

# Major English Notes

## Class XI



1. **Mosaic**
2. **An Outline of English Literature**
3. **Reading Between the Lines**



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All the sources are highly acknowledged.



## **Child Care in China by Bruce Dollar**

In this essay, the author tells us what he thinks about the way the Chinese care for children before they go to school. His views are based on 2 visits he made to China when he travelled 2500 miles and visited many different places.

The Chinese care for young children in several different ways. When their mothers are working the children are often left with grandparents, friends or neighbors. Young children are also looked after in pre-schools and kindergartens. The way children are looked after is not the same in all places. For example the way children are cared for in villages is different from the way it is in cities. However, there are many similarities between the different places. Children usually play in groups. They are encouraged to share things and help each other.

The author is interested in the way teachers deal with improper behavior. The Chinese teachers he met prefer to control children by talking to them and persuading them to behave properly. They said they did not use punishment. The author also watched the way the children played and he was impressed at the way the teachers join in with the games. Children in China are often looked after by several different women at the same time. The author calls this multiple mothering. The most important thing is that the women who look after children are constant warm and giving. Although most women in China work away from the home, this has not had a bad effect on Chinese family life. The family is still very important and men are often seen looking after their children. Finally the author says that Chinese people are happy when they are helping to make China a better place.

### **Summary**

In this essay "Child Care in China", Bruce Dollar describes how mother-surrogates play an important role in introducing the values of co-operation, co-ordination, sharing, respect for labour and altruism in institutionalized child care programmes in China. In China, group activities are emphasized in all child care centers so that no one becomes a 'star'. Chinese children are generally expected to rely on each other for stimulation rather than inanimate objects. Moreover, children are provided with toys of a worker, a farmer, or soldier; so that they would show respect towards labour. The toys are made a bit heavy in order to foster mutual help and co-operation between them.

Generally women are selected as nurses or teachers who show particular interest in children and love them. Credentials are secondary during their recruitment. The nurses teach the children that helping and sharing is more important than winning. They do not punish children when they do wrong. They motivate them and encourage them towards the right path. Even teachers enthusiastically join with the children in the free play. Teachers handle the disruptive child cheerfully and patiently with persuasion and do not make him / her the center of attention.

In Nepal, child care centers or child care institutions are not properly equipped with toys or play things. Children are not motivated or entertained but are only made bookworms. Children are severely punished when they do wrong. Even teachers are not well trained. Children are taught to be competitive and they are evaluated on the basis of their individual performances or on the basis of their exams. Generally group activities are not emphasized. The nurses / teachers are not properly paid, so there is no stability of the teachers. Nurses are selected on the basis of certificates and credentials. There is no uniformity in the child care institutions in Nepal.

Due to lack of proper nurturing in child care centers in Nepal, Nepalese children are becoming more and more selfish, greedy and violent. They show no respect for labour and for the nation. The family bonds and social bonds are disintegrating day by day. By adopting the methods and techniques applied in child care centres in China we can certainly develop mind and body of Nepalese children.

### **I am a Cat by Natsume Soseki**

The cat has no name: A student first took care of it. The cat thought that the student was strange because the student was not and had a large nose. The student left the cat by a pond to get rid of him. The cat had to find a new home and some food on its own. It found a house, but the maid, Osan, kept throwing the cat outside. The master of the house told the maid to let the cat stay. The cat usually stayed close to the master, who was a school teacher. The master liked to tell his family and friends that he worked very hard, but the cat knew that really the master was lazy. The family was not very nice to the cat. The children in the house did bad things to the cat. The cat had two other cat friends, Shiro and Mi-ke. Shiro had baby kittens, but a student in Shiro's house killed them by drowning them in water. Mi-ke's master was a lawyer. The cats believed that they would not have a happy life unless cats became the rulers of the world. The cat's master had many hobbies, but he was bad at all of them. He recently started painting. The master's friend suggested that he draw things that he sees in nature. So the master drew a picture of the cat. While the master was drawing, the cat tried to remain still. But after a while the cat had to yawn and go to the toilet. So the master's drawing was disturbed. The master became angry and shouted mean things at the cat. The cat said had things about humans because people are not good to others.

