



Summary

Poem

The Road Not Taken

-by Robert Frost

Stanza 1

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

Explanation: The poet has come into the deep autumnal wood where two roads have diverged into two ways like a fork. Immediately the poet understands that as a traveller, travelling both the roads is impossible. Here the two roads symbolise two ways to go in life. The poet first thought of travelling both the roads and then discarded the idea. Then he finds himself in dilemma into able to decide about the choice of roads. He found that the first road has bent in the undergrowth bush). The undergrowth here represents the unknown world.

Stanza 2

*Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.*

Explanation: The poet selects the road that appears at first glance to be less travelled. This stanza suggests that he has an independent spirit and does not wish to follow the crowd. After a moment, he changes his mind, concluding that both roads are equally worn out.

Stanza 3

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*



Explanation: Leaves cover both roads equally. No one this morning has yet taken either path, for the leaves lie undisturbed. This symbolises that the choices in life open to the poet are both unknown to him. The poet remains committed to his decision to take the road he had previously selected, saying that he will save the other road for another day. This symbolises that he will make the other choice in life only if he is not satisfied with the results of the first choice. He observes, that he will probably never pass this way again, as one path leads to another, and thus will never have an opportunity to take the other road. This symbolises that he will not be able to take the second choice in life at all.

Stanza 4

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood and I
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Explanation: In years to come, the poet says, he will be telling others about the choice he made, meaning that he will talk about what decision in life he took. While doing so, he will sigh, either with relief that he made the right choice, or with regret that he made the wrong choice. Whether right or wrong, the choice will have had a significant impact on his life.

Conclusion of The Road Not Taken

The poem's concludes with ".....and that has made all the difference.". The concluding lines conveys that the decision taken make all the differences. Meaning, right or wrong decisions at life's stage have huge bearing in shaping the individual's life.

STEP UP
ACADEMY

Wind

-by Subramania Bharti

Stanza 1

Wind, come softly.

Don't break the shutters of the windows.

Don't scatter the papers.

Don't throw down the books on the shelf.

Explanation: The poet makes request to the wind, asking it not to blow so strongly that it breaks down the shutters of the windows, as they separate man from the stormy environment outside. So he is asking the wind for protection. He also asks the wind not to scatter the papers in his room, or to throw down the books from his bookshelves with its force.

Stanza 2

There, look what you did - you threw them all down.

You tore the pages of the books.

You brought rain again.

Explanation: Here the poet accuses the wind of blowing too strongly and creating the mess in his room with the books thrown down from the shelves and their pages torn. He sees outside and tells the wind that it has brought rain with it again.

Stanza 3

You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters,

crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,

crumbling hearts –

the wind god winnows and crushes them all.

Explanation: Now the poet speaks in a subdued tone to the wind, saying that it makes mischief whenever it encounters anyone who is too meek humble and mild to protest against its actions. It tears down doors, rafters and even entire wooden houses altogether leaving people without shelter from the harsh world outside. This is an idiom implying that the troubles we face in life come as suddenly as the wind, and also leave suddenly. As the poet says, the wind can ear down weak bodies and fragile hearts. That is, difficulties in life can lead to a loss of hope, as well as a loss of life. Thus, it is all up to the wind god, says the poet.



Stanza 4

*He won't do what you tell him.
So, come, let's build strong homes,
Let's join the doors firmly.
Practice to firm the body.
Make the heart steadfast.*

Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.

Explanation: The poet now speaks to the readers, saying that the wind does not listen to anybody and its actions are governed by it alone. To escape its harmful effects, we should build our homes on a strong foundation and ensure that their doors cannot be easily penetrated (get access to) by the wind. Also, we must train our bodies and our hearts to combat and resist face the ill-effects of the wind. If we are able to do this, then we will no longer consider the wind an enemy. Instead the wind will invite us to become its friend. This is an idiom meaning that if we make our character strong, we will be able to combat any troubles easily. However, if our character is weak, the troubles will create problems for us.

Stanza 5

*The wind blows out weak fires.
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.
His friendship is good.
We praise him everyday.*

Explanation: Here the poet describes how the wind has both bad effects and good effects. The bad effect is that it can blow out a weak fire. However, if the fire is burning strongly, then the wind will make it burn fiercer, thus nurturing what is already strong. The poet comes to the conclusion that if we are strong, then the wind is a good friend for us to have, as it will increase our strength. This is an idiom meaning that all troubles that we face in life will strengthen us further if our characters are strong. However, we will be seriously affected by troubles if our characters are weak. He also says that we should sing our devotion to the wind god on a daily basis meaning that we should happily face any troubles in our lives.

Conclusion of the Wind

The poem gives us a very important message that we should not feel bad that we are facing so many challenges and hardships in life. Instead, we should make ourselves mentally and physically strong to face challenges.

Rain On The Roof

-by Coates Kinney

Stanza 1

*When the humid shadows hover
Over all the starry spheres,
And the melancholy darkness
Gently weeps in rainy tears,
What a bliss to press the pillow
Of a cottage-chamber bed,
And lie listening to the patter
Of the soft rain overhead!*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet says that stars of the sky are not visible, being covered by clouds. He says that the darkness is making him sad and reflective and the rain also seems to mirror his emotions as it looks like tears falling softly from human eyes. The only thing that can bring joy to the poet is to curl up with a pillow in the bed of a rural cottage. Though the rooms of the cottage may be small and ill-equipped, the sound of raindrops can enable him to recover from his sad and gloomy mood.

Stanza 2

*Every tinkle on the shingles
Has an echo in the heart;
And a thousand dreamy fancies
Into busy being start,
And a thousand recollections
Weave their air-threads into woof,
As I listen to the patter
Of the rain upon the roof.*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet describes how the raindrops make a tinkling sound as they fall on the shingles of the roof. Each sound made by the rain is repeated the next instant by the beating of his heart. What he has only been imagining till now starts appearing before his eyes. As he is listening to the soft and continuous falling of the raindrops on his roof, all his memories come back to him, but they are not discrete and separated from each other. Instead, these memories have formed a patchwork by becoming entwined with one another. The memories are large in numbers and have formed a cluster in his mind.



Stanza 3

*Now in memory comes my mother,
As she used in years ago,
To regard the darling dreamers,
Ere she left them till the dawn:
O! I feel her fond look on me
As I list to this refrain
Which is played upon the shingles
By the patter of the rain.*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet describes the first memory that he can actually identify among the patchwork of his memories. He remembers that during his childhood, his mother used to look at him and his siblings as they were sleeping and having pleasant dreams. His mother would make a point to look at them every night, for she knew she would not see them again till the next morning. His mother would bend down and watch over him in particular. These memories are evoked as he listens to the repetitive rhythm of the raindrops as they are falling on his roof.

Conclusion of Rain on The Roof

In this poem, whenever the poet hears the pattering sound on his rooftop he remembers sweet memories of his childhood especially one that relates to his mother.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

-by WB Yeast

Stanza 1

*I will arise and go now,
and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there,
of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there,
a hive for the honeybee,*

Explanation: The poem starts with the poet saying that he will wake up and go to the island of Innisfree. He compares his life in the city to sleep. When he wakes up and becomes conscious, he will be transported away from the sedentary non-active city life to a life of activity in a rural area. In particular, the poet mentions two activities that he would like to engage in-physical labour i.e. building a cabin and planting nine rows of beans and beekeeping. He wishes to live alone where buzzing sound of the bees will fill the entire environment.

Stanza 2

*And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evenings full of the linnet's wings.*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet says that his life on the island of Innisfree will be peaceful. He especially connects peacefulness with the early morning. Peace will come to him readily as morning comes, and he wakes up to the sound of crickets chirping. He compares the morning to a woman who is veiled. This means that, when the Sun rises, morning drops her veil of darkness and brings peace upon the rural setting of Innisfree. The poet also likes midnight, with the stars shining brightly in the sky. He also likes noon, as well as evening. which is full of the sound of the linnet birds' melodious song.

Stanza 3

*I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear the lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*



Explanation: In this stanza, the poet makes a resolution that he will go to Innisfree just now because Innisfree is never out of his mind. Throughout the day and the night, he can only hear one sound in his mind that of the water reaching the shore of the island of Innisfree at a calm pace and creating a soft lapping sound. He hears this sound deep within his own heart as he goes about his life in the urban setting of roadways and pavements. This urban setting contains none of the colours that make Innisfree beautiful; instead it appears grey and boring.

Conclusion of The Lake Isle of Innisfree

In this poem, the poet wants to go to Innisfree where he can live freely in his cabin. However, the present situation of the poet is just the opposite of what he wants. Overall, in the poem, the poet wants peace which according to him, can only find it near the lake of Innisfree.



A Legend of The Northland

-by Phoebe Cary

Stanza 1 & 2

*Away, away in the Northland,
Where the hours of the day are few,
And the nights are so long in winter
That they cannot sleep them through;
Where they harness the swift reindeer
To the sledges, when it snows;
And the children look like bear's cubs
In their funny, furry clothes:*

Explanation: Here the poet introduces the place from which her story is derived, which is the Northland where the days are short, and nights are long in winter. It is so cold in that season that people cannot sleep comfortably the whole night, and often woke up. As the nights are very long, they are also not able to sleep the entire night. When the snow falls, people like to go sledging by tying reindeers to their sledges to pull them. Because of the cold, children wear heavy woollen and fur clothes that cover them up fully and make them look like bear cubs.

Stanza 3 & 4

*They tell them a curious story
I don't believe 'tis true;
And yet you may learn a lesson
If I tell the tale to you.
Once, when the good Saint Peter
Lived in the world below,
And walked about it, preaching,
Just as he did, you know,*

Explanation: Parents in the Northland tell their children a story. Although, the poet does not think the story is true, it should be told, nonetheless, because it teaches children an important lesson. Then the poet begins to tell the story. The story is about Saint Peter as he travelled around the world preaching the word of God.

