Appreciation of English Literary Texts

SELF STUDY PACK

GRADE – 11

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I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Introduction

Maya Angelou is a well-known poet, author, speaker on human rights and political activist lived in America (April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014). Being an Afro-American she strongly protested against colour discrimination.

A Brief Overview of the Poem

Her poem, I know Why the Caged Bird Sings shows that some people in the world are suffering from many discriminations while some others enjoy every comfort. The poet says that this is a very unfair system. The poet compares a caged bird with a free bird symbolically to show these social injustices, in the poem.

The free bird in the poem happily flies with the wind, enjoying its freedom and declaring that the sky belongs to him. On the other hand, the caged bird can barely move in its cage. Its wings are clipped and feet are tied restricting its freedom. In this helpless situation, he can only use his voice to cry out for freedom. Therefore he sings for his freedom and lost rights for others to hear. Yet this song is not a joyful song, it is filled with his bitter experiences, suffering, disappointment and anxieties of his restricted life.

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1 current – wind blowing to a certain direction

2 fearful trill – trembling sound filled with fear and anxieties

3 nightmare – a frightening or unpleasant dream

4. Narrow cage- signifies imprisonment and restricted freedom

5. stalks – walk with slow stiff strides

6. bars of rage – a metaphorical reference to cruelty/ brutality

7. feet are tied – signifies restricting free movement

8. grave of dreams – uncertain and desperate about the future/ shattered dreams

Literary Interpretation

1. Name the activities done by the free bird in the first stanza.
2. What kind of life is spent by the free bird?
3. What has happened to the caged bird?
4. What can the caged bird do inside the cage?
5. Why does the caged bird sing?
6. What messages are conveyed through the 'trade wind' and 'fat worm' which are waiting for the free bird?
7. What kind of language has been used by the poet to describe the free bird?
8. How do you understand the phrase, 'a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams'?
9. What kind of language has been used by the poet to describe the caged bird?
10. What difference do you see between the tones used to describe the two birds?

Literary Review

1. How does the poet use the two birds to talk about society? What is the technique used by the poet?

The two birds here are extended metaphors.

The free bird represents the privileged people in the society with all the opportunities and freedom.

The caged bird represents the disadvantaged people who are oppressed by many social discriminations due to their skin colour, race, religion, gender, poverty and even political ideologies.

2. How does the poet criticize these inequalities in society? What are the techniques used?

Juxtaposition to show the difference between these two parties.

Pleasant and joyful language and a lighthearted tone to describe the comfortable and carefree life of the free bird.

The free bird's opportunities are symbolically shown through, 'trade wind' and 'fat warms'

The alliteration in the line, 'the trade wind**s** **s**oft through the **s**ighing tree**s**' further highlights the comfort he enjoys.

The bird very boldly claims the ownership of the sky suggesting the extreme freedom enjoyed by one group in society.

The description of the cage bird is filled with disappointment, sorrow and helplessness.

The clipped wings and the tied feet symbolize the curtailed freedom of another group of people in the same society.

The only option of these people is singing which symbolizes the voice of these deprived people against these injustices.

3. What are the feelings of the caged bird?

The caged bird stands on his 'grave of dreams' which metaphorically suggests his disappointment and despair.

The fearful trill of his voice reveals his fears and anxieties towards his life and future. The poet uses another metaphor, 'bars of rage' to describe the anger of these oppressed people.

He feels helpless, dejected and lonely

4. What themes are conveyed in the poem?

The poem deals with social injustices and discriminations.

The 'cage' in the poem metaphorically represents how some people are caged from the others due to many inequalities in society.

5. How the message of importance of freedom is conveyed in the poem 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'?

Angelou wants to show the world that many people suffer in the world due to many reasons. Unfortunately they are not recognized.

The poet uses her poem as a song sung by these oppressed people to fight against these injustices.

Therefore her poem itself becomes a song of a caged bird.

Now answer these questions by yourself

1. How do you feel for the caged bird and why do you feel in this way?

2. How does the poet bring out social inequalities in the poem?

3. Do you agree to say that **'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'** is a strong voice that claims justice for the disadvantaged people in the world?

Answers

1. The free bird flies in a carefree manner with the help of the wind. He basks in the soft and warm sunlight and says that he owns the sky.

2. The free bird spends a very carefree life with all the privileges. He enjoys complete freedom and opportunities in society.

3. The caged bird is restricted to a cage. His wings are clipped and feet are tied. He is deprived of freedom and his rights.

4. The only thing that the caged bird can do is raising his voice against these injustices. His song suggests his cry against the discriminations.

5. He sings of the lost freedom and rights. He sings against the social inequalities that divide people as privileged and disadvantaged.

6. They symbolize the ample opportunities enjoyed by the free bird.

7. The poet uses easy going and relaxed language to describe the free bird. The language is also pleasant and positive.

8. 'Grave of dreams' is a metaphor that suggests the caged bird's shattered dreams. He has lost all his hopes and he feels disappointed and helpless here.

9. The poet uses very depressing and pessimistic language to describe the caged bird. The language is filled with fear and anxieties of the caged bird.

10. Angelou uses a very light hearted and lively tone to talk about the free bird. The tone is joyful and carefree. Yet this tone changes into a depressed and disappointed tone when she describes the situation of the caged bird.

War is Kind by Stephen Crane

Introduction

Stephen Crane (1871-1900) was an American novelist, short story writer and a poet. He worked as a war correspondent and a journalist and gained fame internationally during his short period of life.

A Brief Overview of the poem

The poem starts with an ironical title, and irony has been used throughout the poem to present the violence and the ruthless nature of war. We see that the narrator tells a young woman not to cry because war is kind. He tells how her lover died in the battlefield. He tells that her lover was shot while he was in the battle. He tells that the horse ran alone when the soldier was attacked in the battle. Further, he tells the maiden (an unmarried girl) not to cry because 'war is kind' which is very ironical.

The speaker then describes how the drums are played. They sound rough and harsh. The speaker goes on describing how soldiers usually fight in the battlefield and how they are made to fight and die in the battle. He refers to the soldiers as little souls and these young men are in a thirst of fighting. He says, these soldiers are born for nothing but fighting.

Furthermore, he mentions the battle god whose kingdom is the battlefield where thousands of dead bodies lie. Here, he addresses a child whose father has died in dirty muddy trenches due to the injuries caused during a battle.

In the fourth stanza we find a reference to a regiment in the military. Here, he says there is a 'virtue' in slaughtering the enemies and it is referred to as 'excellence' in killing. Finally, the speaker addresses the mother of a soldier who died in the war. He says that the mother's heart hung as simple as a button on the shroud of her son while requesting her not to cry.

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1. Hoarse booming drums – harsh deep sound of drums
2. Affrighted – frightened

3. Little souls – having a low capacity of thinking / insignificant in war

4. Unexplained glory –the inspiration gain by the outsiders or the family members of the soldiers in the war

5. Tumbled in the yellow trenches – collapsed in the dirty muddy trenches

6. Raged at his breast – injury –shot through the chest

7. Gulped and died – suffocated in his own blood

8. Swift blazing flag – wavering flag of the army regiment

9. Shroud – a piece of cloth used to wrap a dead person's body before it is buried.

Use of Literary Terms and Techniques

- Irony / sarcasm – do not weep, war is kind – this is a paradoxical situation

  Virtue of slaughter, excellence of killing, splendid shroud

  Unexplained glory
- Paradox – War is Kind
- Oxymoron – virtue of slaughter
- Repetition – do not weep / war is kind / a field where a thousand corpses lie
- Personification – battle god
- Graphic description of the battlefield
- alliteration – **d**rill and **d**ie / **h**eart **h**ung **h**umble
- symbolism – eagle – connotes power

Literary interpretation

1. Whom does the narrator address in the poem?
2. What does he want to tell these addresses?
3. Why does he use the term 'little souls' to describe the soldiers?

Literary Review

1. **Do you think the title of the poem is suitable for the poem? Give your reasons.**

   As the title is very ironical and any reader would find it interesting to read the poem once he/ she sees the title. At the same time, rather than giving these idea of futility and horror of war directly, it is effective to give the afore mentioned ideas indirectly as it would arouse the interest of reader.

2. **How does a soldier's death affect the lives of each individual mentioned in the poem?**

   When a lover dies the maiden is grief stricken and sometimes her whole life becomes miserable. When a child lost his/her father, the entire life of the particular child will not be fulfilled without a father's love. They strength of the family is lost and it can be lead towards a psychological trauma. It is a great loss for a mother to lose her own child while she is living and at the same time, she will not be able to fill the empty space in her life for the rest of her life.

3. **Discuss how the poetic techniques have been used to bring out the main theme of the poem, 'War is Kind' by Stephen Crane.**

   Expected points:

   1. The introduction to the poem, 'War is Kind'
   2. Mention the techniques used in the poem and the meanings depicted through them
   3. Your opinion on using the techniques to highlight the theme and your argument on justifying your stance.

Answers:

1. The narrator addresses three people in this poem. First, he addresses a maiden whose lover died in the war. Next, he addresses a child whose father was shot at his chest and succumbed due to the injuries in the battle. Finally, he addresses a mother whose son has died in the war.
2. The poet criticizes the war but he does not directly do so as he tries to mock at the people who glorify war, in a subtle manner. He wants to highlight or tell the addressees the futility of war.
3. The poet uses the term, ‘little souls’ to describe the soldiers, to highlight the fact that the soldiers have been trained to kill not to think and take decisions. These soldiers are young but do not have a capability of thinking rationally.

Richard Cory by Edwin Arlington Robinson

Introduction

Edwin Arlington Robinson (1869-1935) was born on December 22, 1869 in Head Tide, Main. USA. He is considered one of the most prolific American poets during his time. Most of his poetry dealt with the themes such as, personal failure, materialism, and the inevitability of change. Robinson won three Pulitzer Price awards during his life for his literary work. Edwin Arlington Robinson died on April 6th ,1935.

A Brief Overview of the Poem

Richard Cory got the attention of most of the people in the town including the speaker. Everybody looked at him and noticed that he was well-dressed and belonged to high class society. He possessed a good looking and charming personality.

According to what other people see, the life of Richard Cory has been arranged in an orderly manner. He possessed a friendly manner when talking to townspeople and these people became excited when Richard Cory greeted them. He outshone when he walked along the streets.

The speaker says that Richard Cory was richer than a king and he was disciplined in every way of his life. People thought that he was a man who had a perfect life with all what he desired and it made other people yearn for a life which Richard Cory was leading because he seemed to have everything he could possibly want.

People struggled to live their lives while wishing that they could take Richard Cory's place. They cursed the life they had and dreamt of a better life until the day they heard that Richard Cory committed suicide

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1. Pavement – in American English the meaning is paved road.

2. Sole – homophone soul adds depth meaning and 'sole' connotes the idea of alone.

3. Arrayed – display or arrange things in a particular way

4. Grace – courteous and good will

5. Fluttered pulses – made listeners nervous/ excited

6. Schooled – educated, disciplined and trained in a particular way.

7. Sole to crown – from bottom to top

8. Imperially – having qualities of a sovereign ruler / royally

9. Clean favored – well groomed.

Use of Literary Terms and Techniques

1. Alliteration – people on the pavement

2. Metaphor – so on we worked for the light. (comparison of light to a better life)

Bread, meat

Figurative Language

1. He was a gentleman from sole to crown – he has all the qualities of a gentleman; his attire, behaviour, speech etc.

2. Glittered when he walked – he outshone the others when he is in the town

3. Schooled in every grace – well-disciplined and educated

4. Waited for the light – waited for better future.

5. Hyperbole – richer than a king – although Richard Cory is absolutely wealthy, the narrator does not actually know whether he was richer than a king. So the phrase 'richer than a king' can be considered as a hyperbole

6. Irony – Cursed the bread went without the meat.

Put a bullet through his head

Literary Interpretation

1. Select which you think is the most suitable interpretation for the poem and think of five reasons to justify your selection.

a. There is no such thing as a perfect human being.

b. Life without friends is not worth living.

c. The grass is always greener on the other side

d. Appearance can be deceptive

e. All that glitters is not gold.

2. Explain how the poet brings out the idea that Richard Cory was an honourable man who lived a fantastic or an incongruous life?

3. How did Richard Cory treat the townspeople?

4. We can see people belong to two different socio economic classes in this poem. What class does the narrator belong to? Give your reasons.

5. Why do you think the people on the pavement 'cursed the bread'?

6. Why would you say the townspeople envied Richard Cory?

7. What makes the last line of the poem a shocking one?

Literary Review

1. "Richard Cory shows the People of the town that wealth and status do not ensure happiness and appearance can be deceptive." Comment

Suggested points expect to be elaborated in the answer

- A narrative poem, which highlights the two socio economic classes
- Narrator belongs to the lower socio economic class and uses the pronoun 'we' to represent the townspeople.
- The townspeople always admired the appearance and the qualities of Richard Cory.

• He was a rich well - groomed person.

• They yearned for a life that they think Richard Cory would have

• Use of literary devices – irony, metaphor etc.

Answers:

1. (d). Appearance can be deceptive

2. This idea has been brought out by using the words and phrases such as 'gentleman from sole to crown' 'imperially slim' 'he was quietly arrayed' and 'richer than a king'

3. It can be suggested that Richard Cory was kind to the townspeople as it says, "he was always human when he talk". In addition, the phrases, "gentleman from sole to crown', 'admirably schooled in every grace' depicts the idea that Richard Cory was a person with many good qualities. On the other hand, a person with such qualities would always treat the other people kindly.

4. We see that people who belong to working class and wealthy upper class is brought out in the poem. The narrator belongs to the working class people since he uses the pronoun, 'we' to describe the people in the pavement. Further the narrator says how 'we' worked hard to be in Richard Cory's position. It can be assumed that Richard Cory had inherited wealth while 'we' had to work hard for day to day living. Therefore, it is evident in the poem there are people who belong to two different socio economic classes.

5. The 'bread' in this poem depicts the idea that the town people are living a poor life which they cannot afford to lead a luxurious life which they thought Richard Cory would be having. Therefore, they hated the life which they had to live.

6. They townspeople always looked at Richard Cory whenever they notice Richard Cory in the town and they all wanted to be in his place. They thought that he had all the luxuries in the world and he might be having a life full of wealth, joy and happiness. Therefore, they worked hard for their living and they had the idea of being like him one day.

7. The last line of the poem gives an abrupt ending to the poem. When the poem is read from the beginning it creates an imagery of a person who is living a blissful life with all the luxuries that one wishes to have in the life. There is no any evidence or hints given in the previous lines about the death of Richard Cory. Therefore, it is shocking when the reader suddenly becomes aware that Richard Cory committed suicide.