### **The Letter 'A' by Christy Brown**

Christy was born on the 5th of June in 1932. He had 21 brothers and sisters. His birth was difficult and his mother almost died when he was born. When Christy was 4 months old, his mother saw that something was wrong with him. He could not hold his head up, his hands were twisted and he could not hear correctly. His parents took Christy to the hospital. The doctors told his parents that he was stupid and that there was no hope for him to get better. Christy's mother did not believe the doctors. She took care of Christy herself. She did not leave him at the hospital. She wanted to show people that Christy was not stupid. She treated him normally, like her other children.

When Christy was 5 years old, he could not speak or even sit up by himself. He always moved in funny ways. His mother tried to teach him to talk. She would show him pictures and ask him

questions. Christy understood his mother, but he could not answer her. Christy could use his toes to touch things, especially the toes on his left foot. One day in December, Christy's life changed. He was watching his brother and sister doing math problems on a small chalkboard with yellow chalk. Christy wanted the yellow chalk, so he took it with his left foot. He drew on the chalkboard and everyone was looking at him. His mother took the chalk and drew the letter 'A' on the floor. She told Christy to copy it. Everyone waited. He tried, but he could not do it. His mother asked him to try again. This time, Christy drew the letter 'A'. His mother cried because she was so happy. Now Christy could write. People could know what he was thinking about by looking at his writing.

## Summary

In his autobiography “The Letter A” Christy Brown describes how he overcame his massive handicap with his will-power, firm determination and with the continuous effort and love of his Mother.

Christy Brown was born as the tenth child in a family of twenty-two. When he was four months old, his head would constantly fall backwards whenever his mother tried to feed him. As he grew older, his hands were clenched tightly and twisted unnecessarily. He could not even hold the nipple of the bottle because he could not freely open or close his mouth. At six months he could only sit by resting his back on the mountain of pillows. All these signs alerted his mother, so she consulted doctors.

The doctors told her that he was both mentally and physically defective. But she had a firm belief that her son may be physically weak but not mentally retarded. She was a woman of firm determination who loved Christy dearly as her other normal children. Filled by true motherly love, she tried to take care of him by herself.

Even at the age of five, he could neither sit nor speak. His every body parts were useless. His mother would show him pictures of animals and flowers and ask him to repeat them after her. She hoped that Christy would at least learn and communicate with other people. Even when her relatives told her not to take the boy seriously, she was determined to prove that her son was not mentally retarded.

One day a wonderful event changed his life completely. He was attracted by the yellow piece of chalk that his brother and sister were writing with in the black slates. He unconsciously grabbed the chalk out of his sister's hand with his left foot. He held it tightly between his toes and wrote carelessly on the slate. Every family member was curious. When his mother came and saw this, she knelt before him and drew a single letter “A” on the floor in front of him and asked him to copy it. He tried it with the chalk. It produced a crooked line. He tried again and drew two sides of the letter. The chalk broke out. He wanted to give up and throw the chalk. But due to his mother's encouragement, he gathered his strength to write the letter A. When he wrote the letter A, his mother knew that it was a sign of intelligence and not just an imitative gesture because Christy had done it with intense effort. So, tears rolled out of her eyes. This had opened his road to mental freedom. He could express his desires and thoughts through words. Thus he was able to break the wall between him and other people.

## **Of Cocks and Men by Clifford Geertz**

Men in Bali love cocks and cock-fighting. A lot of Balinese language refers to cocks. And Balinese men spend a lot of time taking care of their cocks. They get special food, baths with herbs and their feathers are brushed.