Stanza 5 & 6

*He came to the door of a cottage,
In travelling round the earth,
Where a little woman was making cakes,
And baking them on the hearth;*



*And being faint with fasting,
For the day was almost done,
He asked her, from her store of cakes,
To give him a single one.*

Explanation: Saint Peter came to a woman's house in the Northland just when she was baking cakes in her fireplace for herself. Saint Peter's body was pale and tired at the end of a long day, during which he had been fasting. To sustain himself, he asked the woman to give him only one of the many cakes that she was baking.

Stanza 7 & 8

*So she made a very little cake,
But as it baking lay,
She looked at it, and thought it seemed
Too large to give away.
Therefore she kneaded another,
And still a smaller one;
But it looked, when she turned it over,
As large as the first had done.*

Explanation: So the woman baked a very small cake, but before she could give it to Saint Peter, she started thinking that it was too big to just be given away like that. So the woman went on to make an even smaller cake, but this also looked as big as the first one to her.

Stanza 9 & 10

*Then she took a tiny scrap of dough,
And rolled and rolled it flat;
And baked it thin as a wafer
But she couldn't part with that.
For she said, "My cakes that seem too small
When I eat of them myself
Are yet too large to give away."
So she put them on the shelf.*

Explanation: In her third attempt to make a cake so small that she wouldn't mind giving it away, she took an extremely small lump of dough, and when she rolled out the dough, her cake was as flat and thin as a wafer. However, she couldn't even bear to give that small cake away. The woman said that the cakes that seemed small when she herself ate them, were all too big to be donated for free. As a result, she ended up keeping all the cakes on the shelf and not giving any to Saint Peter.

Stanza 11 & 12

*Then good Saint Peter grew angry,
For he was hungry and faint;
And surely such a woman*

*Was enough to provoke a saint.
And he said, "You are far too selfish
To dwell in a human form,
To have both food and shelter,
And fire to keep you warm.*

Explanation: This angered Saint Peter because he was hungry and weak and needed some food. It is not easy to anger a saint, but the selfish woman had been able to do so. So, Saint Peter put a curse on the selfish woman, telling her she did not deserve to have such comforts of human life like a warm fire, a house to live in and good food to eat whenever she wanted.

Stanza 13 & 14

*Now, you shall build as the birds do,
And shall get your scanty food
By boring, and boring, and boring,
All day in the hard, dry wood."
Then up she went through the chimney,
Never speaking a word,
And out of the top flew a woodpecker,
For she was changed to a bird.*

Explanation: Saint Peter cursed the woman that she would have to build her own nest like birds do, and must dig holes into hard, dry wood to get food to feed herself. The woman went up the chimney of her house, being speechless, and had turned into a woodpecker. This woodpecker could be seen flying out of the top of the chimney.

Stanza 15 & 16

*She had a scarlet cap on her head,
And that was left the same;
But all the rest of her clothes were burned
Black as a coal in the flame.
And every country schoolboy
Has seen her in the wood,
Where she lives in the trees till this very day,
Boring and boring for food.*

Explanation: As the woman had been wearing a red cap in human form, as a woodpecker her head was still the same shade of red in colour. However, all the clothes she had been wearing seemed to have been burnt and had become black, and that is what the colour of the woodpecker's body was. The poet says that every schoolboy living in the villages had seen this woodpecker and that she still digs into the bark of trees looking for worms and insects to feed on.

Conclusion of A Legend of The Northland

By, a legend of the Northland summary the poet wants to say that when you have something then share it with



others. And don't be selfish and greedy.

No Men Are Foreign

-by James Kirkup

Stanza 1

*Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign
Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes
Like ours: the land our brothers walk upon
Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie.*

Explanation: The poet says that no person is stranger to us. There is nothing like a person being strange, who is not from our area or not from our native place. There is nothing like a country to be a foreign one that is not ours. There may be a difference in the way we eat, the way we talk and the way we dress ourselves but all these things still count to uniformity. We all are human beings. We may belong to different religions or castes, we may have different colours, we may speak different languages but above all these, we are only human beings. All the differences don't matter as we are brothers. We share a common land upon which we all walk, we all do our respective work, we all live and survive. At the end of our lives, we all shall lie on the same earth.

Stanza 2

*They, too, aware of sun and air and water,
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starv'd.
Their hands are ours, and in their lines we read,
A labour not different from our own.*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet says that they, whom we call strangers or foreigners, also use the sun, air and water as we do. They too are aware of them and there is no difference in the way we use them. Thereby, the poet asserts that there is no foreigner among us. They get the crops and their eatables from the field as we do. They like peace as we do. During the war, even they have to face hardships and they die due to starvation as we would have. So, there is nothing like foreigners because all the things go parallel. They use their powers of hands to get the things done, as we do. Like us, they also speak to communicate with one another. So, where does the strangeness lie? Where do the foreigners lie? We are similar in every respect. Therefore, the poet stresses that there is nothing as to be called strange or foreign.

Stanza 3

*Remember they have eyes like ours that wake
Or sleep, and strength that can be won
By love. In every land is common life*

That all can recognise and understand.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet says that how can someone be a stranger or a country be foreign with so much of similarity. He says that all of them, whom we call strangers, have eyes like that of ours. They too see the world like us. They too follow the course of earth everyday and sleep as well as wake-up. They too are sensitive like us. They have strength like us. They are courteous to love and sympathy, like us and even they can be won by it. Even they submit themselves to the lovely feelings. Over all, we can see that there is no difference in the way we live. Wherever we go, life has a similar mechanism, which is easily identifiable and can be understood with much ease. Summing up all these, the poet is right in saying that no men are strange and no country is foreign.

Stanza 4

Let us remember, whenever we are told

To hate our brother, it is ourselves

That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.

Remember, we who take arms against each other

Explanation: The poet has proved the fact that there is nothing like strange or foreign. Everything has a similar frame. We all are same and nothing is there that can be used to prove dissimilarity. Still, there are some people among us, who disapprove of it, who try to break the feeling of brotherhood by provoking one against the other and destroying social as well as global harmony. These few people excite us to take the arms against our brothers, to hate them and to kill them. And, if we, in the fit of that provoking, do something wrong to our brothers, then we are harming our own spirits only. We are abusing our own serenity Peace. Our brothers, whom we should align, are subjected to the misdeeds that we do to them. We just degrade our own charm and this is a slap on the face of humanity. So, the poet says not to commit any such wrong deed and not to degrade humanity.

Stanza 5

It is the human earth that we defile.

Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence

Of air that is everywhere our own,

Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange.

Explanation: The poet further says that taking arms against our brothers not only pollutes our spirit but it also pollutes the whole earth we live upon. The hatred, jealousy inside our heart surpasses the good qualities and the innocence of the people. Whatever we do, in the state of provocation, is never justified and we make the surrounding polluted with our misdeeds. In the impression of strangeness and foreigners, we commit a grave mistake. We must not do any of the blunders under the pseudo (false)-impression of possession and self.

Conclusion of No Men Are Foreign

No Men are Foreign summary wants to say that we should not indulge in war. Also, we all are the same in every way.



The Duck and The Kangaroo

-by Edward Lear

Stanza 1

*Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.
"Good gracious! how you hop!
Over the fields and the water too,
As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,
And I long to go out in the world beyond!
I wish I could hop like you!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet describes the talk between a Duck and his friend Kangaroo. The Duck told his friend Kangaroo that he was amazed at his ability to hop over the fields and water bodies. He says that hopping appears to be never ending. The Duck further said that he had been bored with his life in that pond. He had a strong desire to go out to the world that lies beyond that pond. He expressed his inability to hop like the Kangaroo. Due to his inability, he was very sad.

STANZA 2

*"Please give me a ride on your back!"
Said that Duck to the Kangaroo.
"I would sit quite still, and say nothing but
'Quack', The whole of the long day through!
And we'd go to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee.
Over the land, and over the sea;
Please take me a ride! O do!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet further elaborates the conversation between the Duck and the Kangaroo. The Duck is requesting the Kangaroo to allow him to have a ride on his back to see the whole world. He added that he would sit still and say nothing but quack. Throughout the day, they would visit many places, which are beautiful and pleasing. They had planned to go over the field and over the seas. The Duck wished to go to imaginative places 'Dee' and the 'Jelly Bo Lee'. Saying all these, the Duck again put the request before the Kangaroo to allow him a ride on his back.

Stanza 3

*Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,
"This requires some little reflection;
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck,
And there seems but one objection,
Which is, if you'll let me speak so bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,
And would probably give me the roo -
Matiz!" said the Kangaroo.*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet has come out with the reply of the Kangaroo for the request made by the Duck. The continuous pleading of the Duck forced the Kangaroo to accept it. The Kangaroo thought that journey may bring good fortune to him. The Kangaroo told the Duck that there is a need of consideration so that there may be an ease in making the journey possible and favourable. The Kangaroo put an objection before the Duck saying that he would state his objection only if the Duck allowed him to say so. The objection of the Kangaroo was the unpleasantly wet and cold feet of the Duck. If the Kangaroo allowed the duck, with the cold feet, to ride his back, then he might catch cold for sure. The Kangaroo, thus, put his objection very clearly.