The Camel's Hump by Rudyard Kipling.

Introduction

Rudyard Kipling who was born in Bombay became one of the most popular writers in England and had written this humorous poem to the whole human society which can be considered as a morality poem.

There was a story about how the camel got its hump due to its laziness. According to the story, the camel was punished by the Djinn, the magical creature in charge of deserts for its lazy behaviour. As a result of it the camel got this ugly hump to work hard in deserts, travelling many days sometimes without food or water, carrying heavy loads on their back.

A Brief Overview of the Poem

Human who do nothing or hardly work get humps uglier than the hump of a camel. People without any age difference (children or grown up people) get ugly humps of black and blue, if they do not do any work. The writer gives this as an illness and says; to cure this illness we should not be lazy, sitting still or reading a book by the fire, but take a hoe and a shovel and dig the soil until we get perspired. Then Djinn and also the sun and the wind in the environment will lift this hump from the back of the human.

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases.

1. Hump - rounded lump on the back of the camel which is taken as a symbol of laziness
2. Cameelious hump – the writer uses this word to give his sarcasm towards lazy people who get an abnormal outward curve on the back like the hump of the camel.
3. Frouzly - stuffed with burdened head as he is reluctant to involve in daily work.
4. Snarly-yarly - ill-natural growling sound lazy people make.
5. Scowl - sound made by lazy people which suggests their bad-tempered nature.
6. Grunt - sound associates with pigs is compared humorously to show their laziness to

work.

7. Growl - a sound associates with dogs and other animals is given to show how lazy people make a deep angry sound in the throat to show their reluctant to work.

8. Frowst - the writer gives this, disapproving how lazy people sit by the fire with a book in a warm stuffy atmosphere.

9. Hoe - a tool used for weeding (like a mammoty) which suggests that we have to work and it gives us physical exercise when we get perspired.

10. Shovel - a tool which we can use for shifting things when we dig.

11. Djinn - a spirit with magical power in Arabian stories used here to show that he can lift this hump.

12. Horrible - causing horror

Literary Interpretation

1. The writer has selected a camel to present his ideas to the reader. Can you think of a reason or some reasons according to the story given at the beginning?

2. How does the writer present the hump in a humorous or funny way?

3. The hump that human gets is given here as 'Cameelious hump'. Why?

4. How does the poet show his sarcasm about lazy people?

5. Comment on the effect of using long vowel sounds (too-oo-oo and do-oo-oo) in this poem.

6. What feelings does the writer create through the way how people start their routine work of the day?

7. What is the solution given by the writer for the illness of 'laziness'?

Use of Literary Terms and Techniques

1. Metaphor – it compares two different things which have certain same features, without using 'as' or 'like'.

E.g. Image of the camel compares to human.

2. Rhyming – it is the identity of sound between the last syllables of words.

E.g. "Kiddies and grown – ups too-oo-oo

"If you haven't enough to do-oo-oo"

3. Onomatopoeia – in onomatopoeia, sound itself suggests the meaning making the description more interesting. (See the sounds given under unfamiliar words.)

Literary Review

1. 'The poet's sarcasm towards lazy people is given in a humorous way'. How far do you agree with this statement according to the poem 'The Camel's Hump'?

Visual imagery of the human hump which is uglier than a camel's hump.

The hump is described as a common illness among anyone without any age difference.

E.g. "And there ought to be a corner for me

(And I know there is one for you)"

- The ugliness is described sarcastically with black and blue colours.

The people who are late to wake up and would not work energetically would get this 'horrible' sickness,

E.g. "The horrible hump

The hump that is black and blue!"

The sarcasm is directed to such people and says that there is no cure except working until perspires.

E.g. "But to take a large hoe and a shovel also,

And dig till you gently perspire;"

2. 'Though this poem is humorous and suitable for children the underlying message is applicable for some adults in the society.' Comment on this statement with examples from the text.

The simple diction used by the writer is applicable for both children and the adults.
Humour created in the poem is suitable for the children as well as adults to enjoy the text.
The literary techniques used are simple and the message they convey is easy to understand but it is a serious message for both children and adults.

E.g. - Visual and auditory imageries.

-Exaggerations (exaggerates the ugliness through the colour, appearance etc.)

The result of laziness is for 'you' and for 'me' suggests that it is applicable for both children and adults as well. (1st person & 2nd person pronouns suggest everyone)
The use of 'our', 'we' etc. imply the consequence is common for everyone, especially in the human society.

3. "The moral impressed through humour makes the poem 'The Camel's Hump' a morality poem." Do you agree? Support your answer with examples from the poem.

The moral to win the challenge of life is given in a humorous way.
E.g. using of figurative language (symbolism, metaphors, imageries, onomatopoeia etc.)
The poet applies the comparative form of the adjective (uglier) to convey the message/the moral.
Daily routings are presented creating much humour, but through that the writer is mocking at such people to give a moral.
E.g. - 'climb out' of bed rather than 'get up'
Making unusual sounds in the morning to show anger which is associated with some animals.
Even the sarcasm is given in a humorous way to criticize human weakness; the laziness.
E.g. asks not to be lazy and work hard.
The value of working is given with humour to make people win a successful life.
E.g. '… lifted the hump-

The horrible hump'

Answers

1. The camel seems ugly because of his hump and it has to walk a long distance in deserts, sometimes without food or water. According to the story of the camel, it is the punishment given to the camels for being lazy. So, the writer may try to present this vividly through the camel rather than any other animals.

2. The writer takes the camel as a metaphor to compare with human. The irregular rhyming pattern and long vowels also create humour. Even the sounds used here are funny, because humans do not use such unpleasant sounds when they get up in the morning. And also the hump is described using the colour 'black and blue'.

3. 'Cameelious hump is taken here as a symbol of laziness to show the ugly side of lazy people.

4. The writer is sarcastic towards the lazy people by describing the ugliness of the hump that human gets as 'black and blue' and using some onomatopoeic words to describe the sounds they make in the morning when they get up.

5. It is very funny and it creates humour for the reader to enjoy.

6. Funny, humorous and negative feelings like disapproving and sarcastic.

7. To work hard without sitting still, reading a book by the fire which shows their laziness. (You can think of your own ideas to answer this question, but it should be based on the solution suggested by the writer; to work hard)

The Earthen Goblet by Harindranath Chattopadhyaya

Introduction

Harindranath Chattopadhyaya (2 April 1898 – 23 June 1990) was an Indian English poet, a dramatist, an actor and also a musician.

A Brief Overview of the Poem

The poet persona asks a question from the earthen goblet on what he felt when he was turned into a goblet on the potter's wheel. The rest of the poem is the answer given by the goblet. He reveals his feelings about his past identity and the present identity. The goblet does not seem happy about his present form. He reveals his dislike and disappointment when the potter makes him a captive on the potter's wheel. After this painful mechanical process he has been turned into a crimson goblet, but the goblet is feeling nostalgic of his past form which is very simple and natural.

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1. twirled – mechanically turned around

2. conscious impulse – strong need

3 fatal hour – the worst time / critical time

4 captive – prisoner

Literary Interpretation

1. How does the speaker describe the goblet?

2. How did the goblet feel in the potter's hand?

.3. How did the goblet see himself on the potter's wheel?

4. What were the feelings of the goblet when he was turned into this new from?

.5. What was his past form/ identity?

6. What difference do you see between his present form as a goblet and the past form?

7. What are the feelings of the goblet when he thinks of his relationship with the little flower in the past?

8. How does he think of his present form?

9. What do the following words imply?

• Fragrant friendship- genuineness, faithfulness, fairness

• Little flower – insignificant thing / delicate thing/ daintiness/innocence

• Twirled upon the Potter's wheel – undergoing painful experience / discomfort / painful, mechanical process

• Root was in my bosom – fertility of the soil / natural productivity/ ability to nurture

• My breast – refers to heart and relates to spirituality and emotions

Literary Review

1. 'The phrase "silent goblet" suggests the changes took place in the process of the production' Give your ideas about statement.

This suggests that the goblet is not happy at all.

It does not show any lively appearance. It is gloomy and sad.

Its rigidity / lost his energy and creativity

2. What kind of process is described using the potter's wheel?

It is a very mechanical process. The word 'twirl' highlights this.

Element of force / pressure upon him.

This process has completely changed his natural qualities.

3. The goblet finds himself a 'captive' on the potter's wheel. What ideas are conveyed through this?

Loss of freedom / helplessness

He is restricted to a given shape and functions that he cannot be free as he used to be in the past.

Undergone a painful experience

4. What qualities do you see in the past form of the goblet?

His past form was just a ball of clay which had no shape or colour.

Yet happy with that simple and natural self.

Genuine and strong relationship with a little flower that made him very happy.

Productive capability / capability to generate

Closeness to other natural things/ relationship with the natural world

Softness, malleability

Beauty/fairness/empathy

5. What are the symbolic representations of the former identity and the new identity of the goblet?

Nature vs. nurture

The past form of the goblet suggests the simple and natural existence of early man.

He was so close to nature.

Genuine and strong relationship with others and lived a very contented life. But the process of education and modernization has taken his living breath out and made him very sophisticated with a new life.

The new identity is very beautiful but man has turned away from his simple natural self.

His creativity and productivity are lost

Now answer these questions by yourself

1. Do you agree to say that remaining in the natural self always brings happiness?

2. Compare the two forms of the goblet. What messages can be taken for a happy life through this.

3. 'The Earthen Goblet reveals the disappointment of modern man' Discuss

Answers

1. The speaker describes the goblet as 'silent goblet' which implies that the goblet is very gloomy and unhappy. It is red from top to bottom. This show its beauty but he is not happy.

2. He felt the potter's hand so warm and burning. This made him very uncomfortable.

3. He saw himself as a prisoner. He realizes that his freedom is over and he is going to be restricted to a given frame and a structure.

4. He felt so sorrowful to change from his former self. He also had a very strong desire to get away from the potter's wheel yet he felt so helpless and disappointed over his inability of doing so.

5. His past form is a lump of clay living closely with nature with no shape or beauty.

6. His past form is very natural and simple. He also had a genuine and strong relationship with a little flower. The phrase 'whose root was in my bosom buried deep' shows the strong relationship he had maintained, in the past. But his present form is very artificial. He has been given a shape and a colour and he does not have access to a simple natural life anymore. He has lost his genuine relationships and his natural qualities are gone.

7. He is sad and nostalgic.

8. He finds his present form as a living death. Though he appears beautiful and sophisticated, he has lost his humble life close to nature, thus he lacks his spiritual happiness.

Father and Son by Cat Stevens

Introduction

‘Father and Son’ is a popular song or modern ballad written and performed by English (British) singer-songwriter, Cat Stevens.

A Brief Overview of the Poem

The song depicts a conflict. In it a protective father addresses (talks to) his son. Yet, the son doesn’t speak back to the father about his dreams or frustrations (breaking of hopes). Father and son represent the traditional elderly generation and the nonconventional younger generation respectively. Here, the father does not understand his son's yearning (need) to break away and shape a new life. The authoritarian (strict and controlling) father who seems to think he is right in parenting his son, advises his son to be patient and less tensed and make moves at leisure. Furthermore, he says the son is not mature as he is young and that it is his weakness. Therefore, he advises him to gather much experience before he moves into the society. Father has no objection to the son, in finding a partner and marrying her. He bears the traditional opinion that his son also can be happy if he follows the typical life style followed by many including himself.

And, he advises the son to follow him as a role model because the father has spent a happy life and he is happy and contented even at his old age.

Moreover, father draws attention to his own youth and empathetically says that he knows that it is difficult to hide the inner feelings at youth, especially when there’s a strong feeling /emotion that governs him. Yet, out of love he advises the son not to lose what he has already got/achieved in his life. He points out to the son how his dreams can vanish leaving him in the same position if he makes a blunder/mistake by being a stupid (foolish) or impulsive fool. Thereby, father awakens his son to feel the reality of life.

In addition, the son who doesn’t get an opportunity (chance) to explain his requirements,

feels nothing but hurt and disappointed from his father's actions. He explains the grievances saying whenever he tries to express his needs and desires how his father refuses to listen to him thinking he is not mature enough to make logical decisions/interpretations. The son expresses his worried feelings because he has been ordered to listen only and never given a chance to voice his opinions. He thinks that it is time for him to look for his own destiny (fortune) and is determined to break away from the family and find his path. Yet, it is a monologue or an address made to a third person as he can't directly tell his father all about what he has planned to do.

However, father repeatedly tells the son to be patient and to be slow and steady and intent when taking decisions because he doubts the son is not yet mature and it is not high time for the son to take a serious decision about life. Not only that but also he emphasizes through repetition that it is the fault of the son that has delayed him from being a socially matured young man. He fears that the son who tries to be radical might fall into pitfalls, get caught in unknown social traps or could be misled in the modern society.

Once again, father tells the son that he has to gather much experience, before he finds a girl and settles down. In repetition the conventional father tells him to follow father's exemplary life to make his own one successful.

Yet, the dissatisfied son reveals silently that he has to bottle up his feelings and suffer in misery so secretly because the father does not let his son speak for himself. He has had no opportunity for his innovative ideas or suggestions. Now he says it is not possible to hide his rising emotions/feelings and desires, to explore the world and take up challenges any more. With deep remorse he says the old fashioned and conservative adults are not right in their interventions and if they were right, he would agree. Further, he regrets to think that the adults only understand their feelings but not his. Therefore, he confidently says he has chosen his own path to success and is determined to leave home seeking freedom and to pursue (hunt) his dreams independently even if his loving father thinks that he is not fit

enough to explore the world.

May be due to miscommunication, the father and the son have completely different points of view on life. In this song the writer presents the controversial (debatable) ideological (conceptual) differences between the younger generation and the elder generation.

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1. Relax – make or become less tense / anxious or serious
2. Take it easy – go ahead slowly
3. Fault- weakness/ flaw in character
4. Settle down- get married
5. To be calm- not to have strong feelings/emotions
6. Still – even/yet
7. Turns away – doesn't listen to/refuses/rejects to pay attention to
8. Same old story – the situation has not changed/it's the same way/the same response is made by the father/the unchanged conventional way
9. Make a change – change the mind and make a new decision
10. Inside- in the mind/heart
11. Hard to ignore- difficult to take no notice of/can't forget about
12. Agree- do what the adults suggest/listen to their suggestions/listen to their advice

Literary Interpretation

1. What does the title reveal about the song?
2. What is the point of view of the father about the son's decision to break away from the family?
3. How do the tones in the song change according to the characters?
4. What kind of effect has been created by the conflict between father and son?

5. a) What does the father try to communicate to his son?

5. b)What is the son's opinion about the adults' ways of parenting/handling their children and how does he respond to their way of controlling him?