The Balinese people see animality (being like an animal) as the opposite of humanity (being like a person). They hate behavior that is like an animal. So children are not allowed to crawl on the ground and when children become adults their teeth are made smooth so that they do not look like an animal. Balinese people think that eating and going to the toilet are disgusting. So these actions are done very quickly and privately. Balinese people hate and are fascinated by the "Powers of Darkness", the double nature of man being both animal and human. Cocks make Balinese men think of these things. The Balinese use the cockfights as a way of calming evil demons. They are thought to be a form of sacrifice. Cockfights are held for natural disasters and religious festivals. The fights are very violent and they always end in the death of one cock. The owner of the winning cock takes the body of the dead cock to his home. An owner who has a losing cock may become mad and curse the gods for his bad luck.

### **What taboos do the Balinese have relating to animals?**

The Balinese show strong hatred towards any behaviour regarded as animal-like. They do not allow babies to crawl. They think that bestiality is more horrible crime than incest. When a boy or girl becomes adolescent, his / her teeth are filled so that they do not look like fangs. Defecation and eating in public is regarded as immoral activity because of its association with animality; so eating and defecation is done hurriedly and privately. Falling down and clumsiness is also hated for this reason.

### **Why is it significant that fighting cocks receive special care and attention equal to that given to human babies?**

In Balinese culture, cocks and cockfighting reflect male sexual identity or social identity. As the child is the image of the father, so the cocks are also regarded as the symbol of owner's self. People in Bali reflect their ego or superiority by rearing cocks and winning the cock-fight. Since everything is compared to cock-fights and cocks in Bali, it is significant that fighting cocks receive care and attention equal to that given to human babies.

## **Friday Morning by Val Gielgud**

This play is about some people who are on a plane from London to Paris. Halfway through the journey the plane's engines stop. The different people react in different ways to the realization that the plane will probably crash.

The first part of the play introduces the different characters. The most important of these are Basil and Shirley, a young couple planning to fly to Paris to get married. The other characters include a travelling salesman who drinks a lot of alcohol (McLaurin), two Americans (Hannah

and Janet Seward), a rich and important businessman (Sir Edward Harwood) and an older married couple (Mr. and Mrs. Briars. Basil, Shirley, Hannah and Mr. and Mrs. Briars are flying in a plane for the first time and make them nervous. McLaurin and Harwood regularly fly. Sir Edward Harwood borrows a newspaper from Basil and they arrange to have lunch together when they get to Paris. The plane takes off Shirley is nervous. Basil is also nervous. He holds Shirley's hand very tightly, but they also have fun looking at how small things on the ground look from the plane. One of the engines stops. Basil thinks up reasons why this does not mean anything is wrong, but the plane continues to lower than it should. A Steward says they have to return to London and the engines completely stop working. The next section of the play contains long speeches from all the characters. They are talking to themselves about what they are thinking. Basil is drinking of ways he can save Shirley from dying. Harwood is hopeful. He thinks the pilot may be able to save them but he hopes no-one will panic. He says how much he liked Basil and Shirley. Mr. Chapman is worried about his wife, Mrs. Chapman. He is also worried that his death will cause problems for his nephew. He does not seem to be worried about his own death. Mrs. Chapman is worried that Shirley will scream and that it will be embarrassing. McLaurin wishes he had more alcohol to drink. He thinks about his wife. Hannah is worried she will be injured badly. She would prefer to die. Janet is worried that the shock of the crash will kill her sister (Hannah's mother. She is not on the plane.

Shirley is very frightened and wants to scream-but she doesn't. The next section is a conversation between a newspaper editor (Marriott) and a young journalist (Miss James). The editor is told a plane has crashed but no one was killed. He is disappointed by this and even more disappointed when he hears there were no famous people on board. The journalist wants to know if the story will be the top story on the front page, but the editor says news about the news is much more important. Shirley and Basil go to France in train and ferry boat. They hear two men talking about the crash, but one of them is more interested talking about football. The first man says he thinks it would be fun to be in a plane crash if you weren't killed.

Note: This play was written to be performed on the radio. In the text the words in italics are directions to the actors and the radio technicians.

