவாக நியூயார்க் நகரத்தின் சாதாரண குடிமக்களைச் சுற்றியே பின்னப்பட்டிருக்கும். இவரது கதைகள் உலகம் முழுவதும் பிரபலமானவை. இவருடைய கதையும் கதைமாந்தர்களும் பொருத்தி வருவதுபோல கதை அமைந்திருக்கும். முடிவில் யாரும் எதிர்பாராத ஒரு திருப்பம் வரும். அவருடைய கதைகளில் உள்ள நகைச்சுவையும், புத்திசாலித்தனமான வார்த்தை வர்ணனைகளும் மிகவும் பேசப்படுபவை. இவருடைய தீவிரமான எழுத்துக் காலம் நியூயார்க் நகரில் 1902ல் தொடங்குகிறது. அவர் 381 சிறுகதைகளை எழுதியுள்ளார். 'தி நியூயார்க் வேர்ல்ட்' என்ற ஞாயிறு வார இதழில் வாரத்திற்கு ஒரு கதை வீதம் இவரது கதைகள் ஒரு வருடத்திற்கும் மேலாக வெளிவந்து கொண்டிருந்தது.

ஓ.ஹென்றியின் சிறுகதையான 'ஆஃப்டர் டுவெண்டி இயர்ஸ்' தி நியூயார்க் வேர்ல்ட் இதழில் 1905ல் முதல் முதலில் வெளியிடப்பட்டது. இந்தக்கதை 1906ல் 'தி ஃபோர் மில்லன்' என்ற பெயரில் கதைத் தொகுப்பில் சேர்க்கப்பட்டு வெளியிடப்பட்டது. அது முதல் ஏராளமான கதைத் தொகுப்புகளோடு இணைந்து இக்கதை மறுபதிப்பு செய்யப்படுகிறது. தி கிஃப்ட் ஆஃப் தி மேகி, தி கோப் அன்ட் தி ஆன்த்தம், தி ரேன்சம் ஆஃப் தி ரெட் சீஃப், எ ரெட்ரீவ்ர்டு ரீப்ரமேஷன் மற்றும் தி தேர்ட் இன்கிரிடியன்ட் போன்றவை இவருடைய பிரபலமான சிறுகதைகளில் சில.





SUMMARY: (Useful for all paragraph Questions)

- "After Twenty Years" tells the story of two friends.
- Bob and Jimmy were friends. Before Bob left to try his luck in the West, he and Jimmy made a pact to meet again exactly twenty years later.
- At the appointed time, Bob waited outside a hardware store. A policeman walked up and asked what he was doing. Bob explained about their pact and waited for Jimmy wells.
- Later a tall man in plain clothes came to meet Bob. Bob thought him Jimmy Wells.
- Later Bob identified that the man he is talking to is not his friend.
- Actually, Bob learnt that the police officer whom he met earlier was Jimmy, his old friend.
- Since Bob was a criminal wanted by the police, Jimmy Wells did not want to arrest his intimate friend.
- So Jimmy wells has sent another police officer to do the work.
- Jimmy wells was duty-conscious. For him duty was more important than friendship.

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

a) Describe the appearance of the policeman on the beat.

The policeman moved up the street of his duty in a very impressive manner. He had alert eyes and strong figure with a proud manner. It made him a fine picture of a guardian of peace. He also kept spinning his stick while doing his duty.

b) What did he keep doing while on his rounds?

He kept spinning his stick with many intricate and artful movements while doing his duty.

c) Why were the streets devoid of people?

The time was 10 o' clock at night, There was chilly gusts of wind and it was likely to rain. So the streets were devoid of people.

d) What story did the man standing near the hardware store tell his passing cop?

The man standing near the hardware store told about the peculiar appointment with his friend that had made twenty years back in that venue his passing cop.

e) What used to be there in the place of that shop twenty years ago?

Big Joe' Brady's restaurant was there in the place of that hardware shop twenty years ago.

f) Describe the man awaiting the arrival of his friend.

The man had a pale, square-jawed face with keen eyes. There was a little white scar near his right eyebrow.

g) Why did the friends part ways?

The friends parted ways to seek their fortune.

h) When and how did Bob realize that the tall man was not his friend?

When Bob and his friend Jimmy Wells came near a drug store and they came into this glare to gaze upon the other's face. He identified that the tall man was not his friend by the appearance of his nose.

i) Who was the tall man?

The tall man was another cop sent by his friend Patrolman Jimmy Wells.

j) What did he give Bob?

He gave Bob a note from Patrolman Wells.

Additional Questions**k. Describe the scene in the beginning of the story.**

A policeman can be seen on duty in an area. He is on foot patrol. It is 10 p.m. The cold wind is blowing. The area seems deserted.

l. Was the place a business center only?

Yes, the place was a business center. The author has mentioned a cigar store and an all-night lunch counter.

m. What kind of characters does the story "After Twenty Years" have?

There are three characters in the story "After Twenty Years".

