

Class 7

LITERATURE (HAMLET)

CHAPTER 10 : THE PLAY

SUMMARY

An evening in the castle where the actors would be performing their play before everyone. Hamlet directs the players on how to give their performance. In the meantime Horatio enters and Hamlet is extremely pleased to see Horatio. He asks Horatio to keep an eye on Claudius and his reaction while the players would be performing the play.

The play starts where the queen leaves the king to sleep, and while he was sleeping, a man murders him by pouring poison into his ear. On seeing this Claudius rises and cries out for light. The king leaves followed by the audience and Hamlet is left alone with Horatio. Hamlet now becomes quite sure that the ghost had spoken the truth. Gertrude calls Hamlet in her chamber where Hamlet's reaction is such that he says that he would speak agitated and harsh words to her but would not harm her in any way. In this chapter itself Hamlet reveals that he knows that his friends Rozencratz and Guildenstern have been spying upon him as they have been ordered by the king to do so.

Reference to the context:

" What do you call the play?"

1. Who is the speaker in the above lines?

Ans) Claudius is the speaker.

2. Whom is he talking to?

Ans) He is talking to Hamlet.

3. What was the name of the play which was performed on the stage?

Ans) The name of the play was 'The Mousetrap'.

Answer these questions in about 20 – 30 words:

1. What advice does Hamlet give to the actors?

Ans) Hamlet gives a piece of advice to the actors that while performing on the stage they should act and behave naturally and that they should not overact or shout while performing.

2. "I will speak daggers to her, but use none." What is Hamlet trying to express through these lines?

Ans) Through these lines Hamlet is trying to reveal that even though he is angry towards his mother's actions, he may speak harsh words to her but never harm her physically.

WRITING

SPEECH WRITING

A speech refers to a formal address or discourse delivered to an audience.

FORMAT FOR SPEECH WRITING

HEADING : The heading should be catchy.

OPENING LINE: This includes salutations, introduction and the topic. Example – Respected principal mam, teachers and my dear friends! Today, I (name given in the question) stand before you all to speak on the topic "(topic mentioned in the question)".

BODY OF THE SPEECH: It is the main part of the writing piece. (2 paragraphs)

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH: The solution to the given problems are to be discussed here.

EXAMPLE 1

Q. Junk food can be very appealing to children, but they cause more harm to them than they can imagine. Prepare a speech to be delivered in the school assembly on the harmful effects of junk food on children. You are Rohit/ Rohini of class VII.

JUNK FOOD – POISONOUS FOR CHILDREN

Good morning, respected principal mam, teachers and my dear friends. Today, I Rohit/ Rohini of class VII is going to express my views on the topic – “ Junk Food – Poisonous For Children”.

As we all realize how appealing junk food can be because of the good taste and convenience. But Junk foods like noodles, pizza, burger etc are bad for health and by consuming those foods we come into relation with various diseases and health problems.

Junk foods include foods that are rich in cream, butter, oil, sugar and lots of spices. Eating junk food daily leads us to nutritional deficiencies in the body because these foods lack essential nutrients, like vitamins, iron, minerals protein etc. The great popularity of these foods is that because they are easy to cook or ready to eat. Thus, by consuming too much junk food children are at a risk of developing diabetes, high blood pressure bodily disorders etc.

Hence, friends it is in our hands to decide what kind of food we should choose. If we want to lead a healthy life we must put an end to the consumption of this poison called junk food.

Thank you.

EXAMPLE 2

Q. It is commonly believed that nature has enough for man's need, but not enough for man's greed. Prepare a speech to be delivered in the school assembly highlighting the role of students in preservation and conservation of environment.

The role of school children in preservation and conservation of environment.

Good morning, Respected Principal Mam, Teachers and my dear friends. Today, I am going to deliver a speech on the topic “ the role of school children in the

preservation and conservation of environment". Sometimes we are overwhelmed by the extent of damage humans have caused to the environment and I am not sure if an individual can make any impact . But I am sure we children can certainly take small steps towards improving our environment.

We should attempt to reduce waste before it becomes waste. We should avoid wastage of paper by using it on both sides. We should try our best to conserve the existing resources so that they do not get exhausted. Non – toxic cleaners should be used at homes which are environment friendly. We should always turn electrical switches off when not in use, especially personal computers and other gadgets. We should use biodegradable products.