### **Paper by Catherine Lim**

Tay Soon dreamed of having a beautiful house with a swimming pool. His wife, named Lee Yian, and his children also dreamed of having a wonderful house. At the time of the story they were living in the house of Tay Soon's mother, but Lee Yian was unhappy there. Tay Soon and his wife had already saved 40,000 dollars and they wanted to borrow the rest of the money that would be needed to buy the house. At that time, the stock market became very popular. People were buying shares in companies and then selling them when the price of the shares went up. They were becoming rich doing this. Tay Soon and Lee Yian bought shares and soon the value of their money doubled. They told Lee Yian's sister to buy shares and she also made money. Tay Soon's mother, however refused to buy shares. After some time, just as Tay Soon was dreaming of being very rich. The price of shares went down and he began to lose his money. He did not sell his shares because he thought the price would go back up again. However, the value of his shares continued to go down until he had lost all his money. Lee Yian and Yee Yeng' also lost their money. Tay Soon went mad. His dream of owning a beautiful house had been destroyed.



He stopped going to work and he beat his children. Finally he had to go to hospital. Tay Soon's mother said she would pay for his funeral. She asked a man to make a paper house to look exactly like the one Tay Soon had dreamed of owning. The house was made of the best quality paper. It was beautiful. It had a paper swimming pool and paper cars like the ones Tay Soon had dreamed of owning. The paper house was burned at Tay Soon's funeral. It burnt in three minutes.

### **What type of house did Tay Soon dream of buying?**

Tay Soon dreamed of buying a house with all the facilities similar to those that were advertised in the glossy pages of magazines. He had a dream of a beautiful house of his own, the best one; with aluminum sliding doors, kidney shaped swimming pool, sunken circular sitting room, timbered ceiling, panelled walls, marble flooring, and amber carpeting.

### **What role does Tay Soon's wife play in contributing to the entire disaster?**

Tay Soon's wife played a major role for his downfall and the entire disaster. She was a woman who also had a passion for a beautiful house. She used to describe the dream house of her husband to her sister. She talked endlessly about the dream house with her husband. She even criticized the house of her mother-in-law. It was his wife Yee Lian who first gave suggestion to put their money in the share market. She was excited when the shares rose. She even asked her mother-in-law to buy some shares. When their shares started falling, her husband asked her if they should sell the shares, she refused it saying that the decline was only a temporary one. When the share market started falling, she even advised him to put all the remaining shares into the OHTE and West Parkes. These two markets crashed. Tay Soon went mad and later died of this shock. Thus Tay Soon's wife can be considered as the important agent who brought the entire tragedy.

### **An Insolvable Problem of Genetics by Josef Skvorecky**

The story is about the writer's brother, who is called Adolf. Adolf loved a film star and wrote letters to her. After that, he loved a girl named Freddie. She was a good choice to be his wife, but he learned that her father was a farm worker from America. This made Adolf's father unhappy, and he wanted to know more about Freddie's family background. Freddie was white, but her father was a black man. When he discovered this, Adolf's father began to read books about genetics. He wanted to know if it was possible that Freddie would have a baby who was black. Adolf's father told Adolf not to marry Freddie. The father said he would not care if Freddie was black, but he was afraid that, if Freddie had a baby that was black, other people would think the baby was not Adolf's. They would think that an African student was the father of the baby. The family found out that Freddie was pregnant. Adolf's mother told Freddie's mother that Freddie should have an abortion (an operation to stop the baby from being born.) Freddie's mother became very angry. Adolf's family began to tell many bad stories about Freddie so that people would not think that Adolf was the father of Freddie's child. Freddie ended her relationship with Adolf. She told Adolf that the people in her family were from many different countries. Freddie had twin babies. One was a girl and one was a boy. Both were white.