5. c). Compare and contrast the father and son in the song.

6. Find out the literary devices used in the following phrases/ lines?

7. Describe the implied meanings of the following.

• 'How can I try to explain' - It is a rhetorical question used by the writer to depict how the son expresses his disappointment as he gets no chance from the father to reveal about his needs and wishes.

• 'Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy' – This phrase metaphorically suggests how happy the old father is even at his old age because he has made the correct choices and right decisions at his youth. In addition, it indirectly tells the son that he can follow the father's foot- steps by taking him as the role model.

• 'You're still young, that's your fault' - The metaphorical utterance of the father indicates that the father has doubts about the son's maturity as a member of the society. He fears the son has not gathered much experience to fit into the society. Further, he highlights it as a weakness of the son as he doesn't believe that the son has acquired the necessary skills.

Literary Review

1. Can you call this piece of literature, a modern ballad? Give your reasons.

- Yes. This is a modern ballad and it is presented in the song form. Moreover, there are some other features of a ballad in it.

- Usually ballads contain a simple story. However, this song has a very simple incident of a son revealing his worried feelings over loss of freedom to do what he likes and intern his father addresses the son with a lot of advice to build up his life.

- The chorus sung by father, ‘There’s so much you have to know’ and the son singing, ‘I know I have to go’ suggests this poem has features of a ballad. The chorus is repeated before or after a stanza.

- Ballads are meant to be sung. The chorus adds rhythm to the poem and enables to present it as a song which gives it the ballad form.

- Repetition or refrain is a feature of a ballad. In this poem too the writer uses the repeated phrases like, ‘There’s so much you have to know’.

-Rhetoric question is another feature. The son’ expresses his worries using the interrogation in the phrase, ‘how can I try to explain’ and father in his advisory comment says, ‘why think of everything you’ve got’.

2. Analyse the use of imagery in the poem.

- Father and son are two symbols used here. The writer draws the readers’ attention to the image of a ‘young’ son at his blossoming youth who suffers without freedom of speech, by mentioning the word ‘young’ and in contrast he highlights the joy experienced by the ‘old’ father who has already led a happy family life.

- He even uses the flashback technique and takes the readers back to the old man’s youth saying, ‘I was once like you are now, and I know that it’s not easy, ‘and manifests the idea that young are impulsive and it is not easy to control young people’s emotions.

- He paints the picture of a young man’s future with the metaphorical phrase, ‘For you will still be here tomorrow’, and shows how his expectations might be destroyed, with the use of the metaphorical phrase, ‘but your dreams may not’.

Moreover, the writer compares the gaps in the opinions of the adults and the young using the metaphorical phrase, ‘but it’s them they know, not me’

3. What are the special words or phrases used by the writer to convey the theme?

- The song depicts the theme that generation gap makes life embarrassing for both the adult and the young. The opening line, 'It's not time to make a change' itself metaphorically suggests the disapproval of the father about the change the son is going to make in his life. Moreover, he uses metaphorical phrases like, 'that's your fault', 'just relax' and 'take it slowly' to suggest father's doubts about the immature state of the son who is going to take a decision to break away from the family.

- The song very well depicts the theme that generation gap can lead to tension between a child and a parent. In order to suggest this idea the writer uses the phrases like, 'that's your fault' uttered by the father and in response to all son says, 'but it's them they know not me'.

- Not only that but also the parents expect children to follow them as role models. Therefore, the father in this song tells his son, 'Look at me …". Nevertheless, the son may be willing to be himself as the present day youth think.

- It also suggest that freedom of speech and reciprocal communication can make both parents and children happy. Here, the son seems to be full of remorse and regret as he is deprived of the opportunity to voice his opinions before the authoritarian and nit-picking adults. Therefore, the poet makes the son say, 'From the moment I could talk I was ordered to listen'.

- Moreover, the poem manifests the idea that children think that the adults are conventional and they have a dissatisfaction about the set or conventional life. They always want to pursue new dimensions. The unheard comment of the son, 'If they were right, I'd agree' employed by the writer very well proves it.

-All in all, the song suggests that there is a need for effective, friendly and healthy communication between a parent and a child to make life happy and successful for both. It implies that both parties should be willing to share their ideas and be ready to accept innovative ideas and make amendments in their characters, attitudes and views for a peaceful and loving relationship.

Answers

1. The title suggests that the song may be about a conflict or gap between the elder generation and the younger generation because a father and a son are used in the song as two characters. The reader will be curious to know what will happen to the father son relationship which is usually linked as a mutual bond.

2. Father has a conventional and traditional view about the son's behaviour and he doesn't approve it.

3. Father has an authoritarian unquestionable/incontestable/ undeniable tone. He makes no room for hearsay from the son. The son has to keep everything hidden in the mind. Therefore, the son has a miserable/ unhappy /despondent/ dejected/ tone as he can't talk to the father directly.

4. It has led to distance father son relationship /for an unrest / disagreement / misunderstanding between two of them.

5. a) Father wants the son to understand that there is no hurry to make a change in his life. But to

- Follow the conventions of the society
- To be patient
- To follow him as stereotype
- To be more experienced

5.b) The son is disappointed as the adults do not understand his wishes and thoughts .He doesn't make any comment about father's advice, yet decides to do what he likes thinks of exploring the world independently.

5.c) **Father** - seems to be authoritarian, conventional and traditional in his way of handling the son.

- seems to control the son's life all the time, without understanding his desires.
- gives no freedom to the son to express his needs and wishes but dominates and becomes a preacher only.
-prevents the son from enjoying his life happily.

Son - gets no opportunity to talk
- bottles up his feelings continuously,
- helpless and disappointed due to the influence of the adults
- attempts to break away from the traditions and conventions.
- is interested in seeking freedom and new paths without caring about the risks.
- tries to face challenges independently.

6. Father and Son - symbol/metaphor

'It is not time to make a change' – metaphor

'You're still young' - metaphor

'…the same, same old story' – repetition (of the word 'same')

'Now there's a way' – metaphor

Fear by Gabriela Mistral.

Introduction

Gabriela Mistral, a Chilean poetess was the 1st Latin American woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. Some central themes in her poems are nature, betrayal, love, a mother's love, sorrow and recovery, travel etc.

A Brief Overview of the Poem

The writer discusses the love of a mother towards her daughter in this poem through the anxiety that a mother suffers from about the future of her child. 'Fear', the title itself suggests it.

First she says that this mother does not want them (the people including friends, classmates, may be even teachers etc.) to turn her daughter into a swallow, a bird leaving the nest. She has a fear thinking that her little girl would fly far away leaving her beloved mother and would never return to her mother's straw bed (poor dwelling place, but can give warmth).

This mother does not want them to make her little child a princess, wearing tiny golden slippers. She has a fear that her child would be unable to play in the meadows. And also her fear is about that her child would not come to sleep with her, when night comes.

The mother does not want them to make her little daughter a queen. She says that when the daughter is put on a throne, mother would not be able to be with her and also she would not be able to rock her when the night comes.

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1. Swallow – a migratory bird leaving the nest seeking warmer climate for survival. (The bird is used as a symbol which suggests selfishness or opportunism metaphorically)

2. Straw bed – a bed made of dry cut leaves of stalks of corn. (Metaphorically suggests rural setting with poverty which implies the place where mother's warmth is found.)

3. Eaves – The overhanging edge of a roof (risky and not safe for)

4. Meadow– a field of grass which suggests the natural place where the child can play freely.

Literary Interpretation.

1. What are the simple everyday actions the speaker prefers?

2. What are the literary devices used by the writer in the following?

i. Swallow ii. Princess iii. Queen iv. Golden slippers v. Throne vi. Straw bed

3. What transformations of the girl does the speaker dislike to see?

4. How do the above changes affect the speaker?

Turn into a swallow

Make her a princess

Make her a queen and put her on a throne.

5. What does this mother expect from this child?

6. How is this mother different from the other mothers?

7. What feelings of this mother does the writer create all throughout this poem?

Literary Overview

1. "Family relationships are more valuable than the material success". Give your opinions referring to the poem 'Fear'.

- The poem depicts relationship between parents and children through the anxiety of a mother.

"I don't want them to turn my little girl into a swallow"

- The speaker (mother) doesn't like the child to be away from her to achieve her (daughter's) goals in future. She repeats the line,

"I don't want them to make

My little girl ……."

- Symbols selected by the writer to show the distance.

E.g. a migratory bird who leaves the nest seeking warmer climate for survival.

- Unimportance of material wealth when family relationships are distant.

E.g. "In tiny golden slippers

how could she play on the meadow?"

- She wants the reader to understand that nest in the 'eaves' would be more risky and uncomfortable than straw bed.
- The distance between a 'queen' and a person who is not on that level of material success or power and social status suggests that material success is less valuable than family relationships.

2. Do you think the writer wants to convey that mother's love is greater than wealth and status through the poem 'Fear'? Support your answer with examples from the text.

- It the mother's love the writer wants to depict through certain activities done by mother.

E.g. 'comb her hair', 'sleep at my side', 'rock her'

- It is her mere love that she doesn't want them to turn her child to a swallow.
- Her love is conveyed through her liking the child to enjoy the access of nature but not the luxury and comfort.

"In tiny golden slippers

How could she play on the meadow?"

- Her fear for the child's distance, finding success in wealth and power depicts through the words 'princess' and 'queen'.
- Her love and affection is conveyed saying that she wants to give her warmth, sleep at her side and rock her at night.

3. The writer criticizes about selfish and opportunistic attitudes cultivated in children by the society. Do you agree with this idea? Support according to the poem, 'Fear'.

- The mother, the writer has created in this poem is quite different from the other mothers. She does not like the others' influence on her child to go to a higher place in the society and forgets the family. She repeats her dislike saying,

"I don't want them to make

my little girl a princess."

- When repeats the mother's thoughts and fear she uses two different words 'turn' and 'make' to show how the society influence to plant selfish and opportunistic attitudes in children when they are small and when they grow up.
- Swallow symbolizes the infancy and 'Turn' shows the mere responsibility of the society for turning the child to a one who leaves her family and find comforts in the society.

"I don't want them to turn

my little girl into a swallow."

- 'make' depicts that sometimes the girl too likes the transformation when she grows up.
- The writer is critical towards such people and shows her dislike taking the reader's attention towards the importance of family relationships rather than selfish, opportunistic attitudes of finding comforts or luxury.

"And even less I do want them …."

Answers

1. Comb her daughter's hair, enjoy simple things of life playing on the meadow (to have her feet on the earth), put her to sleep (rock or lull) and sleep at her side.

2. They are used as symbols and also metaphors.

3. Turn into a swallow which implies the idea that her child would go far away leaving her mother alone.

4. Turn into a swallow - The mother will not be able to stay close to her every day and do simple daily activities like combing her hair.

Make her a princess - The mother will not be able to be with her as she likes. Her innocent childhood may disappear when she is unable to play and enjoy simple everyday things of life. She is unable to keep her feet on the earth with golden slippers which suggests wealth and status of the highest kind. So, she thinks that she is unable to have very close relationships like sleeping at her side, if the daughter becomes a princess.

Make her a queen and put her on a throne. - The queen means that she has become a part of the society and very busy with modern life style and no time to be with the mother like she was a simple and natural child in the past. -

Make her a princess wearing golden slippers and cannot play on the meadows.

Make her a queen and put her on a throne.

5. She wants her to be herself, to have her feet on the earth, to play on the meadow, to enjoy the simple everyday things of life. She does not like her daughter to have unrealistic or unreliable goals. She wants her daughter to remain the relationship between her and the daughter as it always was - loving, affectionate and above all normal.

6. Most parents always wish brighter and better lives for their children than they themselves experienced. But this mother only needs human relationships to remain as they are more valuable than any other material success.

7. Fear, anxiety, lamenting as well as love and affection.

Upside-Down by Alexander Kushner

Introduction

This poem has been written by Alexander Kushner. He is one of the best lyrical poets of the 20th century.

A Brief Overview of the Poem

The narrator introduces a person called 'Upside-Down whose nick name was given by the citizens of the town due to his unusual behaviour .Upside-Down has become the talk of the town because of his unusual behaviour patterns. When he was given instructions he did the direct opposite of all of them due to his abnormal behaviour. When he was asked to turn to right, he turned to left. People could not make him understand that he was floating when he sailed in a boat. He could not understand that nothing happened to the land and that they only moved away from the land. He did not read or write the letters in a document in the accepted order and always did it in the wrong direction as from left to right and not from left to right. Therefore, he read the word 'ton' as 'not'. The narrator calls him a foolish/stupid person. Further, he says during his life time he never liked to cross a bridge as he feared that action so much. Instead of that he has always waded (walked through water), if the water level was not too deep and dangerous. Furthermore, he did not wade in the water when the slope of the bank of the river was too steep. When he went to a restaurant he did not know what he could ask for. Therefore, he asked for a pair of socks with clocks printed on them instead of asking for food put inside a box. Moreover, the narrator tells that a circus came to their town one day and Upside-Down had gone their without getting late. After seeing the circus everyone has said that Upside-Down had been funnier than the clown they saw in the circus. Next, the narrator says the postman has brought a letter which the aunt has sent to

Upside-Down. He has not read the letter instantly. Instead he has thought if he should read it or is it necessary to read the letter. He had doubts about reading the letter and even he has thought that he could not read it. He had just made a glance at the letter but has not wanted to read it so soon. Therefore, he has put it under the hat he was wearing. The narrator tells what the aunt has written to him. She has said that Upside-Down did all his actions to make others angry. He had worn clothes made of flannel in hot weather and gone naked in other times. Finally, she has given him a warning to behave in the normal way like others in his society to get respect from them.

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1. Upside-Down – may be the nick name given to the funny person by others who laughed at his unusual behaviour / Upside-down – in the opposite way
2. Spite - anger
3. Afloat- floating
4. Backside-fore – back to front side
5. Ton- how to measure a large weight
6. Dunder-head – foolish/stupid person
7. Cross a bridge- go over a bridge to the other side
8. Wade- walk through water
9. Unless – if not/otherwise
10. Embankment- artificially built steep slope
11. Steep- sharp
12. Restaurant – a café / a place where people go to buy food
13. P'raps I ought – perhaps/maybe he should read the letter (he is not sure if he has to read the letter
14. He eyed it this way – he judged/thought if he should read the letter

15. Stuck – fixed/put

16. Annoy – make others angry/irritate

17. Flannels – material like cotton/polyester used to make clothes

18. Naked – without clothes

19. Behave – act/ work

20. Respect – honour/fame/ admiration

Literary Interpretation

1. What does the title reveal about the person's behaviour?

2. What types of actions of Upside-Down are described in the poem?

3. What kind of view is presented about the behaviour of Upside-Down?

4. What does the aunt try to explain/communicate to her nephew?

5. Describe the funny behavioural patterns of Upside-Down which arouse humour.

6. Find out the literary devices used in the following phrases/ lines?

7. Describe the implied meaning of the following.

'…the dunder-head'

'If he was told to turn to right

He turned to left out of spite'

Literary Review

1. Is 'Upside-Down' an appropriate title for the poem? Discuss.

- The title introduces a funny person who seems to be abnormal and does the direct opposite of what he is expected to do.