Last but not the least, we should grow more and more trees in and around your house and spread awareness about environmental issues. In the end I would like to say that " a small step taken today will become a giant leap tomorrow." It will go a long way in preserving and conserving the environment.

Thank you.

LITERATURE

VALUE BASED / LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- 1. In what way did Monsieur I'Abbaye test Signor Bartoli's patience? Was he satisfied with the outcome in the end?**

Ans) Bartoli had hired Monsieur I'Abbaye to make his portrait on the wall office dining hall where everybody could see it. Monsieur I' Abbaye on the other hand wanted to make use of that opportunity to give wings to his artistic imagination and want to paint the portrait in absolute secrecy. Weeks and months passed but he was not ready to show the painting. He would keep talking about different things which did not interest Bartoli.

All he wanted was to see his portrait. Finally, frustrated with the delay, when Bartoli forced I'Abbaye to show his painting, he was shocked and angered as he could not tolerate the artist's Cubist expression on the portrait.

2. How does the poet glorify a map in the poem 'Maps'? Explain.

Ans) The poet in the poem maps brings out the importance. of a map, which no one realises is inevitable for our day to day events and movements. One usually consider the map an insignificant piece of paper but the poet says it is much more mightier than what it projects itself to be. Maps are not only diagrams on paper describing the physical features of a country. They are also a means of exciting us to seek adventure through travel or at least dream of visiting exotic places even if we are unable to visit them. It is most powerful as it is required to navigate the ship, direct the trains and move on the roads. Maps are like magic wands to people who travel a lot and explore new places in the world. This way, the poet feels maps help in fulfilling adventurous dreams and exciting travels.

3. The chapter 'Homesickness' is all about an autobiographical experience of the author. Explain.

Ans) The chapter homesickness recounts an amusing episode from the author's childhood life. When the author was nine years old, he was sent to a boarding school called St. Peter's. He feels so homesick there that he thinks of a desperate plan to go back home. Some time ago, one of his sisters had an appendicitis operation at their home. He had the opportunity to observe her symptoms closely. Remembering that incident very minutely in the school, the boy complains of being unwell. His act was so convincing that the doctor is called for his checkup and eventually, it is decided that the boy would be sent home.

This news delights him, though he had to hide his happiness in order to pretend to be ill. Once back to his home he is treated by Dr Dunbar who understands why he had pretended to be ill. However, he decides to help the boy stay at home for a few days by telling that he had a stomach infection. Hence, this chapter talks of an

incident from the author's childhood and his longing to be at his home when he was sent to the boarding school.

4. Describe in detail the confrontation between the two friends Felix and Antonio in the boxing ring as described in the chapter 'The Fight.'

Ans) Antonio and Felix were accompanied to the boxing ring by their friends and fans. Both were great friends but in the ring they had to confront each other like worthy opponents. The outcome had to be decisive. Both Felix and Antonio thought punches without breaking the rules of the game. They did not let their friendship come in the way of their fight. At one point Felix rushed into Antonio like a bull; Antonio in turn gave Felix a lot of punches. It was a perfect fight witnessed by the crowd gathered there. Once the fight was over both the friends did not wait for the result. It did not matter to them. They just left the ring arm in arm representing their true friendship.

5. The speaker's team accomplished their aim by facing a different problem at each step and then finding a solution. Explain with reference to the chapter 'Vet In The Forest.'

Ans) at first, the team did not know where the injured elephant was or how to locate. Then, a young man approached them and said he knew where the elephant was – he had been taking food to the elephant. The next problem was to separate the injured elephant from its herd so that it could be treated. After some discussion, the team decided to chase the herd away so that the injured elephant would lag behind. The villagers helped the team by shouting and bursting crackers so that the herd ran away. Now the team needed to locate the injured elephant. Again the villagers helped them by finding the elephant. Finally when the team had treated the elephant they were worried because the elephant did not wake up when it was supposed to. The villagers helped by bringing buckets of water from a nearby stream to pour on the drugged animal to keep its body temperature down. Eventually the team had to leave the spot because they could not stay near the elephant, although they would have preferred to. Later they heard that the elephant had revived in the night and the herd had taken it away.

6. In the poem ‘Friends and Flatterers’ the poet presents a demarcated difference between a real friend and a fake friend. Elaborate this idea of the poem with reference to the poem ‘Friends and Flatterers’.

Ans) The poem Friends and Flatterers written by William Shakespeare helps its readers in identifying the differences between a real friend and a fake friend.