## **Pandora's Box by Rosalind Vallance**

In this play only The Chorus and The Leader of the Chorus speak. The Chorus is made up of 12 people. Normally they all speak at the same time. Sometimes only 6 of them speak-this is called The Semi-Chorus. The other characters are Pandora (a girl), Epimetheus(a boy) and Hermes(a god). They do not speak. They only mime. The chorus and the stage directions describe what they do. Pandora enters first alone and plays with an imaginary ball. Epimetheus enters and they throw the ball to each other. They are playing. They are happy. The Leader of the Chorus is worried. Then Hermes enters and The Leader thinks he has come to bless the children. Hermes is carrying an imaginary box. Pandora is fascinated by the box. Hermes warns her, then smiles and leaves. Pandora and Epimetheus begin to play again but Pandora is still fascinated by the box. She hears a voice coming from it. She lifts the box up and then opens it. The Troubles escape from the box and begin to attack her. Epimetheus and Pandora manage to beat The Troubles away. The Chorus explains that Pandora has let evil out of the box and it is impossible to put it back again. Pandora hears another voice from the box. She listens carefully and, even though she is frightened she opens the box again. This time, Hope flies out.

### **Explanation**

At the beginning of the play the world is trouble-free. It is a perfect world where children can play safely. The Troubles of the world are trapped in the box. Hermes brought the box with The Troubles inside and left it near Pandora. The god did not open the box; a human being opened the box. In other words, The Troubles would not have been released into the world unless a human being (Pandora) had not been curious. When the box was opened, The Troubles came out into the world. This was the worst situation, because there was no hope. However, when the box was opened a second time, Hope was released. This explains the world as it is today. There are troubles, but there is also hope.

## **The Elephant by Slawomir Mrozek**

The director of the zoo did not care about the animals that lived there. The zoo had many small animals like rabbits but it did not have an elephant. The news came that the zoo could buy an elephant if it wanted to. The director thought an elephant was too expensive so he decided to make an elephant out of rubber and blow it up like a big balloon. The rubber elephant was made and two zoo workers were told to breathe air into it to blow it up. This was too difficult for them. So they decided fill the rubber elephant from the gas pipe instead. The next day the rubber elephant full of gas was put into the zoo. In front of the elephant was a notice that said, "Particularly sluggish. Hardly moves." Some children and their teacher were looking at it. Suddenly the elephant rose up off the ground and floated away. The children who saw the elephant stopped believing their teacher and started to drink a lot of alcohol.

**What relation do you find between the character of the zoo director and the condition of the animals he chooses to exhibit?**

From the condition of the animals in the zoo, we can guess that the zoo director is a selfish and greedy man who wants to get promotion by unfair means. He is a corrupt official. In his zoo, the giraffe has a short neck, the badger does not dig holes and the whistler whistles unwillingly. This



shows that either the animals are duplicate ones or they are malnourished. He does not know the educational significance of the animals kept at zoo. So, he plans to keep the rubber elephant in the zoo instead of keeping the real elephant. He only values number than quality. So, his zoo has got three thousand rabbits but not an elephant.

**How does the way the elephant will be constructed, what it will be filled with and how it will be labeled satirize the governmental bureaucracy in Poland?**

The rubber elephant is the symbol of political propaganda. Similarly, the zoo director is the symbol of bureaucracy of Poland. It seems real to the people but on keen examination proves to be false and duplicate. The zoo director says that the rubber elephant will be filled by air and painted properly. Since it will not move, they will keep a notice on the railing saying that this particular elephant is particularly sluggish. This plan shows that the bureaucracy of Poland think the people as puppets. They think that general public cannot understand what is true and what is false. They think that general public can be easily cheated. The rubber elephant is hollow inside which shows that the promise of bureaucracy of Poland is hollow. The development of the country is like the elephant which will shake even on slight disturbance.