- Describe the behaviour patterns of Upside-Down to support the title

    - He does direct opposite of what he is asked to do. etc.

Quotations can be used to support the facts

2. How effectively does the writer use the literary features/techniques to convey the theme/themes?

The following literary techniques can be used to describe how they have been used to illustrate the theme/themes

Literary Techniques

- The title itself is used as a metaphor – conveys the funny nature of the person
- Story telling method and metaphor are used in the first two lines - it suggests how he became the centre of attraction of the town
- Humour is used - it implies the funny nature of Upside-Down and communicates to the readers what people should avoid doing
- Irony is used – to suggest the fate of the stupid person who becomes funny.
- Exaggeration is used – creates an exaggerated picture of the funny person

- Visual imagery – enables to create clear picture of his behaviour patterns

Themes

- Social misfits are laughed at
- People have to conform to socially accepted norms
- People should have closeness to everyday life to avoid being funny/stupid

Answers

1. It suggests that he is totally an abnormal person. It gives the implication that he may be a social misfit.

2. It describes many of his funny actions that create humour.

He does the direct opposite of what he is asked to do.

He does not know the land does not move with them when they sail in a boat

He is afraid to cross a bridge

He goes to a restaurant to buy a pair of socks

He does not directly read the letter sent by his aunt.

3. The writer suggests that he is funny in his behaviour.

In addition, he says the behaviour is abnormal.

Furthermore, he suggests that he lacks common sense and knowledge about everyday things.

He doesn't live according to the accepted norms of the society

4. She tries to advise him to be normal and use his common sense and be familiar with real life situations.

She says he has to follow the socially accepted behaviour / norms to be a respectable person.

5. Behaviour patterns - He turns to left when he is asked to turn to right. etc.

Expressions – 'P'raps I will' etc

6. .i.) 'Who was the talk of all the town' – figurative use of language

ii) 'And everyone said Upside-Down

Was funnier than the circus clown' – hyperbole

iii) 'He eyed it this way, eyed it that' – repetition of the phrase 'eyed it'

7. 'the dunder-head' – metaphor

If he was told to turn to right

He turned to left out of spite' - The behaviour of Upside-Down was funny. He always did the opposite of what he was expected to do.

Two's Company- Raymond Wilson

Introduction

Raymond Wilson is a well-known American author of many publications-articles in many learned journals. He was a professor of history in his university in Kansas and has won many awards and honors for his writing and university teaching. In this poem he entertains the reader with his story telling voice about a ghost story.

A Brief Overview of the Poem

A man who openly says that there are no ghosts selected to spend a lonely night in a house famous to have ghosts; in order to prove his words. In his long night, he feels strange things and voices. Gradually he is getting doubtful. Although he ensures security by drawing the curtain, locking the door, and shutting the windows, he is still brave in his words. Finally, he makes himself safer by enclosing in a cupboard in which he meets the ghost who speaks dearly to him!

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1. haunted - a place with a ghost
2. tut, tut - an expression of disapproval
3. tittle-tattle - gossip/foolish chat/meaningless things
4. rattle - short sharp knocking sound (of a metal chain)
5. dusk - evening that is getting dark
6. a hunchback moon - a half of the moon in a curved shape that gives less light
7. screech owls - owls who has harsh/shrill cry (implies a warn of a bad happening)

8. creeps inside - goes slowly in

9. poker- iron rod

Literary Interpretation

1. How many people are in the poem, according to the title?

2. What is the point of view of the narration used in the poem?

3. What does the phrase 'such tittle tattle' means to you?

4. Contrast the man's reactions to strange happenings in the haunted house with his beliefs.

5. Mention briefly the qualities of the man described.

6. What features are used to create dramatic element in the narrative?

7. Does the poem reveal a sad story of a man, according to the caption which has been used as a preface at the very beginning?

8. How do you relate the title which has been used ironically with the content of the poem?

Literary Overview

1. Describe how the humour has been generated in the poem.

2. How do you feel about the man in the narrative in 'Two's Company'?

3. Do you think the poem is merely about ghosts? Justify your answer.

4. How is the inner fear of ghosts in the man shown in the poem vividly?

5. What features of the language makes the poem humourous?

6. How do you relate the poem to its theme humour? Explain this with reference to the language used.

Answers - 1

1. The title 'Two's Company' mentions that there are two in the poem. As it is a company it may be two people's company.

2. The narrator is not the man whom is being described. So, the poem is written in third person narration.

3. Such tittle tattle referred to the stories of ghosts. By the use of the words tittle tattle the speaker hints that those stories are of common people and they are created without a firm base.

4. He draws the curtains, although he is certain that the strange sounds are creations of his nervous mind. He knows that there is no one but he shuts the doors and locks them. He finds strange sounds repeatedly and checks the doors and windows knowing that ghosts are not there. However he hides in a cupboard and finds it is the safest place knowing that there's nothing to be scared of.

5. He is boastful and arrogant. He is over confident.

6. The narrative is a mixture of description and dialogues. Dialogues bring live and dramatic effect. Sequence of reactions and the climax that the man who hid in the cupboard accompanies the ghost unexpectedly heightens the dramatic effect.

7. The line directly says it is a story about a man who does not believe in ghosts. Also it is identified as a sad story that something bad is to happen to the man. By the end it is cleared off that the experience the man undergoes at haunted house shatters his arrogance and heroic mind into pieces. He is reduced to be a coward and his boastfulness and condemning words on others' beliefs are sarcastically highlighted. Thus, it is a sad story of him.

8. According to the title, the poem is expected to be about two people and how they keep company with. In the course of the actions, the curiosity and suspense of the vision of a ghost is created. As the poet makes the man meets the ghost in the final lines, the title become ironic. By the end, the meaning that the company of two people is changed into the company of the man and the ghost.

Answers - 2

1. -Tinge of laughter is created by every line of the poem. Together it brings humour.

i. The words of the man;

He ridicules and looks down upon people who say that the ghosts exist.

Ex: "…Tut, tut!

I've never heard such tittle tattle"

ii.The words of the ghost;

Unexpectedly the ghost uses polite and dear words.

E.g. "… 'How do you do!'

I am a ghost. Pray who are you?"

iii. Contrast is employed to bring humour.

-The words and the reactions of the man

E.g. "Come, come, it's merely nerves, he's certain

(But just the same, he draws the curtain)

-the impression created about the man in initial lines changes at the end and it brings laughter.

A very confident man changes into a coward.

E.g. "(The cupboard strong he creeps inside)"

iv. The rhyme /rhythm is comical

Alliteration and assonance are frequently used.

Ex: tittle-tattle/Tut-tut!/ghosts that groan/

Regular rhyme and rhyming words at the end of each line causes funny effect

tattle-rattle/right-night/falling-calling/clock-lock

2. - The narration is humourous from the initial lines of the poem as it describes the boastful words and high opinion of the man. The main character is introduced as a swollen headed man who condemns the others and makes sarcastic remarks on them.

-The reader is taken through his contradictory behaviour of what is said and done by him.

-So, rather than feeling of sadness, the sarcasm is created upon his weakness of over confidence and boastfulness.

3. The poem is not merely about ghosts, but about weaknesses of man.

-The poet sarcastically brings to light that the man who believes that ghosts do not exist had happened to change.

-As he was laughing at others the reader tend to find fault in his behaviour. Further he deserves to be a laughing stock for the same matter that he too believed the ghosts are in the house. That is revealed in his security precautions. Ultimately he selects even a cupboard to hide.

-Boastfulness made him to be a victim of his own words. To prove his words correct he selects the haunted house and encounters the danger and meets the ghost.

-Overconfidence is a weakness. It is depicted as the man was certain of what he said at first, but encounters fear and fails.

4. -The inner mind of the man is suggestive of his behaviour.

-At first he speaks boastfully as he is certain that ghosts do not exist.

-The poet keenly brings tension and nervousness of the man describing his reactions to the strange things happen in his surroundings.

For instance when he recognizes that he heard the clock stroke without a physical clock, he locks the door for safety.

5. The language is used to bring the comical effect in the poem.

i. Language has a rhythmic flow and rhyme.

-end rhyme in all the lines

-comical blending of identical sounds (alliterations)

E.g. tittle tattle/clock-lock

ii. The main character is introduced with some exaggerated remarks about his confidence. His words are boastful and sarcastic.

iii. As the narration is given in third person point of view the words of the man and his actions can be seen together. In the middle of the poem, the poet makes him ridiculed by that contrast.

iv. Use of funny dialogues.

-The main character ridicules the common belief of ghosts

-At the end of the poem the words of the ghost are funny.

v. Sarcastic tone is maintained throughout the poem.

6. The poem is humorous due to characterization and the plot it reveals. The use of language expresses irony and humour.

-In the first verse the man expresses his confidence over the others by laughing at others with sarcastic remarks as 'tut-tut'. He is very sure of what he said and thinks that all the others are fools in being afraid of non-existing ghosts. The ghostly atmosphere and loneliness seems to have frightened him and shaken his confidence. By the end of the poem the man crawls into the cupboard to be safe from that non-existing ghost! This is the contrasting image of the over confident man shown in the first verse.

-the events of the plot flows bring a funny effect.

-The climax that the man meets the ghost is very surprising and his words are comical.

- It is ironical that the company of two is the man who doesn't believe in ghosts meets the ghost.

Drama – Twilight of a crane by Yu Zuwa Junji Kinoshita

Introduction

The drama "twilight of a Crane" which was written by Yu Zuwa Junji Kinoshita is a Japanese play. This drama was created based on a popular Japanese folk story.

A Brief Overview of the Play

The story is about a poor, kind-hearted farmer who helped a crane being stuck with an arrow. The crane transforms herself into a woman called Tsu and becomes Yoohyo's wife to pay his gratitude for saving her life. She becomes an ever loving, caring and very devoted wife to Yohyo. She fills the Yohyo's life with love, peace and happiness.

The play starts with the arrival of a group of children who comes to play folk games with Tsu and Yohyo as regular visitors to their hut which is located in the middle of a field. As Tsu is not there, children wake Yohyo up and plays with him. Then the children's song is heard from distance and Sodo and Unzu who are village traders come to Yohyo's place. They identify Yohyo's wife and think that Yohyo is the luckiest man in the world to have such a beautiful wife. Unzu says "Yes, (indeed) Yohyo is the luckiest man in the world to get such a nice wife." They discuss that Yohyo who is considered a lazy fellow by them earns money without any effort. Tsu weaves a very expensive cloth "Senba Ori" to make Yohyo happy and to overcome their financial issues. When Tsu is in the weaving room Yohyo is not allowed to enter into the weaving room. Yohyo also obeys it and does not peep into the room. But Sodo and Unzu want to know whether the cloth is real a 'Senba Ori' which is woven using thousand feathers plucked out from a live hen crane. They know that it costs a lot more than a hundred dollars. As Sodo and Unzu burn with curiosity of discovering how the fantastic cloth, Senba Ori is made in reality, they secretly go into her

room and find out that there is a loom in it. Sodo and Unzu give instructions and urge Yohyo to persuade Tsu to weave more Senba Ori to make a big profit. Yohyo, tells them that every time she weaves a piece of cloth, she becomes awfully thinner and they have agreed to weave no more cloths. But they instil in Yohyo's mind the idea of possibility of earning more profits and living a much more luxurious life in the splendid, artificial city, Kyoto. Meanwhile, Yohyo is obsessed with the thought of moving and enjoying the city life. Even though Yohyo has already agreed she would not weave any more, he forces and threatens her to weave more sheets of cloth. Tsu is intelligent and understands that Sodo and Unzu are trying to get Yohyo to their side. She reflects on the qualities she admired in Yohyo. She explains him that they can live a happy and contented life without giving way to corrupted forces. Because of Yohyo's persuasion she decides to weave some cloths as she loves her husband. While Tsu is weaving, Sodo and Unzu rush to the weaving room despite the objections of their friend Yohyo. They witness a crane is weaving the cloth in the place of Tsu. Yohyo too witnessing it, gets highly excited and goes out aimlessly looking for Tsu in vain. After all she appears very thin and feeble with two beautiful pieces of cloth instead of one cloth. There she expresses her displeasure towards Yohyo. She tells him that she has spared almost all her feathers and by now she has barely got feathers to fly back. She asks him to keep one piece of cloth because she has woven it for him with very much love for him while the other piece of cloth to fulfill his ambition. Yohyo becomes frustrated and hopeless. At last Tsu disappears in the sky when the children are singing a sad song. One of them sees a crane flying away in the distance.

Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

1. Twilight of a Crane - According to the traditional belief of the Japanese, the Crane is considered a symbol of honour and loyalty. Tsu who is really a hen Crane, but later becomes a wife of Yohyo out of gratitude maintains her dignity of the character and becomes a loyal

wife to Yohyo. The word “Twilight” sometimes gives the implication that something is becoming weak and lose its strength and reaches its end.

2. Senba Ori –Senba Ori is a cloth woven by a live hen crane plucking thousand feathers.

3. Bit Teched (Page 42) – somewhat crazy

4. Fire side (Page 43) – Fire side is the area around hearth. Usually in winter, people enjoy the warmth by the fire side

5. Appeared like a wind (Page 43) – no one knows where she came from. Tsu came unnoticed like wind.

6. Coining money (Page 43) – earning money in large amounts.

7. without lifting a finger over (Page 43) – without making any effort.

•8. Queer thing (Page 44) – strange or peculiar action.

this refers to Tsu’s gesture of prohibiting Yohyo to peep into the weaving room.

9. Foolishly honest (Page 44) – Yohyo’s gesture of obeying Tsu by not peeping into the weaving room while weaving is considered as being foolishly honest by Unzu.

10. Wretched thief (Page 44) – Very bad, despicable, loathsome

As Unzu has cheated Yohyo out of the profit he earned by selling the cloth woven by Tsu, Sodo calls him a wretched thief.

11. Low fellow (Page 45) – Mean person

12. Bewitched crane (Page 46) – Enchanted crane

Sodo guesses that Tsu is an enchanted crane who came to live with Yohyo.

13. Kyoto (Page 52) – Kyoto is seen as the center of commercial attraction and a symbol of urbanization.

Villagers like Sodo and Unzu long to go there and earn profit to enjoy the luxuries there.