Stanza 4

*Said the Duck, "As I sat on the rocks,
I have thought over that completely,
And I bought four pairs of worsted socks
Which fit my web-feet neatly.
And to keep out the cold I've bought a cloak,
And every day a cigar I'll smoke,
All to follow my own dear true
Love of a Kangaroo!"*

Explanation: The stanza describes the situation after the objection of the Kangaroo to give a ride on his back. The Duck came up with its solution. He told Kangaroo that he had thought about it in detail when he was sitting over the rocks. He told the Kangaroo that he had bought some pairs of worsted fine smooth yarn) socks and a cloak to protect the Kangaroo from getting cold. The socks would keep his web-like feet dry which is always damp and the clock will provide him warmth. Also, he had decided to smoke a cigar so that he could keep himself warmer. He told Kangaroo that since he loved him, therefore he was already prepared with all this so that comfort could be ensured.

Stanza 5

*Said the Kangaroo, "I'm ready!
All in the moonlight pale;
But to balance me well, dear Duck, sit steady!
And quite at the end of my tail!"
So away they went with a hop and a bound,
And they hopped the whole world three times round;*



*And who so happy - who,
As the Duck and the Kangaroo?*

Explanation: In the last stanza, the poet describes the journey covered by the Duck and the Kangaroo. The Kangaroo told the Duck that they would start their journey on the day with moonlight. The Kangaroo issued some advice to the Duck that he should sit steady at the end of his tail in order to balance his hop properly. With all the preparations and instruction, the two went on their journey to the world. They went round the whole world three times. In the end, the poet leaves us with a question that which of the two-the Duck and the Kangaroo, would have been happier?

Conclusion of The Duck and The Kangaroo

The Duck and the Kangaroo Summary teaches about the importance and value of friendship.



On Killing A Tree

-by Gieve Patel

Stanza 1

*It takes much time to kill a tree
Upon its crust, absorbing
Not a simple jab of the knife
Years of sunlight, air, water,
Will do it. It has grown
And out of its leprous hide
Slowly consuming the earth,
Sprouting leaves.
Rising out of it, feeding*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet comments on the way a person cuts down a tree in order to serve his purpose. The poet says that it is not easy to cut down a tree because a simple jab of the knife is never enough to wipe out its existence. The reason behind its strength is its consuming the resources which it has got from the earth's crust so powerfully. Years of absorption of sunlight, air and water from which the earth has made its growth so perfect that a jab of knife won't do much. It will come out with leaves again and will grow as ever.

Stanza 2

*So hack and chop
Will rise curled green twigs,
But this alone wont do it.
Miniature boughs
Not so much pain will do it.
Which if unchecked will expand again
The bleeding bark will heal
To former size
And from close to the ground*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet further states the ways of cutting a tree. As the jab of the knife was not sufficient, the poet advises us to hit the tree severely in the form of hacking and chopping. But, the poet contrasts that even that won't be enough to kill the tree. This hacking and chopping would raise a pain to the tree but not good enough to kill it. The bark will ooze leak) out with the liquid secretion, but over a period of time, it gets healed. Then, the fighting spirit of the tree will make it alive again. From close to the ground, it will start a new life again by



giving rise to new leaves and small boughs. These will make the tree so glorious again that it will acquire its former size. Therefore, it is not easy to cut or kill a tree.

Stanza 3

*No, The root is to be pulled out
Out of the anchoring earth;
It is to be roped, tied,
And pulled out-snapped out
Or pulled out entirely,
Out from the earth-cave,
And the strength of the tree exposed
The source, white and wet,
The most sensitive, hidden
For years inside the earth.*

Explanation: In the previous stanzas, the poet has discussed the various ways of killing the tree, but still the tree has managed to survive so the poet came up with another idea. He says that the root needs to be pulled out of the earth where it has stocked its strength. To do this, one needs to rope the roots, then pull out the whole mass outside. When the roots are out of the earth cave, then the actual strength of the tree i.e. the roots are exposed to the sun or environment. The source of life of the tree which is roots, is now exposed and out and its root matter is white and wet with absorption of water. It is now subjected to the outside world. This is the actual start of the death of the tree as the life-source of tree, its roots, are exposed.

Stanza 4

*Then the matter
Browning, hardening,
Of scorching and choking
Twisting, withering,
In sun and air,
And then it is done.*

Explanation: In the previous stanza, the poet discussed the way a tree is uprooted and exposed to the surrounding. When the tree is uprooted and left open in the surrounding, then the sun starts drying it up with the burning heat. This intense heat makes the root of the tree getting choked in the air and sunlight. Heat makes the root brown which was white earlier and hardens it by soaking all the moisture content. Then, the root starts twisting from its original shape and finally gets withered from its parts. This brings the actual end to the life of the tree and that is how it is done in the end. The poet takes us into a detailed account of how we kill a tree, what suffering does it have to face and how harsh our attitude is for the ones which is the breath of our lives.

Conclusion of On Killing A Tree

On Killing a Tree Summary discusses how to completely kill a tree in quite an ironical sense that touches the heart of readers.

The Snake Trying

-by WWE Ross

Stanza 1

*The snake trying
to escape the pursuing stick,
with sudden curvings of thin
long body. How beautiful
and graceful are his shapes!*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet describes how a snake is trying to avoid the approaching stick with the elegant and non-linear moves of its body. The poet fell in beauty and charm of the snake and he had also appreciated gracious moves of the snake. The poet is really amazed at the shape and graceful slithering gliding of the snake.

Stanza 2

*He glides through the water away
from the stroke.
O let him go over the water
into the reeds to hide
without hurt. Small and green
he is harmless even to children*

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet has described that the afraid snake is making its way into the water so that it can avoid the possible harm and go unhurt into the reeds. The poet requests not to cause any harm to that beautiful snake which is harmless even to the children and to allow it to go to its hide.

Stanza 3

*Along the sand
he lay until observed
and chased away, and now
he vanishes in the ripples
among the green slim reeds.*

Explanation: The poet, in this stanza, says that the green snake was lying along the sand until it was observed by someone, who started chasing it. But, the snake moved fast and hid itself into the reeds. That's how it saved itself from the pursuer. The colour of reeds is also green.

Conclusion of The Snake Trying

The Snake Trying summary reflects the evil tendency of human beings to hurt creatures that are harmless and innocent.



A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

-by William Wordsworth

Stanza 1

A slumber did my spirit seal

I had no human fears.

She seemed a thing that could not feel

The touch of earthly years.

Explanation: In the stanza, the poet has expressed his grief over the death of a loved one. He says that he had no usual human fears now as death is the ultimate fear for human beings. When a person is alive, then he has many apprehensions and many fears like disease, famine etc. But death makes the end of all these fears because earthly years or usual fears seem to have no effect on his beloved. She has passed away peacefully leaving everything behind.

Stanza 2

No motion has she now, no force

She neither hears nor sees

Rolled round in earth's diurnal course

With rocks and stones and trees.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet mentions that there is no motion in the body of his beloved as death has overcome her. Also, death has deprived her of her strength. She is unable to see and unable to hear. All her senses are dead now. She has adjusted herself with the routine activity of earth now. As the earth completes its routine of day and night with the rocks, stones and trees; so does the beloved of the poet now. She has become a part of the nature. The poet concludes with her afterlife.

Conclusion of A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

A slumber did my spirit seal summary tells us about the pain of the author due to his beloved's death and how he comes to the acceptance of this harsh reality.



Summary

Prose

The Fun They Had

-by Isaac Asimov

Diary Entry by Margie

The present story is set in the future when children don't have traditional books and schools. Margie, a little girl in the story, makes a diary entry-Tommy found a real book'. The entry reveals the date, 21st May 2157, showing that the story is set much into the future. The book was a very old one, just like the one that her grandfather had in his time as a student. Its pages were yellow and she found it funny to read the words that were not moving like that on a computer screen.

Feelings about the Book

When Tommy had the book in his hand, he called it a waste because after one time reading, it could be thrown away. The same feeling was with Margie too. Tommy found that book in the attic of his house and that book was about a school. Margie hated her school and her mechanical teacher a lot. Her teacher was not a living being. He was an image that flashes on her screen in her study room. He gave her test after test in geography, and she was not doing well. Her failure in geography had invited an inspector who tried to trace out the problem. So, her mother had asked the County Inspector to come and find what was wrong.

The Arrival of the County Inspector

The County Inspector was a round little man with a red face. Margie had thought that he would take her mechanical teacher away completely, but it was not so. The Inspector set the teacher right within an hour or so. He told her mother that nothing was wrong with the girl rather the screen was too fast for the girl and therefore Margie was having troubles. Now, it had been slowed down so that, she would be okay with its level.

The Old Kind of School

On reading that book, Tommy had a discussion about the school with Margie. The old kind of schools were a building common to all and with human teachers who would teach all the boys and girls the same thing if they were of the same age.

He gave them tests as well as homework. Margie wanted to know more about those kinds of funny schools, but it was time for her to go to her school. It was time for Tommy too for his school and both of them decided to read the book later.



Margie's Schoolroom

Margie's schoolroom was next to her bedroom, where the mechanical teacher was on and waiting for Margie. Her school was open every day except Saturday and Sunday. Margie's mother believed that girls learn better if they do it regularly. The mechanical teacher (the screen lit up and started) was going to teach lesson on arithmetic. It was about the addition of proper fractions. Margie had no interest in it. Margie had to put yesterday's homework in the proper slot too. The mechanical teacher never forgot to ask for the homework.

Margie being Nostalgic

Margie was sitting in front of her mechanical teacher, but she was thinking of the good old days when the kids had a common time and place to study. She was also thinking of the human teacher that used to teach them. She was thinking of the fun they had at the school.

Conclusion of The Fun They Had

In the chapter – The Fun They Had illustrates how emerging technology is slowly taking precedence over various things around us. In the near future, it wouldn't be surprising to see if human teachers are replaced by mechanical devices or robots.