**Wet Saturday by John Collier**

It was a Saturday in July. The weather was wet. Mr. Princey, his wife, his daughter, Millicent and his son, George were in their house. They were discussing the bad thing Millicent had done. She had killed the local priest; Withers. Millicent had been in love with Withers. She met him in the stable. He told her that he was going to marry another girl. Millicent became very angry and hit Withers on the head with a metal stick. She killed him. Mr. Princey thought no-one would have seen Withers come to their house. He was saying, "Who would kill Withers?" when a man called Captain Smollett came in. Captain Smollett laughed because he thought Mr. Princey was making a joke.

Mr. Princey asked Smollett to go to the stable. They told him that Millicent had killed Withers because they were afraid Smollett would guess the truth anyway. Mr. Princey said he would kill Smollett if he told anyone that Millicent had killed Withers. Mr. Princey said he couldn't trust Smollett so he made it look as if Smollett had murdered Withers. George hit Smollett in the face to make it look like there had been a fight. He made Smollett touch the post that used to kill Withers, so that his fingerprints would be on it. Mr. Princey pointed a gun at Smollett and forced him to drag the dead body into a drain. Now many things made it look as if Smollett had killed Withers. Mr. Princey said he did this to make sure Smollett would never tell anyone about the murder. However, as soon as Smollett had left the house, Mr. Princey called the police.

**Why does Mr. Princey detest his family?**

Mr Princey is a selfish man who values his name, fame, self-esteem and identity more than the family. His house is ill-managed because he does not give priority to the family bonds. He is a showy character. He only wants to walk outside, never smiling. He detests his hulking son. He hates his daughter Millicent because she has killed Withers. He is afraid that his prestige in the village will be damaged if she is sent to madhouse and charged of crime.

**Do you take the story “Wet Saturday” as a tragic or comic one? Why ? Give reasons.**

There is no doubt that the story “Wet Saturday” written by John Collier is a tragic one. It is because lives of several innocents are destroyed. An innocent man Withers is killed by Millicent. Captain Smollet falls in the cruel trap of Mr. Princey. He is cruelly beaten and we can guess that Captain Smollet will be charged of crime that he has not committed. If he will be proved guilty, he will be hanged to death. In this story, the truth is overshadowed by falsehood. The plan of Mr. Princey, a selfish and cruel man, becomes successful. The setting is gloomy. The rain falling outside symbolizes the tears falling down from the eyes of several innocents. The lives of three innocents are ruined in this story- Withers, Smollet and Ella Brangwyn-Davies. The house of Mr. Princey is like a devil’s house because all the family members who live in that house do not value human sentiments. They are selfish and brutal. They charge Mr. Smollet for the crime committed by Millicent. Even bonds of love, humanity and human emotions is lacking there.

**'Wet Saturday' is a psychological story. Explain.**

Wet Saturday is a psychological story in the sense that it shows that humans are no less savage than animals. This story shows how civilization is only a mask worn by humans. Psychologists claim that all humans are guided by their id / ego i.e quest for power, sex, prestige and wealth. Here the family of Millicent is guided by their ego to protect the prestige of their family. Millicent does not even hesitate to kill Withers, her lover. Similarly all the family members unite and brutally beat Captain Smollet and charge him for the crime done by Millicent. This story shows the dark and selfish side of man's psychology.

**The Velvet Hangover by Vaclav Havel**

*(Note: Velvet Revolution refers to a revolution in which there is no violence. In 1990 Czechoslovakia had a velvet revolution. A hangover is the feeling of illness caused by drinking too much alcohol. In this essay Havel describes his hangover like feeling after the velvet revolution.)*

In 1990 the Czech Republic became a democracy. Vaclav Havel was elected its President. It was an exciting time for the country because a new government system was being made. However when Havel started working as President after the elections he didn’t know what to do. He felt lost and tired. He was afraid he would not be good enough for the task of rebuilding his country. Someone asked Havel to write a speech but he found this difficult. He decided to write about fear and how it affected the Czech people. He wrote, "The people are afraid now as they face an uncertain future. They have won freedom, but fear it." He also wrote, "Although life was difficult before, everyone understood the system. Now there are many questions. People who fear the past also fear the future. And people who fear the future also fear the past. Everyone must learn to be honest, because truth destroys fear." Fear and negative feelings can also cause people to act in a good way. Havel ends his speech by asking people to look into the past, present and future with confidence, not fear. In the speech Havel refers to four different types of fear: 1) fear of ourselves and our own ability, 2) fear of unknown things, 3) fear of the past present and future and 4) fear of lies and the truth.