14. A bit sharper about money (Page 46) – Becoming more keen on money.

This conveys Yohyo’s inclination towards money and materialistic pleasures.

15. Crookedly (Page 66) – Twistingly, zigzaggingly

The implication is that Tsu having sacrificed almost all her feathers to weave two pieces of cloth for Yohyo, becomes weak and is unable to fly straight.

16. Coax (Page 48) – Persuading someone to do something in a gentle manner.

Sodo wants Yohyo to coax his wife to view another cloth.

17. Buckwheat cake (Page 53) – A cake made of the grains of a flowering plant grown in Asia. This implies the simple pleasures Yohyo and Tsu enjoyed in their small hut compared to the materialistic pleasures in Kyoto.

18. Spying (Page 46) – Watching secretly

19, Shivering coward (Page 46) – A person trembling with fear.

Sodo calls Unzu a shivering coward as he runs out of Yohyo's hut fearing that Tsu is a ghost of a crane.

20, Tender heartedness (Page 50) – Kindness and concern in the heart

Tsu reflects on the transformation of once innocent and tender hearted Yohyo.

Literary Interpretations

1. What are the main characters in the drama?

2. Describe the main characters.

3. What role does Tsu perform in the play?

4. Who are Sodo and Unzu?

5. What special qualities do you see in Tsu's character?

6. What are the similarities between the characters of Tsu and Yohyo?

7. What are the differences between the characters of Tsu and Yohyo?

8. Compare Tsu's character with the characters of Sodo and Unzu.

9. How do you evaluate the character of Sodo and Unzu?

10. What do Sodo and Unzu represent in the play?

Answers

1. Tsu and Yohyo

2. Tsu is both woman and a bird changing the form from one to the other. Her human identity as Tsu is short. She is the wife of Yohyo. Yohyo appears in the play as a simple and an innocent character who represents the traditional farming society in ancient Japan. He is a man with plenty of human qualities such as kindness, selflessness, sensitivity etc

3. Tsu performs the role of an honorable and loyal wife who loves and cares a lot about her husband

4. They are two villagers who involve in buying and selling business and act as brokers and to sell the cloth woven by Tsu at the city.

5. Tsu appears as an intelligent and self-standing woman in the play. She is an obedient, useful and self-disciplined wife to her husband and anticipates a calm and peaceful village life. She makes sacrifices to support the family's economy and wellbeing.

6. Both of them are innocent, simple and kind.

7. Tsu is loyal to her husband and she is not money minded and stubborn. But Yohyo becomes disloyal, stubborn and money minded under the influence of Unzu, even though he has enough wealth to run the family life easily for many more years.

8. Tsu is selfless, honest, kindhearted, innocent, friendly, truthful, dignified and principled, not money minded, simple, happy and satisfied with what she has. But Sodo and Unzu are completely in contradiction with Tsu. They are money minded, selfish, cunning and shrewd, corrupted and malicious.

9. Sodo and Unzu appear as very cunning people who represent the money minded community in the competitive, capitalist world.

10. Sodo and Unzu represent commercialization and urbanization

a) What does the phrase “taking a nap by the fire side” imply?

b) What does the phrase “appeared like a wind” tell about Tsu?

c) In what perspective is Kyoto seen in the drama?

d) What does the phrase “the words which I can’t understand” tell about Tsu?

e) How do you interpret the term “getting a bit sharper about money”?

Answers

a) The phrase implies the care free life Yohyo is spending in the most difficult season of the year which is winter.

b) The phrase gives the idea that the origins of Tsu is not known. No one knows where she came from.

c) During a time, urbanization has begun Kyoto is seen as the center of commercialization. A world of materialistic beauty is portrayed with celebrities riding on ox-carriages.

d) It tells that as Tsu represents the world of nature where money and materialistic pleasures have no place, she cannot understand the language of the materialistic world. The words like profit, money and hundreds of dollars belong to the materialistic world.

e) As Yohyo gets money from Unzu by selling the cloth woven by Tsu he focuses more on monetary value of things. This marks a turning point of his life as the sensitive and caring villager turns to be a rude person that harasses Tsu forcing her to weave more cloths.

a) What context does the title suggest?

b) What is the dramatic irony that runs throughout the drama?

c) “Yes, she didn’t realize what we were saying… She acted just like a bird….”

Identify the literary device used in the above lines? What is the comparison made?

d) “Yes, I dislike you. I don’t like you. I’m not fond of you – You are a cross woman”

What is the tone of the speaker in the above lines?

e) Crane? You say a crane? Yes, I remember now!..... One day when I was working in the field a crane came down with an arrow stuck in its back. So I pulled the arrow out of its back and saved its life.

What is the literary technique used in the above lines? How effective is it?

Answers

a) The title gives the implication of the short span of life of Tsu.

b) The dramatic irony is that something is hidden in their relationship that Yohyo is unaware of. It is Tsu’s true identity.

c) Simile

The way she acted is compared to the way a bird acts.

d) The tone is angry, irritated or resentful one.

e) Flashback, it is effective as it helps the flow of the drama by revealing Tsu’s true identity.

1) What does children’s presence in the early part of the drama depict?

2) Why does Tsu cannot understand the value system that Yohyo is attracted to?

3) What is the theme that is brought out by the invasion of Sodo and Unzu into Tsu’s weaving room?

4) What thematic concerns are brought out by the struggle between Tsu and the two villagers, Sodo and Unzu to win Yohyo to their sides?

Answers

a) Innocence, genuine happiness, playfulness and freedom

b) Tsu cannot understand the value system of the human society as she belongs to the world

of nature which represents goodness, virtue and love.

c) Male chauvinism is brought out as they invade Tsu's weaving room in a very indecent manner

d) Tsu represents innocence while Sodo and Unzu represent corruption. This tug of war brings out thematic concerns of innocence vs. corruption, money and greed, commercialism etc.

5) **Recognize Context**

a) "I wish, I knew! From somewhere unnoticed she appeared like a wind. Since then, that lazy fellow has been coining money without lifting a finger over"

i. Who are referred as 'I', 'she', and 'lazy fellow'?

ii. In which context does the speaker say these words?

iii. What is the speaker's attitude towards the 'lazy fellow'?

b) "my dear what's happened to you? You are gradually changing. I can't understand why. But you are moving to the other world where I can never live"

i. Who says these words? Who is the listener?

ii. What is suggested through the phrase "the other world"?

iii. Why does the speaker say the listener is gradually changing?

c) "Don't be a fool, dearest. I'll be back. I know I'll come back. I'll go to Kyoto just to make a lot of profit…….. Oh, that's a good idea, we'll go to Kyoto together!"

i. Who says this and to whom are they spoken?

ii. What can you say about the speaker's mindset?

iii. What is symbolized by the word "Kyoto"

d) "This is it……. This is it everything comes from this stuff……Money……. Money……...I wove that cloth only to show you its beauty…. I was so glad to see you appreciate it joyfully…. For your pleasure for the sake of your joy.

i. Who says this? Describe the context.

ii. What is the speaker's attitude towards 'Money'?

iii. What is the speaker's attitude towards the person he is addressing?

Answers

a)

i. 'I' is referred as Unzu, she is referred as Tsu and lazy fellow is Yohyo

ii. When Sodo and Unzu come near the house of Yohyo and see Yohyo's wife Unzu says this.

iii. At the moment Unzu is jealous of Yohyo for earning money without any effort.

b)

i. Tsu says these words. The listener is Yohyo.

ii. The other world means the competitive, money minded world where greedy people seek for money instead of human values and qualities.

iii. Because he develops a desire to earn more money by supplying 'Senba Ori' to Sodo and Unzu by forgetting all the promises he made to Tsu.

c)

i. Yohyo says this to Tsu.

ii. He has an extreme greed towards money.

iii. Kyoto symbolizes urbanization and commercialization

d)

i. Tsu says this when Yohyo is sleeping.

ii. Tsu thinks that money is the root of all these evils.

iii. She has loving and caring attitude towards Yohyo

Literary Review

1. Yohyo's desire for money conquers his love towards Tsu threatening their family life. Support your answer by referring to the play.

- At the beginning of the drama Yohyo and Tsu are seen caring for each other. "Cold soup is no good for my sweetheart"
- When Yohyo gets money by selling the Senba Ori he becomes greedy for money. "…lately Yohyo has been getting a bit sharper about money,"
- Tsu loves Yohyo for his innocence and simplicity. At the beginning Yohyo was reluctant to ask Tsu to weave more cloths.
- His tone begins to change and his formal self begins to fadeaway.
- With the persuasion of Sodo and Unzu he forces Tsu to weave cloths.
- He is attracted towards the material pleasures which can be acquired in Kyoto by selling the cloth.
- Tsu sacrifices her feathers to weave more cloths for the happiness of Yohyo.
- She asks Yohyo not to peep into the room while weaving.
- But Sodo persuades Yohyo to peep into the weaving room.
- The betrayal of Tsu by revealing her identity by Sodo makes her to leave Yohyo.
- Yohyo leaves home and runs aimlessly looking for his wife Tsu.

- Finally, greed for money wins over his love for Tsu.

2. Discuss the role of Unzu and Sodo as corrupting agents in the drama "Twilight of a crane". Give examples to support your answer.

- Both of them are villagers who are dealing in the business of profit making.
- Unzu cheats Yohyo by paying him a small amount of money for the cloth by hiding its real value. He is not genuine with Sodo too.
- Both of them are jealous of the care free life Yohyo spends with his beautiful wife. "Since then, that lazy fellow has been coining money without lifting a finger over"
- They are so mean even to the extent of going into Tsu's weaving room when she is absent.
- They try to get the advantage of Yohyo's desire to earn money by persuading him to get his wife weave more cloths.
- Yohyo begins to change under the influence of Sodo and Unzu.
- Although Unzu feels some sympathy for Tsu, Sodo is merciless. "We're in the big business of money-making, what the hell will pity and sympathy do!"
- They both plot together and violate the peaceful home environment of Yohyo and Tsu.
- Sodo is so unsympathetic and tries to grab the cloth from Yohyo at the crucial moment of the departure of Tsu.

3. 'The drama 'Twilight of a crane' depicts how a simple, contented man is corrupted by the greed for money and how as a result this happiness is destroyed.' Analyze this statement by taking examples from the drama.

Guidelines for the answer

- At the beginning of the play Yohyo is contented and happy with Tsu

- They play with innocent children
- Describe their way of living
- Yohyo and Tsu care for each other and concern the needs of each other
- They are satisfied with little money gained by the cloth
- Sodo and Unzu intervene their life and manipulate Yohyo
- They persuade Yohyo to provide them more cloth
- Yohyo demands cloth from Tsu
- Tsu's attitude towards Yohyo's demand
- Yohyo's and Tsu's relationship at the end of the play
- Tsu's true identity is revealed
- Tsu takes her former identity and leaves Yohyo

4. In the play 'Twilight of a Crane' "Yohyo's character represents the fact how people are misguided by destructive elements in the society for their own benefit." Do you agree with this statement? Describe taking examples from the drama.

- Introduce Yohyo's character and his relationship with Tsu
- Tsu loves deeply Yohyo and appreciates him
- The true purpose of weaving the cloth and how they earn money
- Yohyo is misguided by Sodo and Unzu
- Describe the message given through these evil characters

- Yohyo becomes a weak character under the influence of evil characters
- Their family bond is broken down
- Tsu retires from the human world leaving Yohyo alone

5. The genuine and smooth flowing relationship between Tsu and Yohyo is interrupted by external forces in the middle causing a tragedy. Discuss referring to the drama.

•Yohyo is a simple- and kind-hearted villager who once saved the life of a crane by pulling an arrow out of its back.

•Tsu is innocent, good hearted and a symbiosis of human and nature.

•They are husband and wife and very caring and devoted to each other. "Just going to warm up some soup for you. It's no good unless it's hot!"

•Tsu innocence is depicted as she joins the children in their games. Yohyo also joins them.

• Yohyo is contented with simple pleasures of life like playing with children, eating buckwheat cakes and listening to Tsu's songs.

•Having no complex matters to be attended Yohyo enjoys life sleeping by the fire side in winter.

•Tsu likes the peace and calm in the home environment and enjoys Yohyo's love.

•Although Tsu conceals the secret that she's a symbiosis of human and nature from Yohyo it doesn't affect their genuine relationship as she's good natured.

•Tsu weaves a precious cloth to make Yohyo happy to keep home fires burning but makes Yohyo promise not to peep into the weaving room while weaving.

•Unzu who is a village broker helps Yohyo to sell the cloth and he cheats Yohyo over the profit. Sodo, another village broker who is more cunning and malicious joins forces with Unzu to bully Yohyo and get more clothes woven by Tsu.

•Kyoto is depicted as a glimmering star which can be seen from a distance and Yohyo is attracted to its sensuous pleasures (cherry blossoms, celebrities) by the enticement of two villagers.

- This interrupts the peaceful home environment of the couple making Yohyo a stubborn and an uncaring person.
- Tsu who is a very innocent and devoted wife is unable to endure this change and suffers a lot.
- Tsu's true identity is revealed to Sodo and Unzu and their curiosity to check it goes to the extent of male chauvinism.
- Tsu's sufferings intensify with the betrayal of her by revealing her true identity to Yohyo.
- Further Yoyho's broken promise makes her to leave him taking her former self.
- Finally Sodo and Unzu, the representatives of external forces of commercialism and materialism interrupt the genuine and peaceful relationship of Yohyo and Tsu setting them apart.

Bringing Tony Home by Tissa Abeysekara

Introduction

The narrator Tissa Abeysekara who was born in Havelock Town in Colombo later becomes a well-known writer and a film producer. Bringing Tony Home is an award-winning novel written by him. It could be rather introduced as an eponymous novella since it is named after his pet dog Tony who is the central character in the story.

A Brief Overview of the Novel

When the narrator is 3 years old, his family shifts the residence from Havelock town to a two storied big house in a suburban village called Depanama about 20 miles away from Colombo. He lives about 7 years there. When economic issues raise its head, they happen to change from the big house to a smaller house in the same vicinity, and then completely from the area to a separate village called Egodawatta that is about 6 miles away from the small house in Depanama. The ten-year old narrator who is then in Egodawatta lives there another 20 years until he is 30 years old. Next we see him as a grown up adult back in the vast paddy field in front of the Nawinna railway station to record his 12-hour TV series

The Plot

- The novel is structured in three episodes. The 1st chapter which is titled as "The Sun Set" describes the present situation of the narrator. We see him driving home from TTI after he finishes his 12-hour long TV series and hands over it to be telecast. He presents his recent memories related to his film production and reasons for him to select the vast paddy field in front of the Nawinna railway station as his 1st film location. The beautiful scenery of the sunset over Attidiya marshes was something he enjoyed most during his childhood.