The Sound Of Music

-by Deborah Cowley

Part – I

Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound Without Hearing It

Evelyn Lost her Hearing at a Young Age

This part is about a Scottish girl named Evelyn. She was very fond of music and wanted to make it her life slowly. Evelyn's lost her sense of hearing. It was first noticed when she was eight years old. By eleven year, she was completely deaf due to nerve damage.

Evelyn didn't Give up Hope and Never Looked Back

She was determined to lead a normal life and pursue her interest in music. One day, she noticed a girl playing a xylophone and decided that she wanted to play it too. Most of the teachers discouraged her but percussionist (a person who plays tabla or drum) Ron Forbes encouraged her. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. Evelyn could feel the different notes of the drum in her body.

The rest was sheer determination and hard work. She travelled the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She gradually left the orchestral work and started giving solo performances. At the end of her three year course, she had received most of the top awards.

Evelyn Senses Music

She explains that music flows through every part of her body. It tingles in the skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair. When she plays the xylophone, she can sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips.

By leaning against the drums, she can feel the resonances (sounds) flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removes her shoes so that the vibrations pass through her bare feet and up her legs.

Evelyn: An Inspiration

Evelyn is a perfect example that disability can not stop a person to achieve if he/she is determined and works hard towards it. Evelyn earned many awards and rewards. She has given enormous pleasure to millions.



Part – II

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

Pungi was Banned and then Revived

Emperor Aurangzeb had banned the playing of a musical instrument called pungi in the royal residence, as it had a shrill and unpleasant sound. A barber of a family of professional musicians decided to improve the tonal quality of the pungi. He played the improved instrument before royalty and everyone was impressed. The instrument had to be given a new name. As the story goes, since it was first played in the Shah's chambers and was played by a nai (barber), the instrument was named the 'shehnai'.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Brought Shehnai to the Classical Stage

The sound of the shehnai began to be considered auspicious. And for this reason, it is still played in temples and is an indispensable component (important part) of any North Indian wedding. In the past, the shehnai was part of the naubat or traditional ensemble (group) of nine instruments found at royal courts. The credit for bringing this instrument onto the classical stage goes to Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Music was in Bismillah Khan's Blood

Bismillah belongs to a well-known family of musicians from Bihar. His grandfather, father and other paternal ancestors were also great shehnai players.

Bismillah was fascinated at watching his uncles practise the shehnai. He started accompanying his uncle Ali Bux and slowly, he started getting lessons in playing the instrument and would sit practising throughout the day. The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to put together and create ragas that were earlier considered to be beyond that range of the shehnai.

The Bright Future of Bismillah Khan

With the opening of the All-India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 came Bismillah's big break. He soon became an often-heard shehnai player on radio. When India gained independence on 15th August 1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai.

Film director Vijay Bhatt was so impressed after hearing him play at a festival that he named a film after the instrument called 'Gunj Uthi Shehnai'.

A Renowned Musician and a True Indian

Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. National awards like the Padmashri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan were conferred on him.



In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna. Despite travelling to many countries, he was exceedingly fond of Benaras and Dumraon and they remain for him the most wonderful towns of the world.

He even refused a position in America saying that he cannot find the Ganga there. Whenever, he was travelling abroad his heart kept aching for his homeland.

Conclusion of The Sound of Music

In the chapter – The Sound of Music illustrates how music binds people and is not limited to one person only. Music is a universal language that is loved and adored by people of different caste, creed, colour or race.





The Little Girl

-by Katherine Mansfield

Kezia is Afraid of her father

The little girl Kezia was afraid of her father. She always wanted to avoid meeting him. She felt relieved when he went out of the house as his presence made her uncomfortable out of fear Kezia used to stammer in front of her father whereas with others she used to talk normally. He appeared so big to Kezia that she would compare him with a giant. Kezia's grandmother wanted that Kezia should talk to her parents more and therefore on Sunday afternoons she would send her to the drawing room to talk to them, where they would be relaxing.

Kezia Makes a Birthday Gift for her Father

When one day Kezia had a cold and she did not go to school, her grandmother suggested her to make with her own hands a pin-cushion as a birthday gift for her father, whose birthday was next week. So Kezia stitched three sides of it. Then, not finding any scraps to fill it with, she filled it by tearing into small pieces some papers which she found on her mother's bedroom table.

Then, she completed the pin-cushion by sewing its fourth side. Later, her father was very angry when he could not find the papers on which he had written the speech to be given to the Port Authority next day. When Kezia was asked, she told her father that she had torn up and stuffed the papers in the pin-cushion she had made! So her father punished her by hitting her hand with a ruler to teach her not to touch anything that did not belong to her.

Kezia's Neighbours : The Macdonalds

Kezia was jealous of the happy family living next door Mr Macdonald, his wife and five children. Mr Macdonald was always playing with his children when he was free. They were laughing and enjoying each others' company. That is when Kezia realised that there were different kinds of fathers.

Kezia's Opinion about her Father Finally changed

When Kezia's mother fell ill and had to be hospitalised, Kezia's grandmother went to look after her, leaving Kezia to be looked after by Alice, the cook. While sleeping, Kezia had a frightful nightmare of a butcher with a knife and rope and woke up crying, to find her father standing there. He took Kezia with her to his room and lay down beside her to give her comfort. He slept off due to being tired. That is when Kezia realised that he had to work very hard and felt sorry for tearing up his papers. She told him that he had a very big heart.

Conclusion of The Little Girl

In the chapter – The Little Girl teaches us how a loving and caring relationship between parents and children can help in strengthening the bond and attachment in the family. We should try to understand each other instead of finding faults in others.

A Truly Beautiful Mind

Early Life of Einstein

Albert Einstein was born to German parents on 14th March, 1879 in Ulm, Germany. His mother thought that he was abnormal because his head was too large compared to other children. He started speaking, that also with difficulty, only by the time he was two-and-a-half years old. He loved to play with mechanical toys and preferred to play alone; thus other children called him 'Brother Boring'. Even his school headmaster was not happy with him, telling his father that Albert would never be successful, whatever career he took up. His mother made him learn how to play the violin at the age of six years. He, later on, became a talented amateur (non-professional) violinist.

Education and Married Life of Einstein

When Einstein's parents shifted to Milan, they allowed him to continue school in Munich, but he left the high school there at the age of 15 years as he felt uneasy with the strictness there. He was extraordinary in Mathematics and interested in Physics. So, he continued his studies at the university in Zurich. There he met a Serbian girl, Mileva Maric, who was also an intellectual. They fell in love and ultimately married after Albert found a job on finishing his university studies. But, their family life was not happy despite having two sons. They finally divorced in 1919.

Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity

Einstein finally secured a job as a technical expert in the patent office in Bern, where he assessed (judged) other people's inventions. Side-by-side, he continued developing his own ideas secretly. He published his Special Theory of Relativity in 1905, according to which time and distance are not absolute (independent).

He derived (obtained the world's most famous formula describing the relationship between mass and energy: $E = mc^2$).

In 1915, Einstein published his 'General Theory of Relativity'. The solar eclipse of the sun proved his theory as correct. He became famous, as his work was considered a 'scientific revolution'. For this and his other achievements, he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921.

Einstein Works for Peace and Democracy

When the Nazis came to power in Germany, Einstein emigrated (moved away) to the USA. When the world's scientists came to know that Germany had developed nuclear fission, they became afraid that the Nazis could build and use an atomic bomb. He was persuaded by a colleague to write to Franklin D Roosevelt, President of the USA, that this development could cause large-scale devastation. This made the Americans develop their own atomic bomb and use it against Japan near the end of the Second World War.



Einstein was shocked by the extent of destruction caused by these bombs and wrote an open letter to the United Nations to stop the arms buildup by forming a 'world government'. Einstein continued campaigning (push or press) for an end to the arms buildup and used his popularity to campaign for peace and democracy during the next ten years, till his death in 1955. He was known and celebrated as a visionary and 'world citizen' as much as a scientific genius.

Conclusion of A Truly Beautiful Mind

The chapter – A Truly Beautiful Mind illustrates the life story of the scientific genius, Albert Einstein. He was not just a scientist but was deeply concerned about human welfare. Due to this reason, the story is entitled as 'A Truly Beautiful Mind'.



My Childhood

-by APJ Abdul Kalam

Birth, Childhood and First Earning of Abdul Kalam

Abdul Kalam was born in a middle class Muslim family in 1931 in the island town of Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. In his childhood, he was greatly influenced by his parents, his teachers and his friends.

Abdul's father, Jainulabdeen, was not much educated but he was a very generous and kind person. He was not rich but provided a secure childhood to Abdul and his brothers and sisters. Abdul's mother's name was Ashiamma. Abdul inherited honesty and self-discipline from his father and faith in goodness and deep kindness from his mother.

Abdul earned his first wages by working as a helper to his cousin, Samsuddin, who distributed newspapers in Rameswaram. When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Abdul was only eight years old. There was a great demand of tamarind seeds at that time. Abdul used to collect these seeds and sell them in market.

Incidents of Abdul Childhood

In his childhood, he had three close friends - Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindam and Sivaprakashan. All these boys were from orthodox Hindu Brahmin families. Once when he was in the fifth standard, a new teacher asked him not to sit in the front row along with the high caste Brahmin boys. Abdul found Ramanadha Sastry crying when he got up and went to the last row. This made a lasting impression on Abdul. This matter was brought to the knowledge of Lakshmana Sastry (Ramanadha Sastry's father). He was the head priest of the Rameswaram temple.

He told the teacher that he should not spread the poison of social inequality and communal intolerance in the minds of innocent children. The teacher accepted his mistake.