### **What is the significance of Havel's statement that 'the poetry was over and prose was beginning'?**

Vaclav Havel became the president of Czechoslovakia after the smooth transition of power from the Communists. Havel thinks that before coming into power they had only dreamt of a beautiful nation but now they have to prove it. Poetry is melodious and lyrical while prose does not have the charm and melody. Poetry is like a sweet dream while prose is like the ugly reality. In the time of struggle, they were happy because they had a beautiful dream and plans for the country. But now they have various challenges in the new democracy. The country can go in wrong direction at any time. Planning for the future is simple but putting that plan into action is a difficult task. So, Havel says the poetry of planning was over and prose of action was beginning.

### **What are some of the disadvantages facing the new democracy as described by Havel in "The Velvet Hangover" ?**

Havel thinks that the new democracy in Czechoslovakia can ambush the country if not properly handled. He fears that the three dangers his newly democratic country is likely to face are – *rise of national conflict, loss of social –welfare protections, and rise of new totalitarian government controlled by money and money-minded people.*

The people of democratic nation have more personal freedom, so they may forget their social responsibility. The greatest danger to democracy is the mob rule. Even the money minded business community may try to buy the politicians and take control of the government. If democracy is not properly handled it is worse than totalitarian government.

### **A Very Special Pet by Nicholasa Mohr**

The Fernandez family lived in New York City. They had 2 pets: a cat named Marialu and a hen called Joncrofo. The family had bought Joncrofo to get 1 egg but she had never laid any. She lived in the kitchen of the house. All the children in the family loved the hen very much. The Fernandez family was very poor. Mr. Fernandez hoped to get a better job so that the family could buy a farm. Mrs. Fernandez was worried because Mr. Fernandez was ill and was not getting any better. She decided to kill Joncrofo and cook it for the family's dinner. She told the children to go into another room so she could kill the hen without them knowing. She planned to say that Joncrofo had flown away. Mrs. Fernandez chased the hen all around the kitchen. When she caught the hen, it bit her and she had to let go. She hit the hen with a broom many times until the hen was lying on the floor without moving. The children came into the kitchen because they had heard a lot of noise. They cried and shouted because they thought their mother had killed Joncrofo. Mrs. Fernandez was sad. She knew she would not be able to cook the hen because the children would never eat it. The hen made a noise. Mrs. Fernandez picked it up, washed it, and gave it water and alcohol. Joncrofo recovered. Mrs. Fernandez told the children the hen had been sick and she had had to catch it to give it medicine. Then she started to clean the kitchen and she dreamed of returning to a farm in the mountains.

## **A Small Place by Jamaica Kincaid**

In her essay "A Small Place" Jamaica Kincaid reveals the vast gap between the everyday life of Antiguan and the people who visit the island. In fact, by attacking the tourists, she is also attacking the corrupt government of Antigua.

Antigua, a beautiful and sunny island, is often visited by tourists. A tourist who would visit it would first land on the airport that is named after the Prime Minister. The tourist would easily pass through the customs without being checked while the Antiguan coming after working in other countries with cardboard full of cheap clothes and foods for relatives would be checked completely.