The paddy field is the place where he played and enjoyed with his play mates and he wanted to have the sun set and the vast stretch of paddy field as the backdrop of his last episode of the film. So he titled the 1st chapter as “The Sun Set”

Tony is the pet dog. The narrator has a strong bond with his animal friend. Since he hasn’t schooled even until 10 years of age, Tony must have been his best friend. When the narrator’s family change their residence from Depanama to Egodawatta, that makes them leave the dog behind in Depanama alone. Being angry and sad, he vows himself to bring Tony home not by any other means but on walking. The narrator completes his secret mission when he is sent back to Depanama by his mother to collect the vital ration books. So, he makes a heroic attempt to bring Tony to his new house and consequently falls ill due to the strenuous effort made by walking such a distance. Tony doesn’t stay in the new house. He disappears apparently because of the maltreatment made by the adults. However, he listens to his parents’ comforting words and learns to reconcile to normal life. In 3 weeks’ time he is again made to go back to Depanama. He meets Tony again. The dog has suffered a lot. He is sick and starving. He breaks away from the dog for good – Tony was abandoned forever. He starts schooling. He becomes secretly addicted to brooding and going back to past with his flash back memories of the friend dog. Since this chapter is mainly about Tony the dog, it is titled as “Tony”

The 3rd chapter brings the reader to the narrator’s revisit to his childhood environment. After he finishes the TV series and hands over it, he makes this revisit 46 years later only to see the change in scenery. He notices a change in houses, vegetation, people, roads etc. During his revisit, he becomes nostalgic and gets stranded in his memories and moves along the lane of memories until he gets the utmost evocation of his little dog. Whenever he gets lost in in his nostalgic feelings, the little train with its melancholic whistle is also heard by him without a miss. Train is the main object caught by the change. So, the 3rd chapter is

titled as “The Little Train”

Literary Interpretations

Themes

a) Strong bond between man and animal

Tony

- lives about seven years with the narrator.
- could sense the arrival of a family member even before 5 minutes at a distance
- shows love and intimate affection in his own canine style
- follows and tries even to get into the bus
- is able to get the scent of the narrator wherever he happens to be around
- ignores even the bun because he doesn’t want to lose the contact again.
- always demands the affection of the narrator

The narrator

- vows himself to bring Tony
- is sad and angry when the separation takes place
- walks with the pet for the fear that he will lose it
- The dog is tied to his short buckle (shows the strong bond with the pet)
- shows affection by even kissing the forehead
- increases his pathos when Tony disappears from the new home at Egodawatta
- terminates the contact forever for his own good since adults maltreats him
- remembers Tony on multiple occasions
- becomes nostalgic and gets lost among the memories of his childhood pet even after he grows up into an adult.
- always finds the dog as the end icon of his memory lane

B The change taken place with the time. (Socio-economical change within the time span) Change in people

- The family itself changes (rich to poor)
- The narrator himself changes (decides to end the long year relationship)
- He changes from a reserved child to a stubborn child and then to a playful, active school going teenager and finally to a reputed film producer.
- All his teenage friends change and find their paths. (Sirisena, Munidasa, Ranal, Theliya)
- His mother changes (strict to lenient)

Change in the environment and location

- Beautiful panoramic view of the expanse of the paddy field is obscured by the Arpico Showroom
- The "Niyara" is converted into a macadam road
- RAF camp becomes the University of J'pura.
- The sleepy little town Maharagama is now a populated city
- Rubber and paddy fields disappear and they are replaced by buildings and houses
- Boralesgamuwa tank converts into a muddy hole
- The little train changes into a bigger one

c). Relationship between children and parents

d). The life of the people in a by-gone era

- simple and unsophisticated
- slow paced and the life is supported by the ration cards “Salaka Poth”
- life based on agriculture
- healthy relationships among neighbours and strangers are always welcomed

e). **Needs of a child**

- maintain the relationship with the dog and keep it as his pet.
- wants to have the love of the parents
- need of going to school and get education
- be friendly with the neighboring children and find playmates

f). Human beings have nostalgia for their own past.

Characterization

1). Narrator

- Doesn’t go to school until 10 years old (may be due to the illness of getting Fit)
- Pet dog is the best companion due to the lack of school mates
- Highly sensitive
- Capable of showing affection
- **Quite emotional**

  “I kissed him lightly on the forehead……”-Pg19

- Brave and takes challenges

"I was going to take Tony home……"-Pg23

- **Empathetic**
- He feels how the dog would be in all its reactions
- He doesn't show any difference to Ranal when others jeer at him
- Seek pleasure by brooding about the memories related to his pet dog

"I would love to take a corner seat and watch…"Pg82

"..It had become a secret addiction" Pg 82

- Possessed with most of the other characteristics that an average child exhibit
- Obedient to parents
- Playful and roam with friends in the field
- Sometimes stubborn and mischievous
- He later finds a lot of friends
- Starts schooling and gets education
- Grows into a big responsible adult

2). Tony

- The animal friend who has a long-time friendship with the narrator

"Tony came out of nowhere…….in a delirium"

- Capable of showing love and affection

"Tony the mischievous pup was pulling at the fields of my pyjama…"

- Playful
- Intelligent and understands the human behaviour
- Tony attaches to those who are good at him and rejects who maltreat him
- Tony is faithful
- Becomes a victim of all humans

Practice Questions

a) "I set off immediately after lunch ……I had cleared the little climb just before the path joined the main road and was feeling relived when it happened." (Pg. 71)

What does the word "it" refer to? What do you think is the reason for the narrator to have an excitement within him?

b) "The whistle was a hoarse metallic honk……and two cupolas on top breathing fire and smoke and that long -lingering sad whistle" (Pg.87)

Explain how this text can be used to support a theme of the novel?

c). "On my left hand I carried the mirror ….had two buckles of white nickel on the sides to hold them tight at the waist." (Pg.28)

What characteristic of the narrator is brought out through this passage? What theme of the novel is brought out here?

Literary Overview

a)"The novel "Bringing Tony Home" not only brings out intimate relationship between a dog and a boy but it also depicts the change taken place within a time span." Support this statement by taking necessary points from the novel.

b) “Bringing Tony Home is a nostalgic reflection of s missing relationship between two different worlds-man and animal” Discuss.

The Vendor of Sweets by R. K. Narayan

Introduction

The Vendor of Sweets is a very interesting novel written by R.K. Narayan, a prolific Indian writer.

A Brief overview of the Novel

The novel carries the story of a vendor of sweets, Jaganathan or Jagan who runs his lucrative sweet vending in Malgudi, a fictional township which appears frequently in most of the literary works of Narayan. In this post-colonial novel, the author brings many social, cultural and religious issues in independent India. One major issue brought to focus here in the novel is the conflict between the young generation and the older generation which is surfaced through the conflict between Mali and Jagan. In addition to that, the author has managed to discuss with insight the conflict between Western and the Eastern cultures, modernity and tradition, and the theme marriage as well.

Chapter Summary

- **Chapter – 1**

At the beginning of the novel Jagan's and the cousin's characters are introduced. Jagan's character is portrayed as an ardent follower of Gandhi. His theories of perfect living and food theories are exposed. His character as a shrewd businessman who manages his business with dexterity and frugality and how he conceals a part of his income hypocritically to avert paying taxes is shown. His strong attraction to natural and simple ways of living and following the theories of non-violence make others embarrassed and challenge the peaceful environment at his home. But Jagan is determined. This suggests his skeptical nature. Jagan is portrayed as a conventional Indian. He is attached to religion and always refers to the Bhaghavad Geetha. His inconsistency in mind is also suggested as he is racked with habitual contemplation on varied of subjects of national improvement. His devotion and commitment to natural living is suggested by the book he authored on natural living. . The first chapter covers how Jagan spends an entire day.

Chapter – 2

Jagan's strong affiliation to Mali as the single parent particularly after his wife's death is

illustrated. He has a maternal obsession in feeding the boy properly. Mali has grown up to a young man who is an outstanding figure. We are given a lot of details of Jagan's family history and his theories of perfect living. He is not ready to change them and anyone could hardly convince Jagan that his thinking is not the perfect on earth. His character has been influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and the theories of perfect living practiced by his father.

Chapter – 3

The conflict between father and son begins. Mali always seeks independence. His way of thinking always has a dispute with Jagan's perfect living. Mali announces that he does not want to study anymore. Jagan is a submissive, naïve and cowardly father who fails to chase Mali to school. We see a faltering relationship between the two. Mali is uncommunicative and disregards his father. Jagan requests cousin to report how Mali is doing. Mali has announced that he wants to be a writer.

Chapter – 4

Mali has decided to go to America without his father's knowledge, consent or guidance. He has robbed ten thousand rupees from Jagan. He has arranged everything for the journey. Jagan gets to know what Mali has decided through Cousin who maintains a close relationship with Mali.

Chapter – 5

Jagan is immensely thrilled by the arrival of a letter from Mali. He not only admires the letter but also the way of sending it. Mali's letters are full of general facts about America. They do not contain Mali's personal details. His ideas have changed. He undermines his own culture. He comes to Malgudi with a foreign lady whom he introduces as his wife to

all of them. Jagan's anxiety is shown by his attempts to avoid people. Grace, his "wife" troubles herself in behaving like an Indian traditional house wife.

Chapter – 6

Jagan gets to know about the new business of the story writing machine through cousin. Later when Mali explains the functioning of the machines Jagan misses what Mali says as he is mesmerized by Mali's impressive figure. It shows his unmitigated love and affection towards his son which the son does not sense. Jagan is gradually losing his position in the house he feels. The controversy deepens when Mali expects the capital from Jagan which is fifty-one thousand dollars. On many occasions Jagan is almost trapped but he escapes. He has even changed his daily routine to avoid Mali or Grace.

Meanwhile realizing that making money is useless he decides to continue his business as a service without any profit as he has realized that money is evil. Hording more money means that Mali would be destroyed.

Chapter – 7

The drastic reduction of prices affects the other vendors of sweets and they come to meet Jagan. Their discussion reveals the hypocrisy and deception of businessmen ironically. Their manner of handling business contrasts with that of Jagan. But the important incident is that Jagan meets a bearded man called Chinna Dorai. He takes Jagan to come to a retreat as his age needs one. This man influences Jagan very much.

Chapter – 8

The man has promised to show him a coming of a deity. Meanwhile Jagan realizes the free and simple life in this locality. He feels that he has got what he has been searching for since a long time. The problems which rack his routine life seem to be irrelevant when he is in

this retreat detached from the rest of the world.

Chapter – 9

He speaks to Mali as never before. Jagan emerges as a newly born at the age of sixty.

He is disillusioned with Mali's reckless conduct. Jagan emerges as a strong personality and dominates the discussion with his son. Jagan feels that he is on the verge of a new Janma. He refuses to fund the business of the story writing machine. Mali says that Grace does not have a reason to stay in India any more if the project does not start and they should buy Grace an air ticket to go back to America. The connections are puzzling for Jagan. His idea of a traditional wife contradicts with Mali's opinion. It is ironical to note that Jagan does not know that they are not married.

Chapter – 10

Jagan meets Grace with the help of cousin and get to know that they are not married. Another facet of Mali's character money mindedness and untrustworthiness is highlighted. Jagan is totally confused with this latest piece of news. He feels that his house has been tainted. Cousin brings down the problem to the practical level by instructing Jagan on how to face the crisis situation.

Chapter – 11

Jagan very much feels that his house is tainted and according to cousin's instructions arranges his house barricading himself completely. In the ensuing discussion Jagan emerges as a formidable, and resolute character. Accidently he meets Mali and in the ensuing discussion Mali refuses to marry Grace telling that she has a mental disorder and she has got funny notions.

Chapter - 12

The whole chapter is a flashback which covers Jagan's going to the village

It reflects the idea that a wedding is a highly regarded cultural, traditional and social event. It contrasts with how Mali has brought Grace. The dignity, solemnity and formalities which should be followed meticulously are displayed. The lengthy flash back runs up to their marriage, family life and getting a child.

Chapter - 13

Jagan has firmly decided to retreat. On his way cousin brought the news of Mali's arrest by the police by having illicit liquor in his car. Suspense is generated whether Jagan would abandon his retreat when Jagan breaks down. But he recovers and pleads cousin to keep him out of this subject. After furnishing expenditure, he retires telling that two years of prison life would do well for Mali. He assigns the cousin to run the business until Mali would come and take the charge of it. He does not harbor any malicious thoughts with Grace and says that he is prepared to buy her the air ticket to go back if she wishes.

Characters

Jagan

- Father Role

Jagan, the protagonist, is a widower who is passing his middle age with going grey hair. He has an elfish look with a translucent skin colour. He wears a traditional attire. He lives with his son Mali in his ancestral home once seethed with life. He is an isolated character who tries his best to look after and feed Mali properly. He follows theories of perfect living in an eccentric manner. Being the single parent he loves Mali and does not like to punish or reprimand him and yields to Mali's each and every improper act. He is a naïve and clumsy father. When Mali refuses to continue his education, he fears that Mali would behave violently if he objects the idea. He is a cowardly father.

- **Religious, Traditional and Cultural Figure**

Jagan is a pious devotee of Hinduism. He always finds the refugee of Bhagavad Geeta when there is a serious mental drawback in him. Besides he has the habit of quoting from the religious book when he speaks. He always upholds his culture and tradition. His dress, habits and manners reflect this aspect of his character. Jagan's character has been influenced by the traditional vision of his father. Jagan gets a shock when Mali accompanies an outlandish girl claiming that she is his 'wife'. When he gets to know that Mali and Grace are not married and only living together, Jagan barricades himself to shield himself from the evil radiation of a couple living in sin without being married.

- **A Staunch Supporter of Gandhi**

Jagan's life has been styled by the philosophy of Gandhi. He involved in the struggle to free India from British colonial rule. Jagan's life has undergone a complete change with his affiliation to Gandhi's freedom movement. He attempts to adopt non-violence and non-cooperation of Gandhian philosophy when dealing with his real life situations. Jagan's motto of life is 'simple living and high thinking is also adopted from Gandhian philosophy. Patriotism and national consciousness are unmistakable features in Jagan's character.

- **A Vendor of Sweets**

Jagan runs a lucrative business of vending sweetmeats. It is a profession connected to Jagan's Traditional and conventional outlook. He is a talented and shrewd manager of the business. Jagan is generally a lover of truth and he never produces low quality food stuff to be sold at his shop. He is also reluctant to produce new sweetmeats from stale leftovers. In contrary to his truthful nature he hides a part of his income lest he should pay taxes for his real income. When the poor children gazed at the sweets displayed for sale Jagan's conscience troubles him. Jagan's inner conflict between a man with a conscience and a vendor of sweets, a businessman is witnessed on many occasions in the narration.