Anti-Casteist Action of Abdul's Science Teacher

On the other hand, Abdul was greatly influenced by his science teacher, Sivasubramania Iyer. He learnt the lesson of breaking social barriers from him. Iyer invited him to his home for a meal. His wife was an orthodox Brahmin who refused to serve food to a Muslim boy in her so-called 'ritually pure' kitchen. Iyer served him with his own hands and sat down beside him to eat his meal. He convinced his wife to serve Abdul with her own hands next time he came, thus, successfully changing the conservative attitude of his wife.

Abdul gets Permission for Higher Education

For higher education, Abdul asked permission from his father to leave Rameswaram and study at the district headquarters in Ramanathapuram. His father happily gave permission, so that Abdul could develop his own career. His father convinced his hesitant mother by quoting Khalil Gibran, who had said that parents are a means for children to become independent from them - they don't belong to the parents themselves.

Conclusion of My Childhood

The chapter – My Childhood portrays the childhood memories of one of India's greatest aerospace scientists, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and how he spent his early days. He also served as the eleventh President of India from the year 2002 to 2007.



Packing

-by Jerome K Jerome

The Narrator (Jerome) Boasts of Being the Master of Packing

The narrator was going on a trip with his friends, George and Harris. He told them that he would do the packing. They accepted his offer and relaxed while he packed the bag.

The narrator's real intention was to supervise his friends in packing. He wanted to teach his friends how to pack. However, they misinterpreted him and as a result narrator had to do the packing.

Haphazard Packing by the Narrator

The narrator started packing. It took him a bit longer than he had expected. He packed the bag but forgot to put the boots inside. So, he had to reopen the bag and put them in. He forgot whether he had put his toothbrush in the bag or not. So, he had to open the bag again and empty its contents. He put the contents back in the bag by shaking them one by one and found his toothbrush inside a boot. He had to reopen the bag once again as he had forgot his spectacles in the bag.

George and Harris Do the rest of the Packing

George asked the narrator whether he had packed the soap or not. The narrator got extremely angry hearing this as he had already opened and packed the bag a few times. So, George and Harris took the task of completing the rest of the packing.

Situation Becomes Worse

George and Harris commit a lot of mistakes while packing. They broke cups, put things behind them and couldn't find them when they needed them, packed heavy things on top of light things and stepped on things.

Montmorency Joins the Packing

Montmorency (Narrator's pet dog) came and sat down on things, put his leg into the jam and scattered the teaspoons. He went into the hamper and attacked three lemons thinking them to be rats. He was shoed away by Harris.

End of Packing

Finally, the packing ended late in the night at 12:50 AM. The three friends were very tired and decided to sleep. Before sleeping they had an argument about when to wake up in the morning.

Conclusion of Packing

The chapter – Packing teaches students how packing can indeed be a tiring task if not done properly. Moreover, when done with friends, it may become a little messy and time-consuming but it has its own charm and fun.

Reach For The Top

Part – I

Santosh Yadav

Santosh's Early Life

Santosh was born in a small village named Joniyawas of Rewari district in Haryana. In her village, birth of a girl child was not welcomed. Before her birth, a 'holy man' was about to give her mother the blessing of a son but her grandmother insisted that they wanted a daughter. Santosh is the only sister to her five brothers. Her family named her 'Santosh' as it means contentment which shows their happiness on her birth.

Santosh was not like the other village girls in her childhood. She wore shorts while other girls in her village wore traditional Indian dresses. At sixteen, most of the girls in her village used to get married, but she refused to get married and wanted to study.

Santosh's Education

Despite being rich, her parents sent her to the village school. She decided to fight the system so she enrolled herself in a school in Delhi against her parents' wishes. She went to Jaipur for higher studies after completing her schooling.

Santosh's Dream of Mountaineering

As Santosh's hostel room in Jaipur faced the Aravalli Hills, she used to watch people climbing the hill. She got curious and went to meet the mountaineers one day. She asked them if she could join them. They agreed and encouraged her to take mountaineering. She enrolled herself in a course at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and then she didn't look back. She informed her parents about this and apologised to them for taking admission without their permission.

Santosh as Remarkable Climber

Santosh went for an expedition every year and developed a remarkable resistance to cold and the altitude. Her determination and strong will power helped her a lot. She had physical stamina and mental toughness which were most necessary for climbing.

Santosh's Dream Comes True

Conquering Mt Everest is a dream that every climber wishes to fulfil. Santosh achieved this success in 1992 when she was only 20 years old. She became the youngest woman in the world to climb Mt Everest. Within a year, she scaled Mt Everest again and became the only woman mountaineer in the world to climb Mt Everest twice. She also saved the life of Mohan Singh who was her fellow climber.



Santosh as True Environmentalist

Santosh shares her feeling of hoisting the national flag on the top of the world. She says that unfurling Indian tricolour on the Everest was a proud, spiritual and undescrivable moment for her. She collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

Honour by the Indian Government Santosh Yadav was honoured with one of the top awards, the Padmashri in recognition of her achievements, by the Government of India.

Part – II

Maria Sharapova

Maria Sharapova Attains Top Position in World Tennis

Maria Sharapova, a teen sensation, attained the number one position in world women's tennis on 22nd August, 2005. She took only four years to achieve her dream. The journey actually started nine years ago when she was sent to America for her formal training.

Maria's Training in America

Maria was born in Siberia, Russia but Maria's father Yuri took her to America for training as a tennis professional. She was separated from her mother for almost two years when she was not even 10 years old. Her father earned as much as he could to keep her tennis training going.

Maria's Tough Times Make her Strong

Maria felt lonely and missed her mother badly. The other athletes made her to tidy up the room and clean it. The tough time made her strong and determined. She also learnt how to take care of herself. Her motto was to work hard to fulfil her desires.

Maria as a True Patriot

Maria lives in America but she still calls herself a Russian. However, the United States is a big part of her life but at heart, she is a Russian. She dreams of playing Olympics for Russia if they allow her to play. It clearly shows that she is a true patriot.

Hobbies and Interests of Maria

Maria's hobbies are singing and dancing. She reads Arthur Conan Doyle's novels. She has a great sense of fashion. She is fond of pancakes with chocolate and orange drinks.

She finds money as motivation but she dreams to become number one in the world and this dream keeps her going.

Conclusion of Reach For The Top

In the chapter – Reach for the Top, students learn from two inspiring women that due diligence, dedication and hard work always pays off and reaps us a fruitful outcome. This chapter serves as an encouragement for students to take note that if they find some motivation to pursue their dreams, they should make the best use of it in order to walk the path of success.

The Bond Of Love

-by Kenneth Anderson

The Narrator Finds an Orphaned Bear Cub

The narrator found a bear cub by chance when he and his friends were passing through the fields of sugarcane near Mysore. People were driving away the wild pigs from their fields by shooting at them. Then they spotted a sloth bear. His friend shot towards the bear and it died. After the sloth bear died, her cub (which was riding on her back) ran around her dead body making a sad noise. The narrator caught the bear cub and gifted him to his wife.

The narrator's wife felt so happy on seeing the bear cub and named him Bruno. She treated him as her own child and took good care of him. She gave him many things to eat and drink. He ate porridge, vegetables, fruits, nuts, meat, rice, eggs, etc, and drank tea, milk, beer, coffee, etc.

He spent his time in playing with the pet dogs of the narrator and his tenant's children. He slept in their beds.

Incidents with Bruno

Once an incident took place in the house. The narrator had put down a rat poison in the library and Bruno ate it and suffered a stroke of paralysis. He dragged himself to the narrator's wife. They took him to the veterinary doctor and he recovered after some time. Another time, Bruno drank one gallon of old engine oil but it had no ill-effect on him.

Baba : New Name of Bruno

As Bruno grew, he learnt some tricks and at the narrator's wife's command, he could perform them. He could hold a stick like a gun. When she said wrestle or box, he did the same. She changed his name to Baba when he grew up. Baba had to be chained most of the time because of the children of narrator's tenants'.

As time passed, baba grew in size and equalled the two dogs in height, so the narrator and his friends advised the narrator's wife to send him to the zoo in Mysore because he needed a bigger and open space. She was not ready to send him initially but later she agreed and sent him to the zoo.

Effect of Separation on Narrator's Wife and Baba

The narrator's wife was in grief for weeks after Baba left. She wrote a letter to the curator (custodian) of the zoo to know about Baba.

The curator replied that he was fretting and not eating food. The narrator tried to keep her away from the zoo for about three months but after knowing Baba's condition, she decided to meet him.

Reunion of the Narrator's Wife and Baba

The narrator took his wife to the zoo. Some of her friends told her that Baba would not recognise her but when she went to the zoo, Baba recognised her at once and became very happy. They sat together for three hours.

She gave him food. She urged the curator to send Baba with her but he was helpless and suggested her to ask the superintendent for that.



Baba Returns Home Happily

The superintendent allowed her to take Baba and he was hoisted on the top of the narrator's car. At home, a twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide island was made for him.

A wooden box was kept for Baba to sleep. He was happy to be at home again. The narrator's wife and Baba spent hours sitting there.

A Bond of Love Between a Human and an Animal

The affection and love between the narrator's wife and Baba, the sloth bear, was a symbol of true love. The story shows that animals also feel love and express their feelings to them who love them. Baba showed so many qualities like that of humans like love, affection, care and loyalty; and shared a bond of love with the narrator's wife.

Conclusion of The Bond Of Love

The chapter – The Bond of Love teaches students that a true bond of love is not restricted to humans only, even pet animals understand the care and love that we share with them. Being loved is one of the most prized gifts that can be felt by anyone.



Kathmandu

-by Vikram Seth

Author's Visit to Pashupatinath Temple

The author arrives at Kathmandu and decides to visit the famous temple of Hindus: Pashupatinath. Only Hindus are allowed to get inside the temple. There is a great chaos in and around the temple. All sorts of people like priests, hawkers, devotees and tourists are there. Cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs also roam around the place. Everybody wants to enter the main temple. Some Western devotees are not allowed by the guards as they are not Hindus.