- One is Bob who is a true and sincere friend. He want to fulfill his promise at any cost.
- His friend Jimmy is dutiful and honest person. He gives preference to duty over friendship.
- The third character who comes to arrest Bob is also a police officer.

n. What is the most significant happening in the story to be analyzed?

The most significant happening in the story is when Jimmy Wells sends a police officer in plain clothes to arrest Bob.

o. What is the climax of the story "After Twenty Years"?

Bob identifies that the man he is talking to is not his friend. Actually, the man is a police officer in plain clothes. He gives Bob a letter from Jimmy. Bob learns from the letter that the police officer whom he met earlier was Jimmy, his old friend.

p. How would you describe Jimmy and Bob's personalities in the story?

Jimmy and Bob are close friends. Jimmy is an honest police officer. When he comes to know that his friend is a criminal, he does not have the courage to arrest him himself. He sends another policeman to arrest Bob. For him duty is more important than friendship. As far as Bob is concerned, he is a true friend. He want to fulfill his promise at any cost.

q. The ending of "After Twenty Years" fill the reader with poignancy, (Strong effect of feeling -sad) making the story effective. Discuss?

The reader expects that Bob and Jimmy Wells, the two close friends, would meet each other after long separation. They would share their experiences of the past twenty years. But instead, the ending of the story fills the reader with poignancy when one of the friends is arrested by police. In spite of the tragic end, the author makes the story very effective. Bob is not arrested by Jimmy Wells directly. Jimmy sends another police officer to arrest Bob.

r. How does the writer prepare for the end of the story?

The writer prepares for the end of the story contrary to the expectations of the readers. The story begins very interestingly. Two close friends Bob and Jimmy meet each other after twenty years. Bob does not recognize Jimmy in the police uniform. After Jimmy's departure, another police officer in plain clothes comes whom Bob considers to be his Jimmy. The police officer arrests Bob because he is wanted in Chicago.

2. State whether the following statements are true or false

- a) The cop suddenly slowed his walk, when he heard the barking of dogs.
- b) The friends grew up together in the city of New York.
- c) Both Jimmy and Bob were of the same age.
- d) The friends parted one night after watching a movie together.
- e) The friends could not keep in touch because they lost each other's phone numbers.
- f) Bob wanted to stay for half an hour more than the appointed time.
- g) Jimmy grew a little taller after he was twenty.
- h) Bob realised that the tall man was not Jimmy Wells from the shape of his nose.

a) False b) True c) False d) False e) False f) True g) True h) True

3. What does each of the following mean in the story? Choose the right option.**a) on the beat:**

- i) moving around hitting every one with a stick
- ii) on duty walking around the assigned area
- iii) marching with his heart beating fast

b) a guardian of peace:

- i) a watchman
- ii) a holy man.
- iii) a policeman

c) arm in arm:

- i) with arms linked together
- ii) with weapons in hands
- iii) with handcuffs on wrists

d) plainclothes man:

- i) a man who wears simple clothes for grand occasions
- ii) a policeman in civilian clothes while on duty
- iii) a cine artist in ordinary costumes

4. Answer the following questions in three or four sentences each.**a) What did Bob share with the cop about their friendship?**

Bob shared with the policeman his strange appointment made twenty years ago. He also shared the details of their childhood days and how they were raised in New York.

b) What are the strengths and weaknesses of Jimmy Wells from Bob's point of view?

Strengths: Jimmy Wells is very shrewd. He has sharp memory. He can recognize his friend as soon as he sees his face in the cigar light. He is duty bound.

Weakness: He is very cordial and soft natured person. Though his friend is a criminal wanted in Chicago, he could not arrest him. Hence he sent another cop to do the duty.

c) Was Bob hopeful of his friend's arrival? How do you know?

Yes, Bob was hopeful of his friend's arrival. The lines "I'll give him half an hour at least. If Jimmy is alive on earth he'll be here by that time" reveal his hopefulness of his friend's arrival.

d) How did the cop come to understand that Bob had been successful in the West?

Bob pulled out a handsome watch having the lid set with small diamonds. Then the patrolman came to know that Bob had been doing well.

e) Bob's life in the West is not a bed of roses. Give reasons.

Bob had to compete with some of the intelligent people going to get his pile. He has to manage with the police for the crimes he had committed. He lived with stress and fear that he might be arrested at anytime by the police of West.

f) Why didn't Jimmy Wells, being a cop himself, arrest Bob?

Jimmy Wells is very cordial with everyone, especially with Bob. He has no willingness and guts to arrest his most intimate friend. Hence he could not arrest Bob.

g) Who do you think has been successful between the two? Give reasons.

I think Patrolman Wells has been successful between the two. He has done his duty. He knows his responsibilities. Being a sincere friend he is not able to arrest his most intimate friend. He sent another cop in plain clothes to do the work.

5. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 150 words each.**a) Compare and contrast the characters of Jimmy Wells and Bob with suitable references from the story to support your view.**

Topic: After Twenty Years
 Author: O. Henry
 Genre: Short Story
 Theme: Duty Vs Friendship

“After Twenty years” by O. Henry is an interesting story with a twist at the end. A 38-year old Bob is waiting at the door of a hardware store in New York to meet his friend Jimmy wells. A policeman is on patrol duty. He asks Bob why he is standing there. Bob tells the cop that he (Bob) is waiting to meet his friend Jimmy Wells. He says that they make a promise to meet at the same place at the same time on the same date after twenty years, before parting. Bob tells the policeman that he (Bob) has kept his promise. Bob is sure that Jimmy Wells will surely come and meet him. After listening to the story, the cop walks away. Twenty minutes later, a tall man in plain clothes comes to meet Bob. Bob thinks him Jimmy Wells. Later Bob identifies that the man he is talking to is not his friend. Actually, the man is a police officer in plain clothes. He gives Bob a letter from Jimmy. Bob learns from the letter that the police officer whom he met earlier was Jimmy, his old friend. Since Bob is a criminal wanted by the Police, Jimmy Wells does not want to arrest his intimate friend. So he has sent another police officer to do the work.

Here Bob is a criminal. But he is a true friend. He wants to fulfill his promise at any cost. On the other hand, his friend Jimmy Wells is an honest police officer. When he comes to know that his friend is a criminal, he does not want to arrest him himself. He has sent another policeman to arrest Bob. For him duty is more important than friendship.

b) ‘Means should justify the end’ explain this adage with reference to O. Henry’s story.

“Means should justify the end” is a well-known proverb. means = method, end=aim. Your aim should be noble, and at the same time the method should also be honest. The aim of a short story is to give aesthetic pleasure to the readers. There should be just two or three characters and the narrative should be brief. Now in the short story “After Twenty years” O. Henry employs only three characters. Two friends agree to meet after 20 years. When they meet one of them is a criminal and the other is a police officer. The police officer is duty-conscious and sends another police officer to arrest his friend. Thus the story has a surprise ending; it gives pleasure to the reader. So the short story justifies the statement.

“Means should justify the end”

c) “Tell me who your friends are and I shall tell you who you are”. How do you explain this statement in the light of Jimmy’s and Bob’s friendship?

“Tell me who your friends are, and I shall tell you who you are” ---is common statement. If somebody has bad friends then he (she) is a bad person. If somebody has good friends, he is a good person. But this statement can be twisted. sometimes

A non-vegetarian and a vegetarian may be good friends!!

The short story “After Twenty Years” disproves the proverbial statement of the friends, one is a criminal and the other is a police officer. But the title is meaningful ----“After Twenty Years” They were good friends twenty years ago. But time has changed their characters.

d) To your shock, you find out that your close friend is indulging in some wrong activity. Will you avoid him/her or to correct him / her? Give reasons for your answer.

If I find my close friend indulges in some wrong activity, I shall definitely correct him. It is my moral duty. I am bound to do. If any harm is done we should not ignore it. When my close friend does any wrong activity I can't bear it. For instance let us take my friend smokes and consumes liquor. First of all I don't advise him. For advise is a hatred form to any one, I shall give him live examples from the people who are affected worst. I should make him understand that other people are also affected by his act. It is my duty. Thus I will try to wear him of the bad habit.

e) What would you do in this situation if you were Jimmy Wells? Substantiate your reason.

If I were Jimmy Wells I would not send plain clothes cop to arrest Bob. Instead I would arrest him on the spot as soon as I knew that he was the criminal wanted in Chicago. My policy is duty first and friendship next. I stick to my principle even if I face any hurdles. I shall try to be sincere till the dooms day. For, while I go away and try to find another police officer, Bob may become tired of waiting and he may go away. Therefore as soon as Bob lights up his cigar and I identify him as a notorious criminal in New York. I would arrest him before he could have any chance of escaping.

ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPHS:

f. What is the moral of the story?



The short story "After Twenty years" portrays two different characters. Bob is a criminal; he has earned a lot of money. But he has no home, no peace of mind. He is always by the fear that he may be arrested by the police any time. On the other hand, his friend Jimmy Wells is a police officer. He is honest, simple and duty-conscious. Though the two men were friends in their boyhood, now Jimmy Wells sends another police officer and gets Bob arrested.

The moral of the story: Duty is more important than friendship.

g. Who is Jimmy Wells? (OR) Sketch the character of Jimmy Wells.

Jimmy wells is a police officer in New York. On a dull cold evening he is doing his duty. He walks with a straight looking face and steady steps. As he nears the door of a hardware store, he meets a man. That man is Bob who tells Jimmy Wells about the promise of meeting here made between himself and his friend twenty years ago. Now Jimmy Wells is the friend. When Bob lights up his cigar, Jimmy realizes that Bob is notorious criminal and he is wanted by the police. Jimmy could have arrested Bob on the spot. But Jimmy recalls their early friendship and therefore sends another police officer to arrest Bob.

Thus Jimmy Wells is duty-conscious. He places duty above friendship.

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