Mali

- Father and Son Relationship

Mali represents the opposite qualities of his father. At first we come across him as a wayward youth. He rejects and criticizes his father's theories of sane living and refuses to adhere to them since when he could understand things. Jagan is incapable to impress Mali and Mali disregards him. Mali thinks that his father is responsible for his mother's death and this has created a wet blanket between them. He never expects his father's blessings, approval or contribution in any event of his life except for his financial support. Mali simply does not want his father if Jagan does not have wealth.

- **Represents Modernity**

As much as Jagan upholds culture and tradition, Mali undermines, condemns and criticizes his own culture. He embraces western culture and lives like a westerner. He thinks of his father as a conventional and backward person. He wants only his father to fund his new enterprise. Any relationship is not important or worthwhile for Mali if it does not bring him a financial gain. He rejects his father as well as Grace when they have no use to him financially. His body and soul are corrupted.

Ambika

- Jagan's Wife and Mali's mother

Ambika, Jagan's deceased wife and Mali's mother appears in the novel in the memories of Jagan. Her premature death due to a brain tumor has affected both father and son. She is very much attached to Mali and her death is a hard blow for Mali and he is left with Jagan. Jagan's attempt to implement his theories of perfect living has created a gap that can never be filled.

- **An Epitome of Culture**

Ambika is an epitome of culture. She hails from a highly cultural and rural family background. She boldly faces criticism and ultimately becomes a proud mother. Her character depicts the challenges faced by a traditional woman and her strength.

The Cousin

- Symbolic Character

The symbolic figure represents goodness. He represents experience, wisdom, common sense and practical knowledge.

- Relationship with Jagan

He is Jagan's only companion and confidante who counsels, helps and consoles Jagan when Jagan is agitated. The cousin is a chorus character which sometimes elicit irony and exposes Jagan's hypocrisy. He is Jagan's savior he offers to manage Jagan's sweet shop when he retires to the retreat until Mali serves his jail term.

Grace

- Represents Western Culture

Grace represents western culture. She is a Korean – American girl. Mali has accompanied her to marry her in the Indian way. Later it is revealed that she is Mali's business partner and has ended up as a victim to his deceitful manner. Her character contrasts with that of Ambika.

- Act as a Catalyst

She attempts to establish communication between Jagan and Mali. She always holds Mali in high esteem in order to impress Jagan. She emulates a traditional Indian daughter – in – law in order to impress Jagan and compel him to invest in Mali's business.

Themes of the Novel

1. Generation gap

- This theme is presented through the interaction of Mali and Jagan's characters.
- Mali abhors Jagan's conventional ideas and his theories of sane living.
- Jagan's attempt to apply his theories on Mali leads to a conflict. When Mali wants

to give up school education and start a new career Jagan forces him to tread on the conventional path. When he asks to hire a cook Jagan rejects saying one should not depend on others for one's basic needs which is a Gandhian theory of self-dependence.

- Jagan does not believe in Mali's new enterprise and thinks that investing in it is a squandering of hard - earned money

2. **Tradition Vs. modernity**

- This is visible through the interaction between Jagan and Mali and their respective enterprises. Mali's new enterprise is manufacturing a new piece of equipment with international collaboration and selling it countrywide.
- Jagan has a limited scope and when Mali speaks of a need of a telephone to contact his associates Jagan thinks that his customers would not need a telephone to order sweets.
- Jagan does not realize most of the modern business jargon Mali uses.
- The theme tradition vs. modernity is reflected by their dress, mannerism and attitude.
- Jagan's has been divided into two quarters and the part Mali and Grace occupy possess the look of a modern office room but Jagan's quarters remain in the same old manner.

3. **Cultural Conflict**

- Jagan represents the oriental culture and tradition and Mali and Grace represent the western culture. Their ideas, manners and thoughts contradict.
- This situation surfaces by the letter Mali sends after three years of stay in America. His ideas are a gross violation of age old traditions, culture and religious doctrines.
- Mali accompanies Grace, an outlandish girl and lives together with her and this is an unacceptable situation in this highly cultural and conventional social background.
- Culture determines a strong formidable character as we are shown in Ambika's

character.

4. **Marriage**

- Marriage is seen as a bond of mutual respect, responsibility and understanding.
- It is presented as a sacred relationship in the lives of people and not just the will of two individuals to live together and separate themselves when they need.
- Marriage reflects culture and tradition.

Critical Overview

1. "Mali is a victim of extreme modernity and confused identity." Do you agree? Explain your view with close reference to Vendor of Sweets" by R.K.Narayan.

- Mali is Jagan's only son. He loses his mother at a very young age. Jagan was unnecessarily careful about Mali's upbringing and as a result Mali becomes a spoilt youth.
- Mali totally disregards tradition, religion and his native identity although his father holds them in high esteem.
- Mali grows up to be a handsome, robust youth, Jagan was very proud of his son's weight and growth.
- Even as a school boy, Mali was driven by modernity and Western style. He rejects the food, which his father cooks for him and prefers food available at the college canteen.
- Mali prefers Western style garments: "Tight trousers and colorful shirts". He also prefers American style education.
- He plans to manufacture a machine for producing novels - the modern concept of mechanization.
- Mali who returns from his brief stay in America behaves like a catalyst of modernity and confused identity. He looks so westernized and distant that Jagan almost addressed him as 'Sir'

- He finds it difficult to move with native people. He prefers going out in the company of Grace when the darkness falls over Malgudi
- Even at home he prefers to be dressed like a European. This highlights his confused identity.
- The final consequence of Mali's extreme westernized and modernized polices was Jagan decides to give up his sweet -meats business and going for retreat and Mali goes in to prison.
- Beside modernity and lost identity Mali's miserable childhood due to his mother's untimely death and Jagan over pampering him too could be other contributory factors for his down fall.

Observe with examples from the novel the role played by the cousin in "The Vendor of Sweets"

- The Cousin in the novel as a matter of fact, an anonymous character. He is called as cousin, since he claims cousinhood with many people.
- He is a man - about - town and is welcomed in every home in the Malgudi Town.
- He is not a relation of Jagan, but an intimate colleague of him.
- He conveys latest news about Mali to Jagan; acts as a mediator between Jagan and Mali.
- Jagan welcomes the cousin's comments on the quality of his sweet-meats;
- He is a profound listener, who stimulates Jagan to express his erudite thoughts.
- More than a friend, the cousin is a counsellor and an ambassador between Jagan and Mali.
- He occasionally exploits Jagan for the purpose of fulfilling his personal desires - Jagan does not object his habit of eating sweets free.
- He is sometimes rewarded for his service; He takes part in a meal at Ananda Bhavan with Mali when Jagan came to know this, he promises to settle the money

- He is highly trusted by his acquaintances "The Judge invites him to join this family pilgrimage to Thirupathy hills.'
- Jagan hands over the key of his shop and his money to the cousin before he leaves his house.

2. "In the novel "The Vendor of Sweets" Jagan is a successful business man, but an unsuccessful husband and father." Discuss taking examples from the novel.

- In the Indian culture sweet-meats making holds an important and dignified place.
- Jagan is a dedicated sweet-meats producer and seller.
- He is a shrewd manger. He monitors the work of the cooks and sales boys and even the security man in such a way that he is able to get the maximum service of the employees, "Jagan almost fancied himself a monarch on a throne. Surveying his people."
- As a businessman, he always pays a keen attention to the quality of his production. He thoroughly refuses using cheap ingredients and condiments for his products; “I have always resisted the use of essences for flavouring or colouring."
- Jagan's carefulness in hoarding his hard earned money is a good testimony to prove his success as a businessman. "This cash was in an independent category; he viewed it as free cash".
- Jagan is quite inattentive and heedless towards his wife and son. He tried to maintain his policy of non-violence, when he wanted to make his foot wear. But he completely ignored the inconveniences that his tanning process would bring to his wife and son.
- Jagan was engaged full time in his business purposes. But he did not think of any procedure or strategy for Mali's upbringing. He failed to guide his young son when he decided to stop schooling.

- Even at the last hour of Ambika's life Jagan did not keep any trust on western medicine. He could have taken her to a European country that offers ultra-modern treatments for such diseases. But Jagan's rigid policies and also his ignorance of the modernity made him an unsuccessful husband and father.
- Though he provided his son with all what he needed he failed to address his psychological needs.
- He extreme conventional practices also prevented him addressing the needs of his son and wife.

E.g. medicine /telephone

The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain

Introduction

The Author Mark Twain (1835-1910) was an American writer. “The Adventures of Tom

Sawyer" and "The adventures of Huckleberry" are some of the famous books of the writer.

Setting of the novel

- London, England

Time

- Between 1525 – 1550 (16th century)

Story

- The Royal family appearing in the novel is the true one lived in that period. The story of Tom is fictional / legendary

Chapter 01→ The Birth of The Prince and The Pauper

A baby boy named Edward Tudor, was born to the royal family, and all England celebrated his birth because he is the future king.

On the same day, a poor boy named Tom Canty was born to a poor family and nobody needed him.

Chapter 02→ Tom's Early Life

Tom led a very poor life, he had to beg, and also face the beatings of his father John Canty and grandma.

He had a little education from Father Andrew and had a dream to see a real prince.

Chapter 03→Tom's Meeting with the Prince

One day Tom met the Prince [Edward Tudor], he treated Tom kindly and they exchanged their clothes.

When they exchanged their clothes, Tom looked just like the Prince, and Edward just like Tom.

Edward went out of the palace and Tom remained in the palace.

Chapter 04→ The Prince's Trouble Begins

Edward went to the Christ's hospital (a boy's orphanage) to seek help and announced he is the Prince of Wales, but boys irritated him, because he was in rags.

Tom's father did the same, thinking that he was Tom.

Chapter 05→Tom as a Patrician

Everybody in the palace including King Henry VIII thought Tom is Edward and he has gone mad, because Tom spoke the truth.

Chapter 06→ Tom Receives Instructions

Tom received instructions from the king not to talk about a low birth and Tom obeyed it because it was king's command.

Chapter 07→ Tom's First Royal Dinner

Tom did a lot of blunders at his first royal dinner because he was not used to such table manners.

Nobody laughed at him but felt sorry for the 'Prince's' malady.

Chapter 08→ The Question of the Seal

King Henry VIII wanted his great seal to put Duke of Norfolk to death and Lord Hertford

asked from Tom, where it was, but Tom didn't know what it was.

Chapter 09→ The River Pageant

Tom was taken to the city banquet in a beautiful Royal procession, along River Thames.

Chapter 10→ The Prince in the Toils

Although John Canty and grandma were cruel to Edward, Tom's mother and two sisters were kind to him.

In the early hours John Canty got to know that he had beaten Father Andrew to death, so that he ran away with his family and Edward – but Edward escaped from John Canty and went near the GuildHall.

Chapter 11→ At Guild Hall

When Edward told he was the prince, people laughed and mocked him.

At this moment Miles Hendon came to Edward's support.

Inside the Guild Hall it was announced that King Henry VIII died.

Hearing Tom was now king, he let Duke of Norfolk free from death punishment.

Chapter 12→ The Prince and His Deliverer

Miles took Edward to his temporary lodge on London Bridge, and told his life story to the Prince.

Edward made him a knight for saving the king of England, but Miles didn't believe it was true.

Chapter 13→ The Disappearance of the Prince

Next day Miles went out to buy a new dress to Edward.

Meanwhile Hugo, a member of the thief gang and a friend of John Canty, came and took Edward away.

Chapter 14→ Le Roi Est Mort- Vive Le Roi [The King Has Died- Long Live The King]

Tom felt boring doing official role work in the palace and he regretted becoming a king.

Humphrey Marlow, the whipping boy visited Tom and Tom learned a lot about Royal palace and Royal life from him.

Chapter 15→ Tom as a King

Tom, went acting as the King, questioned wisely and let a man, a woman and a daughter free from death penalty, who were victimized by the English Law, on superstitious beliefs.

Chapter 16→ The State Dinner

Tom had to dine in public for the first time (to prove citizens that Prince hasn't a malady) and he successfully overcame this challenge and was very happy.

Chapter 17→ Foo-Foo the First

Hugo took Edward into a barn amidst a wood John Canty followed them.

When the gang saw Edward, they were surprised to see a new boy among them.

Edward announced he was the King of England and it was amusing to these unruly people, so that they held a mock-coronation ceremony and named him 'Foo-Foo the first'.

Chapter 18

Ruffler put Edward in charge of Hugo and ordered John Canty stay away from the boy. The vagabonds invaded a farm house and made themselves homes and the farmer provided them a breakfast. The vagabonds harassed the wife and the daughters of the farmer before they left.

Edward refused to beg or steal and once Hugo told Edward to cry out to show that they were friendless and penniless. But Edward didn't agree and told the unknown gentleman that Hugo picked his pocket. Edward ran away from Hugo and he had to ask for food from several farm houses. But the people turned him away because his clothes were against him.

Chapter 19

Edward entered a farm house and slept there with a cow. The next morning Prissy and Margery came there. They believed Edward to be the king. The mother of the girls took pity on Edward believing him to be a lunatic. The family was poor but Edward had a hearty meal from there. The girls' mother asked several questions to find out who Edward was. She didn't believe the boy to be the king. Edward did some kitchen work and humbled to sit with the family when they were taking meals.

Finally, Edward decided to draw a line. Hugo and John noticed Edward when he was leaving the farm house with the basket of kittens.

Chapter 20

Edward rushed into the woods and found a hermitage and the hermit asked Edward to enter. Edward told that he was the son of Henry VIII. The hermit praised the boy for leaving the luxurious life and dedicating himself for religion. The hermit further said that he was an archangel instead of a pope and Henry VIII made him so and tried to kill the boy to take revenge.

Chapter 21

The hermit took a real pleasure in torturing Edward. Suddenly Edward heard the voice of Miles Hendon who was asking about the boy from the hermit. The hermit misguided Hendon. Edward continued to struggle to loosen the ties but was unsuccessful. Edward was relieved when he saw John Canty and Hugo had come there to rescue him.

Chapter 22

John and Hugo brought Edward back to the gang of vagabonds. Hugo kept stepping on Edward's toe until Edward grabbed a cudgel and knocked Hugo down. Hugo planned to revenge on Edward. He wanted to humiliate Edward by smearing a poultice but the slave rescued Edward and next Hugo planned to frame Edward for a theft. Just the act of being near a woman's package was enough to accuse and convict Edward of a theft. Suddenly a man intervened and rescued Edward. That man came to be Miles Hendon.