True friends help us when we need them. They share our problems, worries and sorrows – they cry with us and stay awake with us in our hard times. Whereas false or fake friends, flatter us with their words. They act as our friends only as long as we have enough money to spend on them. They do not help us in our times of need. When we spend a lot on them they flatter us by calling us generous and worthy of being a king, but if we fall upon hard times, they no longer remain with us. Hence, our real friend is one who always stand with us. But a fake friend will only be there with when we are in good terms . They will not help and support us in our difficult times.

7. Describe in detail the central theme of the chapter ‘A Weird Visitor’.

Ans) The opening chapter of the play ‘A Weird Visitor’, is considered to be one of the most significant chapters because it serves the purpose of setting the tone of the play and to establish the conflict within the play.

The first chapter establishes the atmosphere of suspicion and starts on a mysterious note where on a bleak, frigid night the guards Francisco and Bernardo informs Horatio, a friend of Hamlet, about the ghost they had seen that resembled prince Hamlet’s father. They convinced Horatio about the reality of the ghost and try to talk to it, if it reappears. Horatio makes fun at the talk of the ghost but agrees to wait. As guards begin describing what they saw, the ghost reappears. Horatio was unable to talk to the ghost but thinks of reporting the matter to Hamlet about the ghost.

Hence, the main theme of the chapter is the emergence of the ghost as his coming into the play will be important in unfolding the various secrets that are buried deep down.

8. Attempt a character sketch of Claudius in about 100 – 120 words.

Ans) Claudius is one of the central characters in the play Hamlet. He is the new king of Denmark and is Hamlet’s uncle. Being one of the central characters he is also the villain in the play. He is a very ambitious

character who has the thirst for gaining power and this was the reason why he killed the Old King Hamlet, his brother. He appears to be a very cunning character, who lacks morals within himself and is even manipulative. He was the one who murdered his brother by pouring poison into his ear to gain the thrown and the power to rule the kingdom of Denmark.

9. Write the character sketch of Hamlet, the prince.

Ans. He is reckless yet cautious, courteous yet uncivil, tender yet ferocious, heartless and sensitive. Hamlet has negative traits such as indecisiveness, hastiness, hate and brutality, yet he has a lot of virtues. That Hamlet was an extremely sensitive person is evident from his reactions at the murder of his father. His mind was disturbed and he was determined to take revenge especially when he was convinced of the identity of the murderer. He was horrified at his mother having incestuous relations and ultimately marriage to his uncle Claudius very soon after his father, King Hamlet was murdered. The very act which outraged him gave him no feeling of remorse or regrets when he murdered Polonius, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. He was heartless yet sensitive. Attachments, emotions, and sensitivity can drive any human being insane, as was the case with Hamlet. The inner turmoil drove Prince Hamlet to the point of insanity, which perhaps was the cause of the suicide of Ophelia. The turmoil brings out the mental level at which Hamlet was even during the teenage. This insanity coerced him to stab Polonius through the curtain while believing that it was Claudius who he was actually stabbing. This brings out the reckless trait in him yet he was overtly cautious when he took a long time to kill Claudius. He is extremely philosophical and contemplative. He is distressed with questions about the afterlife, about the wisdom of suicide, about what happens to bodies after they die. This is yet another contradiction, which leaves the human beings in a state of dilemma.

10. Write the theme of the chapter 'A trap is set.'

Ans. The main theme of this chapter revolves around the insane behaviour of Hamlet and the reason behind this kind of behaviour. The trap is set to find out the reason of his insane behaviour.

Claudius and Gertrude discuss Hamlet's behaviour with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, who say that they have been unable to learn the cause of Hamlet's melancholy. They tell the king and the queen about Hamlet's enthusiasm for the players. They leave and Claudius orders Gertrude to leave as well, saying that he and Polonius intends to spy on Hamlet where Ophelia would also appear. Polonius directs Ophelia to walk around the lobby. They hear Hamlet coming, and both Polonius and Claudius hide themselves.

Hamlet enters speaking thoughtfully about the question of whether to commit suicide or not to end the pain of experience. He says that the miseries of life are such that no one would willingly bear them. Here Hamlet compares death to a little sleep, which he thinks wouldn't be so bad. He questions as to whether it is nobler to put up with all nasty things that luck throws your way, or to fight against all those troubles by simply putting an end to them once and for all. He is being philosophical in his thoughts.