Belief Regarding the End of Kaliyug

The river Bagmati flows by the side of the Pashupatinath temple. There is a small shrine on the river bank which half protrudes from the stone platform. The people believe that one day, the entire shrine will come out, then the Goddess inside it will escape and would thus bring an end to the evil period of Kaliyug.

Author's Visit to the Baudhnath Stupa

The author visits another famous holy shrine: The Baudhnath stupa which is surrounded by tranquility (peaceful atmosphere) unlike the Pashupatinath temple. There is a sense of stillness. Small shops of Tibetan immigrants (people coming from Tibet) on the outer edge sell bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery.

Vivid Description of Kathmandu

The author explores Kathmandu and its local markets. The city is crowded and lively. There are small shrines and deities along the narrowest and busiest streets. The streets are crowded with fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers, etc. People play film songs loudly on the radios, car horns play and cycle bells ring. The author enjoys a lot but plans to return to his home. He goes to a Nepal Airlines office and buys a ticket for Delhi. Then, he returns to his hotel to take some rest.

Author Sees a Flute Seller

Coming back to hotel, the author sees a flute seller. Unlike other sellers he never shouts to sell his flutes. He looks to be in love with the music of the flute. His music soothes the author's ears. It reminds him of the commonality of all mankind. The author always gets attached with the music of flute. He says that every culture has its flute as there is a deep bansuri of Hindustani classical music, clear and breathy flutes of South America, high pitched flutes of China. So, it can be said that flute is played universally.

The phrases on the bansuri affect the author deeply. He is surprised as he had not noticed such details in his earlier visits.

Conclusion of Kathmandu

The chapter – Kathmandu teaches students that we should maintain serenity and have a pure mind while visiting holy places so that we can have thoughtful ideas and act responsibly.



If I Were You

-by Douglas Jones

Entry of the Intruder

Gerrard was talking over the phone when the intruder (a criminal) came into the room with a gun in his hand. Gerrard was shocked at this but he kept himself calm and did not panic.

He tried to ask his name but he did not tell his name. The intruder was much interested in knowing the full name of Gerrard. He also wanted to know about his habits, his talking styles and about his other activities. Gerrard was very surprised to know that the intruder knew a few things about him.

Surprise to Gerrard

Gerrard engaged intruder in a conversation and came to know that the intruder wanted to kill him and take his identity. He was a jewel thief and was chased by the police for murdering a cop.

Gerrard Made a False Story

When Gerrard knew the intention of the intruder, he made a false story to save himself and capture the intruder. He told the intruder that he couldn't kill him because he too was wanted by the police. He made it sound real by telling him that he has to live in isolation as he too is being chased by the police.

Intruder Fell into the Story of Gerrard

At first, intruder didn't believe Gerrard but the decorative items and materials for appearances forced him to trust his words. Therefore, he decided to run away with Gerrard in his car. Gerrard pushed him into the cupboard instead of going in the garage. Then, he called his friend and asked him to send the cop at his home.

Conclusion of If I Were You

The Chapter – If I Were You teaches the lesson to students that we must not be over-confident and remain vigilant about our surroundings, so that even in tough circumstances, we maintain cool-headedness and are able to handle critical situations with ease.

Summary

Prose

The Lost Child

-by Mulk Raj Anand

About the Author

Mulk Raj Anand was an Indian writer in English, notable for his depiction of the lives of the power castes in traditional Indian Society. One of the pioneers of Indo-Anglian fiction, he was one of the first Indian-based writers in English to gain an international readership. Anand is admired for his novels and short stories, which have acquired the status of being classic works of modern Indian English literature, noted for their perspective insight into the lives of the oppressed, their impoverishment, exploitation and misfortune. He was also a recipient of the civilian honour of the Padma Bhushan.

Theme

In this chapter, the author deals with the child's psychology in a sensitive way without shying away from its reality. We too, have grown up as an accepted part of our multicultural neighbourhood in the world. Anand and his strongest when writing about the child's classic confrontational relationship with his world without parents. Young adult readers will be able to identify with the lost child's struggle to live within his family's ambit, while trying to discover his own world outside.

Child Goes to a Spring Fair with his parents

It is the festival of spring and everyone, in a happy mood, is going to the fair. The child is going to the fair with his parents. He is very happy and excited. On the way to the fair, the child enjoys every moment and gets fascinated towards natural beauty.

In the fair, the child is attracted towards sweets and toys displayed in the shops. He feels attracted towards the garland of Gulmohar and the delicious Gulab Jamuns; but his parents resist from buying anything for him. The child wants to play, climb trees, catch the dragonflies and butterflies; but again, his parents won't let him do any of this. The child sees snake-charmer. He likes music played by the charmer and wants to stay there for sometime but his parents do not approve. As the child moves on with his parents, he sees a roundabout. Then he says "I want to go on the roundabout, please father, mother."

The Child Gets Lost in the Fair

After requesting his parents boldly for a roundabout, the child turns back. But, to his surprise, no sign of his parents is there. He searches for his parents here and there. The child realises that he is now separated from his parents and he is lost. He starts crying bitterly.



A kind-hearted Man Meets the Child

There is a big crowd and the little child tries to make his way between the feet of people. After hearing the cry of the child, a gentleman lends a helping hand to him. This gentleman offers goodies and joy rides in order to console the lost child but the child will have none of them. Instead, he longs to meet his parents.

Conclusion of The Lost Child

The chapter – The Lost Child illustrates the lesson to students that children love their parents unconditionally. Although parents rebuke their children sometimes for their good, children always want their parents around them and feel lost in their absence.



The Adventures of TOTO

-by Ruskin Bond

About the Author

Ruskin Bond (born on 19 May, 1934) is an Indian author of British descent. He lives with his adopted family in Landour, in Mussoorie, India. The Indian Council for Child Education has recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India. He got the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, his published work in English. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2014.

Theme

The instinctive characteristics of a living being are generally difficult to change, and trying to do so is very painful for the animal/bird. It is necessary to respect every creation of God and allow them to live the way that has been prescribed for them by the Almighty.

Toto is Bought by the Narrator's Grandfather

The narrator's grandfather was very fond of animals. He bought a monkey from a Tonga-driver for 5 and named it Toto. First, when the grandfather saw Toto tied up to a feeding-trough, he looked very ill and ugly. As the grandfather had his own private zoo with many other animals, he kept the little monkey in it. Toto used his tail as a third hand. He used it to hang from a branch and for scooping up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands. Toto's presence was kept a secret from grandmother as she didn't like animals. It was kept secretly in a little closet.

Toto Travels Secretly with Grandfather

One day, when grandfather was going to Saharanpur to collect his pension, he decided to take Toto along with him as he did not want to leave him at home. A big black canvas kit bag was provided for Toto so that he could not escape. However, he was caught at Saharanpur station by the ticket collector and classified as a dog, so that grandfather had to also pay his fare.

Toto is Finally Accepted in the Family

Gradually grandmother accepted Toto in the house and he was put in the stable with Nana, the donkey. But, Toto teased Nana (donkey) so much that Nana never became friends with Toto.

Toto Nearly Half Boiled Himself Alive

In winters, Toto had an elaborate bathing ritual and enjoyed bathing with warm water. Due to this, once Toto almost boiled himself alive. A kettle had been put on the stove for making tea for the family. When nobody was there, he felt the water warm enough for a bath, so he climbed in. As the water kept heating up, he kept hopping in it until grandmother took him out, barely alive. Toto continued his antics by tearing clothes to shreds, breaking plates and other utensils etc.



Toto is Sold Back to Tonga Driver

Toto caused too much loss in the family. Finally grandfather realised that Toto was not the type of pet to be kept in the house. They could not tolerate him any more. At last, grandfather found the Tonga-driver and sold Toto back to him for Rs. 3 and heaved a sigh of relief.

Conclusion of The Adventures of TOTO

The chapter – The Adventures of Toto illustrates the lesson to students that one must behave responsibly in a congenial environment and should not create nuisance and become intolerable to others.



Iswaran The Storyteller

-by RK Laxman

Job of Mahendra

Mahendra was a junior construction supervisor in a firm. His job was to supervise the work at a construction site. Once the job would be over, he used to be shifted to another construction site. Thus, the nature of his job was to move from one place to another place.

Iswaran: Amazing Servant and Entertainer

Mahendra's needs were simple as he was a bachelor. He had kept a servant named Iswaran for domestic work. Iswaran followed Mahendra without any complaint. He cooked for Mahendra, washed his clothes and cleaned his shelter. In leisure time, Iswaran read Tamil thriller stories and this affected him so much that even a small incident like a fallen tree appeared to him a bushy beast. Iswaran described everything in detail and weaved a new story full of thrill and horror to Mahendra every day. He played the role of a TV in providing entertainment to Mahendra.

Iswaran Narrates Story of a Tusker

Once, Iswaran told Mahendra a story about his schooldays describing a tusker (wild elephant) and how he behaved when he got mad. The tusker escaped out of a timber yard, destroying everything that came in his way. It entered Iswaran's school. Everyone there was terrified but not Iswaran. He grabbed a cane from a teacher's hand and faced the mad tusker boldly. He hit sharply with the cane onto the third toe of one foot of the elephant and it shivered and collapsed. At this point, Iswaran would leave the story and Mahendra remained in a dangling situation.

Iswaran Narrates Story of a Ghost and Mahendra's Reaction

On another occasion, one auspicious day, he weaved a story about a ghost woman holding a foetus in her hands on a full moon night. Mahendra asked him to stop telling him such nonsense stories as Mahendra did not believe in ghosts and there are no such type of figures.