Chapter 23

Edward called Hendon as Sir Miles. Hendon was amused as he convinced that he would only be a specter knight in Edward's mind. A constable took Edward, Hendon and the woman to the court. The king was bewildered but Hendon reminded the king that the law he had broken was his own law.

In the court the woman swore that it was Edward who stole the package. Edward was found guilty. They unrolled the package to find a pig in it. Hendon was alarmed but the king was too ignorant about the law and order. The judge was very lenient towards the boy and asked the woman to adjust the price because if a person would steal something more than 13 pence half penny must be hung. The judge gave a lecture to Edward and put him in a common jail.

Chapter 24

Hendon blackmailed the constable with the purpose of protecting Edward and the woman who lost the pig.

Chapter 25

Edward got a second-hand kit from Hendon so that he would never be harassed or insulted by people anymore. Both of them now headed towards Hendon Hall. Throughout the journey Hendon was talking about his family and Edith, as he expected a warm welcome to his home. He was happy to see his ancestral home unchanged.

Unfortunately, Miles was not welcomed. Now Hendon was also in the same position as Edward. Sir Richard and Arthur were also found dead. Unexpectedly Edith and the servants of Hendon Hall did not believe him to be Miles Hendon. Edith too had a very strong reaction and denied him.

Chapter 26

Hendon realized that Hugh had usurped his rightful place and Edward too realized that someone must have usurped his place as the king of England. Hendon furthermore rejected to accept Edward to be the king. Edward had a solution to prove that he was the king. He wrote a letter in three languages; Latin, Greek and English. Hendon unconsciously put the letter in his pocket. Hugh tried to consider Miles as an impostor. Edith told Miles that she was Hugh's slave and urged Hendon to flee. Hendon and Edward were arrested.

Chapter 27

Miles and Edward were chained and put in a jail with other common prisoners. Edward was furious that he, the king was treated like a common prisoner. Miles was preoccupied with

the fact that he was betrayed by the people he loved.

Blake Andrews, a servant in the Hendon Hall recognized Miles and was ready to testify Hendon to be the real heir to be the Hendon Hall. But Miles didn't allow him as it would do no good to anyone. Blake visited Miles several times a day and provided them with dainties and important news. Edward learnt that Henry VIII would be buried on the 16th and the new king would be coronated on the 20th. He came to know that someone was ruling as Edward VI. He understood the suffering of the captives. Most of them were innocent. Edward met a lot of people who were to be executed for minor crimes. He understood the dehumanization of the lower class by the upper class.

Chapter 28

Miles Hendon was put in the pillory and also was whipped. The people jeered and taunted him early but later he was respected. Edward dubbed Miles an earl.

Chapter 29

Miles Hendon was ordered to leave the area. Hendon struggled to decide what to do and where to go. He decided to meet his father's old friend Sir Humphrey Marlow and through him meet the king and ask for justice. Edward too wanted to go to the palace. They reached London on the 19th. Unfortunately, Miles Hendon and Edward Tudor got separated again.

Chapter 30

While Edward was struggling to cope with life among the outcasts, Tom grew to be accustomed to the palace life. He enjoyed it. Gradually he forgot Edward and stopped worrying about his mother and the sisters. While Tom slept on the 19th Edward was struggling to enter the palace to claim for his rights.

Chapter 31

Tom was taken throughout the city in a recognition procession. There was a huge crowd gathered on either side of the road to welcome him. He recognized his mother but he denied her. That incident resulted him to feel that the kingship was a reproach than a blessing. Duke of Somerset insulted Tom's mother saying that she was a crazy woman. Tom was bewildered at that and said that she was his mother. Duke of Somerset thought that the king has gone mad again.

Chapter 32

A huge crowd was gathered at Westminster Abbey to witness the coronation. Tom entered the hall dressed in the coronation robe and then the ceremony began. Tom felt more and more uncomfortable because he knew that there was no going back after the coronation. Archbishop of Canterbury lifted the crown over Tom's head and all the nobles held their coronets over their heads.

Suddenly a boy in filthy clothes intruded upon the scene and claimed that he was the real king. The spectators were amazed when Tom further swore that the intruder was the rightful king. The duke of Somerset raised a question for the intruder to prove him to be the rightful king. Where is the Great Seal? Tom helped Edward to regain his crown and protected the dynasty.

Chapter 33

Hendon was robbed by pickpockets but he had a plan to rescue Edward and never to lose him again. Hendon searched for Edward among the crowds. Then he decided to go to the palace and meet Sir Humphrey Marlow. Fortunately, Humphrey Marlow, the whipping boy spotted him and thought he must be the one that the king was so worried about. The whipping boy decided to carry the name of Miles Hendon to the king.

An officer found Hendon seated in the recess of the palace and was arrested for prowling.

The officer found a document in Hendon's pocket claiming for kingship, the letter written by Edward on the Black Day at Hendon Hall. Later Hendon was ushered to the king with due respect. Hendon was surprised to see the specter King of the Dreams and Shadows was seated on the throne.

Edward restored Hendon to his rightful place and promoted him to a 'Duke' the highest title anyone can hold. Tom Canty was appointed as the head at the Christ Church Hospital and commanded people to respect him as he was a king for a period of time. Tom was named as the King's Ward. Later he ran home to tell the news to his mother and sisters.

Conclusion – Edward made good on his promises and many people had a way to make an honest living. He changed the unjust laws of King Henry VIII. The entire country prospered as a result. Edward implied that the others knew nothing about the sufferings of the people and his reign is considered very merciful for his time.

Questions

1. Do you think the title of the novel "The Prince and the Pauper", suitable to the story? Give your reasons.
2. What are the similarities between Edward and Tom?
3. What are the differences between Edward and Tom?
4. Which characters influence Edward in a positive way? How?
5. Which characters influence Edward in a negative way? How?
6. Which characters influence Tom in a positive way? How?
7. Which characters influence Tom in a negative way? How?
8. What themes are highlighted by the writer in the story? What literary devices has the writer used to highlight these themes?
9. What are the tones/moods used in the story?
10. What features of the story will be interesting to children?
11. What features of the story will be interesting to adult readers?

12. Can you call this story a moral? Give reasons.

Answers

1) Title – Yes,

i) Two main characters are the prince and the pauper.

ii) All the happenings in the story are centered around Tom and Edward.

iii) Two most attractive characters who will touch the hearts of the readers- their good qualities such as innocence, honesty… their smiles and tears…

iv) Both achieve their aims at the end.

2) Similarities

i) Both are identical in appearance - height, face, complexion, hair, voice, eyes, manner, stature etc.

ii) Both have same qualities – honest, just (fair), compassionate, merciful, wise (witty) etc.

iii) Both think in the same way – to forbid inhuman English laws, serve the suffering poor kindly etc.

3) Differences

Edward

- Very rich
- A Royal member
- Enjoy rich food, clothes, luxury life
- Get a good, formal education
- No freedom

Tom

- Very poor
- A member of paupers
- No food, clothes, sufferings of life
- No opportunity for formal education
- Has a lot of freedom

4. Miles Hendon – He saved Edward from danger and stayed with him most of the time when Edward was wandering.

Tom – Tom bravely declared that Edward was the true king, even though he appeared in rags at the coronation ceremony.

- he also acted as a true friend and helped Edward to remind where he kept the Great Seal.

-Two peasant girls (Prissy and Margery) - they were kind to Edward, listened to him and believed him.

-Two Baptist women – showed their love and calmed down Edward in Prison.

5. Guard at the palace gate – he boxed Edward on the ear and pushed him out, thinking he is the beggar boy.

Boys at the Christ's Hospital – didn't believe Edward's words and harassed him.

John Canty and Grandma – beat him and harassed him.

Hugo – had revengeful motives and harassed Edward.

Hermit – tried to kill Edward to take revenge from his father, King Henry VIII.

London mobs – laughed at Edward when he said he is the Prince of Wales.

6. Mother, Bet and Nan – were kind to Tom and loved him.

Father Andrew – taught him reading and Latin.

Edward – talked to Tom very kindly, gave him rich food and even exchanged his royal dress with him - at the end rewarded him.

Princess Elizabeth and Lady Jane Grey – were kind and helpful to him, were very sympathetic thinking that the prince has got a malady.

Lord Hertford and Lord St. John –

gave Tom instructions and were always near him to help him

Whipping boy – enlightened Tom with details about the palace and its inmates.

7. John Canty and Grandma –

beat Tom and harassed him, forced him to beg and tried to make him a thief

Guard at the palace gate – scolded him, snatched him rudely and pushed him away.

8. Themes: -

i.Social disparity – to show this, writer uses the richest boy and the poorest boy in the society – uses visual imagery of clothes, foods, living places, etc...

ii.Appearance vs reality – writer takes characters such as Tom (as the prince), Edward (as the pauper), Miles (as an imposter according to Hugh).

- Royalty seems to be a very happy condition, but Tom understood that it is not so, after becoming a royal master

iii. Value of Education- Tom could survive in the palace due to the education he got from Father Andrew- writer uses humor to show this.

iv. Learning through experience- Edward learnt a lot through experience, while he was living with commoners, which he couldn't learn from books, at the palace.

v. Theme of honesty- both boys are honest, though they fall into trouble, always they speak the truth. Writer shows this using curiosity and suspense. (what will happen to them when they speak truth)

vi. Extreme power of royalty- King Henry VIII orders to kill Duke of Norfolk, appoints his 'son' as future king though he is 'mad', wastes the money of ordinary citizens keeping a large number of servants, takes the lands of farmers by force. - writer uses humor and sarcasm to bring out this theme.

vii. Cruelty of the upper class in contemporary England- Hugh Hendon, King Henry's inhumane laws (boiling alive, burning alive)- visual imagery is used here.

viii. Good vs. Evil- writer uses good characters (Miles, Edward, Tom) to contrast the evil characters (Hugh, King Henry, John Canty) and finally proves the fact that 'Good is rewarded and Bad is punished.'

ix. Writer uses a lot of tones/modes throughout the story such as compassion, humor, anger, excitement, fear, happiness, sadness, etc.

x - two main characters are children

- children are depicted with a lot of positive qualities (honesty, innocence, compassion, friendship, etc.)

- a lot of humors

- a lot of visual imagery where children's imaginative power/creativity is developed.

- a lot of adventures- Edward living with tramps, encounter with hermit, Edward in prison

- a lot of curiosity and suspense- will Hermit kill Edward? Is it a ghost in the barn?

- story has a happy end with a moral.

xi. -**there's the history of the royals**

- inhumane punishments of contemporary England.

- treacherous nature of adults- Hugh, police constable

- socio-economic condition of contemporary England.

- moral, humor, adventure, suspense, etc.

xii. Yes- writer clearly shows at the end that 'Good is rewarded and Bad is punished'

- Good is rewarded- Edward got his rightful position, Miles became owner of Hendon Hall, and married Edith. Tom and Judge were given promotions, daughters of baptized women and slave (Yokel) were rewarded, etc.

- Bad is punished- Hugh was banished to the continent and there he died, John Canty went into hiding, prison officer and police constable were punished, etc.

Literary Overview

1."The Prince and the Pauper" is a story with a series of educational and entertaining adventures faced by Tom Canty and Edward Tudor. Discuss.

Tom Canty;

- Tom's unexpected meeting with Father Andrew.
- Father Andrew's charming old tales about the palace/prince and his teachings. (learning a little Latin and the etiquettes of the English court)
- The harsh treatments of John Canty. / Poverty.
- The rude treatment of the sentinel.
- The prince sending away the servants from the cabinet to save Tom from being embarrassed.
- Exchanging of clothes.
- The first royal dinner.

- Meeting the whipping boy.
- Tom's new experiences related to the unjust laws of Henry VIII ; saving the life of Giles Witt and the mother and the daughter guilty of the black crime.
- Saving the life of Norfolk.
- Tom's progress in the palace.
- The recognition procession. (Denying the mother)
- Coronation Day. (arrival of the rightful king)
- Solving the mystery of the seal.
- Regaining Tom's freedom.

Edward Tudor;

- Inviting Tom Canty inside the palace out of his kind heartedness.
- Taking Tom to the cabinet and presenting him with a meal. /Sending the servants away.
- Buffeting of the sentinel and chasing him away from the palace.
- John Canty's chauvinistic behaviour.
- Meeting with Miles Hendon.
- Realizing the unfair treatment given for the ignorant people.
- The experiences with the tramps/vagabonds.
- Burning of food at Prissy's place.
- Meeting with the hermit.

- Experiences/meeting the prisoners at the Hendon Hall. Cruelty of Hue.
- Arrival at the Westminster Abbey on time on the coronation day just before the coronation.
- Gaining the rights back.

2. What are the themes discussed in the novel "The Prince and the Pauper"?

- The gap between the rich and the poor. The unawareness of the ruling class about it. E.g., the house where Tom Canty lived and the palace of the prince
- Illiteracy of the poor. E.g.Tom's family has never gone to school. Bet and Nan and their mother are ignorant.
- **Drunkardness.**

  E.g. Jonn Canty and his mother take drinks together.
- **Hunger.**

  E.g. Tom Canty and his family went on begging to find food. When Tom came home empty handed, he was beaten by his father and the grandmother.
- **Abuse of power.**

  E.g. Hugh Hendon abusing the law to revenge his own brother.
- Miscarriage of justice.

  E.g. Declaring the penalty of death to Giles Witt by boiling alive.

  E.g. Killing of the two Baptist women.

  Even a mad person can be a king if he/she has inherited the kingship from the parent.
- The clothes of a person can decide him/her to be a prince or a pauper.
- Ignorance of the ruling class about the poor/Lack of understanding and sympathy

- Chauvinism. (John Canty's and Hugh Hendon's treatments towards the women.

3. The clothes of a person can elevate a person to a prince. Conversely the clothes can also reduce a prince to a pauper. Discuss this statement.

- The sentinel misunderstands the prince as the pauper and fetching him a sounding box and sending him whirling to the roadway.
- The boys of the Christ church rudely buffeted the sacred person of the heir to the throne.
- Lady Jane Grey fled away in fright believing that Edward Tudor has got mad.
- The whole palace believed that the prince hath gone mad.
- John Canty/Canty mother/Bet/Nan/all the Offal court people/Father Andrew believed that Tom has gone mad.
- Hendon was sorry about the rightful prince as he too thought Edward to be a mad boy.
- The vagabonds calling him 'Foo-foo the First' and humiliating the sacred person.
- When Edward went to a farm house to ask for food he was cut short and driven away.
- On the Coronation Day when Edward Tudor intruded the Abbey clothed in coarse plebian garments, several hands were laid upon the boy to throw him away.
- Tom Canty very humbly returned the regal garments and asked for the rags again.
- Tom Canty was given a special dress none should copy, so that he gained respect.