Mahendra's Encounter with Ghost

After a few days, Mahendra was woken up by some noise near his window sill during the night. First he thought that it was some sort of small animal like a cat, but the noise became louder and louder.

When he peeped through the window, he thought that he saw a cloudy figure clutching a bundle near his window sill. Mahendra could not sleep any more that night. In the morning, Iswaran smilingly asked about the sound and the woman ghost. He also complained about how Mahendra had chided him the other day. Mahendra was so upset that he resigned his site job immediately.

Conclusion of Iswaran The Storyteller

The chapter – Iswaran the Storyteller illustrates a lesson that we should not get carried away by stories shared by other people or assume it as reality. We should apply our own wit and intelligence before we see it with our own eyes. Don't be quick to believe what you hear because lies or rumours spread faster than the truth.



In The Kingdom Of Fools

-by AK Ramanujan

Stupid Order Followed in the Kingdom of Fools

The king and his minister in the Kingdom of Fools were stupid. They ordered that night should be treated as day and all the people should work at that time. They should go to bed as soon as the day broke. The orders were followed by the people under the fear of being put to death if not followed. This delighted the king and the minister.

Guru Visits the Kingdom Alongwith his Disciple

Once a guru and his disciple came to the kingdom during the day, finding it beautiful but totally deserted. Everyone, including the animals, was asleep. They were tired and hungry but could not get anything to eat till the evening, when the whole place woke up and came to life. When the guru and disciple bought some food items, they surprisingly found that everything, whether it was a bunch of bananas or a measure of rice, cost the same, one duddu, the local currency.

Guru Leaves the City But the Disciple Remains in the City

The wise guru realised that they were in a Kingdom of Fools and it would not be safe to stay there. So, he suggested his disciple that they should leave the place at once. But, the disciple was fond of food and found it very cheap to stay on. The guru left. Soon the disciple grew very fat by eating to his fill.

Incident of Theft in Rich Merchant's House

One day, a thief broke into the house of a rich merchant to steal his valuables by breaking a wall. But, as he was going out with the stolen stuff, the old wall fell on him and killed him. The brother of the thief complained before the king that the owner of the house was to be blamed for the death and demanded justice. The king heard the case and the merchant was found guilty because his house's wall collapsed and killed the thief.

The Blame Game Continued

The merchant blamed the bricklayer who built the wall, as it was thought that his bad workmanship created a weak wall. But, the bricklayer blamed the dancer who distracted him when he was making the wall by passing in front of him a dozen times during the day, resulting in poor quality of the wall.

The dancer accused the goldsmith who called the dancer time and again to deliver the jewellery she had asked to be made, but did not deliver it, leading to the distraction of the bricklayer.

The goldsmith blamed the merchant's father, as he had been making the urgent jewellery for him, thus delaying the finishing of the dancer's jewellery. As the father was dead, the merchant was finally pronounced guilty, as he had inherited all the wealth as well as the bad deeds of his father.



Disciple Fell in Trouble and Guru Tricked to Save Him

A new stake was built for the execution but the merchant was too thin to fit the stake. So, the king ordered to search for a fatter man to fit the stake and the disciple was brought for execution. Then, he remembered his guru's words and wished that the guru was there. As the guru had magical powers, he appeared at once and explained a plan quietly to the disciple to escape the execution.

The guru and his disciple started fighting amongst themselves to decide who should be executed first. When the king asked them why they were fighting, the guru explained that the new stake was the stake of the God of Justice and whoever was executed first on it would be reborn as a king. Whoever was executed next on that stake would be reborn as a minister.

The King and Ministers Die

The puzzled king believing what the guru said, discussed the matter with his minister and decided that if they themselves were executed on that stake first, they would be reborn as king and minister. So they freed the guru and disciple, secretly planning to die on the stake the same night.

Guru and Disciple Become King and Minister

The dead bodies of king and minister were taken down. The people mourned their deaths and requested the guru and his disciple to become the king and minister of the kingdom. The guru and disciple agreed on the condition that they would change all the laws back to the normal laws of any other kingdom.

Conclusion of In The Kingdom Of Fools

The chapter – In the Kingdom of Fools illustrates that we should stay away from foolish people otherwise we may end up suffering or may fall into trouble for such people. Besides, foolish people need to be dealt with wisdom rather than logic.



The Happy Prince

-by Oscar Wilde

The Statue of Happy Prince

A statue of a Prince is installed at the top of a tall column in the city. He was a real Prince at one time. He was happy when alive because he was kept ignorant of any sadness or suffering outside his palace walls. His life was one of joy and fulfilled desires. Upon his death, a statue was made depicting him which was covered in gold, had beautiful sapphires for eyes and had a ruby attached to the handle of his sword. Because of the value society places on gold and jewels, he was thought to be quite beautiful. 'Useless', remarked a Town Councillor, 'but beautiful.'

He is adored by all who see him. Unfortunately for the statue, his placement atop a high hill allows him to witness, for the first time, the pain and misery experienced by the poor of the city, of whom he had remained ignorant when alive.

The Swallow Arrives the Statue

The statue, once happy, now weeps with sadness to see the plight of so many who have so little. A self-serving swallow bird, on its annual winter migration to Egypt, arrives to take overnight shelter beneath this statue and eventually becomes affected with gratitude by the statue's kindness and desire to help others.

Swallow becomes Messenger to the Prince

The swallow becomes the statue's messenger and agrees to remove the jewels and the gold from it on the Prince's commands to bring contentment (satisfaction) badly needed financial security and compassion to the needy people seen by the Prince. These needy people include.

- a seamstress, who has no money to feed her ill child, who is given the ruby,
- a young man who is too poor to buy coal for his fireplace in the winter, who is given a sapphire,
- a poor young girl who is barefoot and without a covering for the head in winter, who is given the other sapphire and
- many poor and starving people, who were given parts of the gold leaf covering the Prince's statue.

The swallow acts as a messenger of the Prince to carry the jewels and gold to these needy people. As the statue's gold and jewels are taken and distributed among the poor, the Prince is no longer able to see the impoverished people around him as his eyes have been removed. He knows that poverty is there, and he is not blind to the sufferings of others as he once was. Even without eyes to see, he knows that poverty exists.

Winter Sets in and Swallow Dies

Eventually, as winter comes and it starts snowing, the swallow lies at the feet of the statue and dies from exposure (to the acute cold) and exhaustion (tired). He could never reach Egypt because he exchanged his dream of a warm climate and comfort with a bigger dream - to bring help to those who are in need.

Statue Breaks and is Melted

The heart of the sculpture cracks with sadness at the loss of his friend the swallow. The most beautiful part of the statue, the kind and giving heart-could not be seen from the outside.

Upon seeing the statue in such despair, the powerful people of the city - the Town Councillors and the Mayor decide that he is no longer useful, because he is no longer beautiful. Much like the poor, who were exploited and tossed away by the rich, the statue is taken down. When the statue is melted in a furnace, the broken heart made of lead does not melt. It is thrown away onto a dust heap where the dead swallow also lay.

God Asks for Two Most Precious Things

God asked for one of his Angels to bring him the two most precious things in the city. The Angel brought leaden heart of the Happy Prince and the dead swallow. God praised the choice of Angel. God said that the little bird would sing forever in his garden of paradise and the Happy Prince would praise him forever in his city of gold.

Conclusion of The Happy Prince

The chapter – The Happy Prince teaches us that we should show compassion towards the needy and help them however we can.





Weathering The Storm in Ersama

-by Harsh Mander

Prashant Goes to Ersama

On 27th October, 1999 Prashant goes to meet his friend. It was seven years after his mother's death. His friend lives in the coastal town of Ersama. It is 18 kms from Prashant's village, Kalikuda.

Cyclone Hits Ersama

A cyclonic storm hits Ersama that evening and continues for 36 hours. It is accompanied by continuous and heavy rains. This results in flooding of the town.

As a result, Prashant and his friends' family gather at the rooftop of the house to save their lives. They stay there for two days. They eat coconuts from the coconut trees that had fallen on the rooftop.

Destruction Caused by Cyclone

The 350km per hour winds accompanying the cyclone destroyed everything. Water has spread everywhere. Houses were broken and trees had fallen. Dead animals and human bodies were floating everywhere.

Prashant Decides to Go to His Village

Prashant is worried about the well-being of his family. Hence, he decides to go to his village although the place is still flooded with water. He takes a long stick to help him locate the road and has to swim when he loses the road. On the way, he has to push away many dead bodies of humans and animals to make his way. With great difficulty, he covers the distance of 18 kms and reaches his village.

Prashant's Family Relieved to See Him

Prashant's family members are happy and relieved to see him as they had given him up for dead. Prashant was also happy to see all his family members safe and sound in the Redcross camp. 86 people died in Prashant's village in the cyclone and the people who had survived the cyclone took refuge in the Red Cross shelter as all the houses have been destroyed by the cyclone.

Prashant Becomes Leader at the Shelter

Prashant stays at the shelter as his house has been destroyed by the cyclone. The shelter is dirty and overcrowded. The victims in the shelter are wounded and hungry. Prashant takes on the responsibility of helping them by organising a group of youths and elders and pressurised the grain merchant to give rice for the hungry people. He cleans the shelter and helps the victims to get food. The orphans in the shelter are handed over to childless widows so that they would get proper love and care. The men in the shelter procure food and materials for the shelter while the women work for the "Food for Work programme started by an NGO.



After Six Months

After six months of the devastation of the cyclone, Prashant is feeling better. His wounded spirit has healed as he did not have time to think about his pain. The widows and orphans of his village seek his help whenever they are in trouble. Thus, Prashant's courage and affection for needy people teach us to stand bold and cool in hard times.

Conclusion of Weathering The Storm in Ersama

The chapter – Weathering the Storm in Ersama illustrates how we should form a community of workers wherever a calamity strikes so that we can help people rather than merely depending on the government for aid.





The Last Leaf

-by O Henry

The Two Friends Sue and Johnsy

Sue and Johnsy are two friends who live in a small flat on the third floor of an old building. They are artists and make paintings for living. Once Johnsy falls ill of pneumonia. She keeps looking out of the window while lying on the bed. She thinks that she is going to die.

The Doctor's Visit

Although the doctor comes everyday but the condition of Johnsy does not change. One day, the doctor asks Sue if anything is bothering Johnsy. The doctor tells her that it is difficult for Johnsy to get well as she has made up her mind that she will not get well. He also tells her that in this case, the medicines will not help her.

Sue Tries to Make Johnsy Interested in Things

Sue tries her best to make Johnsy interested in things. She talks about clothes and fashion but Johnsy does not respond. She brings her drawing board in her room and starts to paint but Johnsy does not look at her. She also starts whistling while working but Johnsy just does not notice and keeps lying still looking outside the window.

Sue Gets to know about Johnsy's Strange Belief

While trying to get Johnsy's attention, Sue notices that she is counting backwards. She comes to know that Johnsy is counting the remaining leaves that are on the Ivy creeper outside the window. Johnsy tells her that the leaves are falling rapidly (speedily) in the autumn season. She also informs her that she would die, once the last leaf falls from the creeper.

Sue Tries to Convince Johnsy

Sue tries to convince Johnsy that she is foolish in thinking that she would die with the falling of the last leaf of the ivy creeper. She even lies to her that the doctor is confident that she would get well soon. But, Johnsy does not change her mind and keeps on counting the remaining leaves on the creeper.

Behrman Arrives at their Flat

A neighbour named Behrman arrives at their home. He gets to know about Johnsy's condition and sees that there is only one leaf remaining on the creeper which could fall anytime. He goes back to his house and paints a leaf that looks identical to the creeper's leaf and sticks it on the creeper while Johnsy is sleeping. In the process of doing so, he gets wet as it is raining heavily and it was icy cold. He falls sick and gets pneumonia.



Johnsy Starts Getting Well

Johnsy keeps looking out of the window and notices that the last leaf is not falling. Even wind and the rain do not make the leaf fall. She realises that she was wrong in supposing that she would die with the falling of the last leaf and starts getting well.

Sue Informs Johnsy of the Mystery

When Johnsy gets well, Sue tells her the mystery of the last leaf. She informs her that she has got well due to the efforts of Behrman. Behrman, looking at Johnsy's condition, did a wonderful thing. He painted a similar Leaf of Ivy creeper, used a lantern and ladder and pasted it on Ivy creeper. It was raining heavily and he got wet completely. He was struck with pneumonia and died after two days. Behrman had painted a masterpiece (a leaf that looked identical to the leaf on the ivy creeper) and in the process of helping her he had fallen ill and died.

Conclusion of The Last Leaf

The chapter – The Last Leaf teaches students that they should not lose hope on anything so easily. They need to face tough times courageously and support people who need their help on time.





A House is Not A Home

-by Zan Gaudio

Teenager Joins A New School

The teenager joins a new high school. He finds it strange and awkward as his closest friends are in a different school. He misses his old friends and teachers and goes to meet his old teachers regularly.

Teenager's House Catches Fire

One day, while the teenager is doing his home work, his house catches fire. He and his mother run outside the house. He goes to his neighbours to call the fire brigade while his mother rushes inside to get some important documents and the pictures of his father. He is terrified on seeing his mother go inside the burning house and in the process of saving his mother, forgets about his pet cat.

They Shift to His Grandparent's House

After five hours, the firemen are successful in extinguishing the fire. The teenager suddenly realises that his pet cat is missing. He searches it everywhere but is unable to find it. He cries for the loss of his cat. He and his mother shift to his grandparents' home as their house has been completely destroyed by the fire.

Teenager Goes to School

The next day, the teenager goes to school. His clothes look weird and he does not have any books or school bag as everything was destroyed in the fire. He feels strange going like this to the school and wants to die as his old school, his friends, his house and his pet cat have been taken away from him.

Teenager Revisits the House

After school, the teenager revisits his house and finds that the damage due to the fire is huge. His heart misses his cat and he is unable to find it. He visits the house every now and then in the hope of finding his cat. But, it seems to be nowhere.

Schoolmates Help the Teenager

The news about the destruction of his house spreads in his new school. Everybody in the school becomes aware of his condition. His schoolmates help him by giving him school supplies, notebooks and clothes. The students introduce themselves to him and invite him to come to their home. This incident helps him open up to them and thus he makes a few friends.



The Teenager Finds His Cat

One day, while he is watching the rebuilding of his house, a lady comes and asks him, if the cat she is carrying, was his. He is overjoyed when he sees that she is carrying his pet cat. He takes it from her arms and holds her close to him and cries. He feels grateful for his life, his new friends, the kindness of a stranger and his beloved cat.

Conclusion of A House Is Not A Home

The chapter – A House Is Not a Home explains that one must be ready to face the challenges of life with courage and not get bogged down by the ups and downs of life. People encounter several challenges in life on a day-to-day basis, but they must stand firm and face all hurdles courageously.





The Accidental Tourist

-by Bill Bryson

Forgetfulness of the Author

The narrator of the story states that he is not at all good at living in the real world. He wonders at how other people are able to do the things so easily which he is unable to perform. He has ended up being at the wrong place while searching for the washroom at a cinema or forgotten the number of his room several times when staying at a hotel.

Incident on a Big Trip with Family

Once the narrator and his family went to England on Easter. At the time of check-in at the airport, he remembered that he was a member of the airlines frequent flyer programme. When he tried to take his membership card out from his bag, he found that the zip of his handbag was jammed. He pulled the zip, harder and harder but it did not open. Finally, it opened and in the process, all the contents (newspaper cuttings, passport, magazines, etc) of the bag got spread everywhere on the floor in a very large area. He also injured his finger badly while opening the zip.

Incidents in the Aeroplane

The narrator always had mishappenings while travelling on an aeroplane. Once, he leaned to tie a shoelace and at the same time the passenger sitting ahead of him turned back his chair. Due to this, he got stuck in a miserable position and escaped from it with great difficulty. At another instance, he dropped soft drink twice on a lady sitting beside him. The lady looked at him with a stunned expression.

Narrator's Worst Experience on a Flight

Once, the narrator was writing his thoughts in a notebook on a flight. He was also sucking the other end of his pen from time to time. He started talking to an attractive lady seated on the next seat. When he went to the washroom, he saw that the pen had leaked and his mouth, chin, tongue, teeth and gums had got coloured navy blue.

Precautions Taken by his Wife

Knowing her husband's strange habits, the narrator's wife directs her children to help their father whenever they are travelling together. The narrator also does not eat or drink when travelling alone and sits quietly on his hands to keep them from flying mischievously.



Reason for not Gathering Flyer's Miles

The narrator used to fly around 100,000 miles a year but he hardly gathered over 200 air miles from 23 air lines. This was because he forgot to ask for the air miles or the airline staff did not record his airmiles.

Once while travelling to Australia, he hoped to get a lot of air miles but the clerk told him that he was not entitled. The ticket was in the name of B Bryson and card was having name W Bryson. Thus, he didn't get his air miles and wasn't able to fly to Bali first class.

Conclusion of The Accidental Tourist

The chapter – The Accidental Tourist teaches students that it is important to be organised and systematic in our lives, especially while travelling. We should be well-prepared otherwise we are likely to encounter unexpected mishaps like the author.





The Beggar

-by Anton Chekhov

Sergei Meets the Beggar

Sergei meets a beggar who wants him to take pity on him. His name is Lushkoff and he tells him that he was a schoolteacher in a village.

He further adds that he is jobless since a year now and although he has got a job offer in a different province, he does not have money to go there.

Sergei Recognises the Beggar

When Sergei looks at him closely he remembers that he had met him at a different street two days ago.

The beggar was posing as a student then. The beggar (Lushkoff) denies that it was not him but Sergei tells him that he is a cheat and threatens to call the police. Lushkoff then admits that it was him and says that he has to tell lies so that people take pity on him and give money or things to him.

Sergei Takes him to his House

Sergei takes him to his house and gives him the job of chopping wood. Though Lushkoff is not willing to work, he agrees to do the work. He is called first day of every month to chop wood and is given half a Rouble.

However, he starts coming at Sergei's house regularly and whenever he comes, some work is assigned to him. All his work is done by Olga (the cook at Sergei's house) as she feels pity on his miserable condition.

However, she does not tell this to Sergei. Lushkoff is happy to get paid without doing any work.

The Beggar Goes to Work for Sergei's Friend

Sergei is happy to see Lushkoff coming regularly at his home. He thinks that he is working and asks him to go to his friend's place where he can get a writing job. He is pleased at having put Lushkoff on the right path and gives him a letter that needs to be handed to his friend. Lushkoff agrees and goes there.

Sergei and Lushkoff Meet After Two Years

Sergei and Lushkoff meet after two years at a theatre. Sergei asks about him and he tells that he has become a Notary now and is paid 35 roubles per month. Sergei is happy to know that and takes the credit for changing his life.

However, Lushkoff thanks him for his help and tells the truth. He says that Olga is responsible for his change as she used to do all the work assigned to him. Her unconditional help and concern for him made him change his ways. Lushkoff then takes a leave from Sergei as the show was about to start.

Conclusion of The Beggar

The chapter – The Beggar teaches students that if one has the will to work hard and reach a goal, with dedication and will power one can achieve success in life.