Outside the airport, brand new Japanese car will be available. But the drivers would try to cheat the tourists. The driver who may even not have his license will drive the car carelessly. The brand new car will make an awful sound because it is filled with leaded petrol. The driver who drives a brand new and highly expensive Japanese car will actually have a very poor house. Government gives loans for cars but not for houses because the two main cars' dealership is owned by the Ministers of the Government. Schools in Antigua are poorly managed. They look like latrines. Antiguan do not trust the doctors in the hospital of Antigua. Even the Minister of Health and other Ministers go to New York for their check-up. The only library in Antigua had collapsed in the 1974 earthquake, and still its repair is pending. The American Embassy is taller than the government offices. The house of a merchant whose family came from the Middle East is splendid. When they had come to Antigua 20 years ago they used to sell goods door to door from suitcases carried on their backs. Now they are richer than the government. The house of a smuggler is also very tall and splendid. When the Queen of England came to visit Antigua in 1985, the roads were paved anew to give her false impression that riding in a car in Antigua is a pleasant experience. This indicates the double standard of the government. Another lady Evita is also very rich and powerful because she is the girl friend of one of the government official. The food for tourists comes from Miami which were actually grown in some parts of Antigua and were sent to Miami for processing.

The author then says that tourists are ugly person and local Antiguan hate them. The tourists do not expect rain because it will spoil their holiday in Antigua while the local people want rain. The tourists do not understand the corruption and colonial past of Antigua because they are absorbed in their self-centered pleasures and self-worth. The tourists are unaware that their discarded filths spoil the water of Antigua. Local people do not like the lifestyle of the tourists, their gestures, and their high fashion. The tourists are actually unnoticed by the people. The people feel envy towards them and their riches.

This essay is about the Island of Antigua. In the essay, the author is addressing The Tourist. The Tourist is referred to using "you".

The essay has the following themes:

The way tourists see Antigua is different from the way local people see it.

What tourists think of themselves is different from the way local people view them.  
Antigua is a poor country and tourists come from rich countries.  
There is corruption in Antigua.

These themes are developed in the following ways:

Tourists see the clean airport but do not see the poor schools and hospitals.  
Tourists do not want rain. Antiguan farmers want rain.  
The taxi driver drives dangerously. They live in small houses but they drive expensive Japanese cars.  
This is because the Japanese banks will lend them money to buy Japanese cars. Antigua is in a bad way. When the PM is ill he goes to the U.S.A as the local hospital is very bad.  
In 1974 the library was destroyed by an earthquake. It has never been repaired.  
Antigua used to belong to Britain and the British people used Antiguan people as slaves.  
Now rich foreigners and drug dealers own most of Antigua.  
The food the tourists eat was brought in from other places.  
The tourists love the sea but they do not know it is much polluted.  
Tourists travel because they want to get away from their own countries.  
Antiguans hate tourists and laugh at them.  
Antiguans are poor and do not have enough money to travel.  
The tourists come to the place that the Antiguan want to get away from.

**What does the different treatment of customs officials towards tourists and Antiguan suggest?**

The different treatment of customs officials towards tourist and Antiguan suggests that the government of Antigua is corrupt. This also suggests that poors' are hated and cheated everywhere, even in their country. The customs do not check the bags of tourists that may contain valuable items like camera, computers etc. They check all the luggage of the Antiguan which contains cheap clothes and foods brought to their relatives. This is because it is easier to cheat poors than rich people. The customs officials have slave mentality. Even after independence they think whites as their masters.

**How do the tourists' expectations differ from those of the local people?**

Local people expect rain because they are fed up of with heat. While the tourists do not want rain because it will spoil their holidays. Locals want libraries, schools and hospitals. But the tourists do not want them because they stay there only for few days. Rather they want beautiful cars, hotels and want to see the ruined monuments. The natives want to see their shores clean and beautiful while the tourists only want pleasure and comfort. They are not worried even if their discarded filth pollutes the environment.

## **Buffalo Bill's by e.e. Cummings**

The poem "Buffalo Bill's" written by modern American poet E.E. Cummings is generally considered as a unusual but sincere tribute to the legend of the famous American Cowboy, William Cody. In this poem, the poet has exploited the aesthetic potentialities of typographical experimentation.

Buffalo Bill, who used to ride a white horse and break very quickly the clay pigeon targets, is now dead. He was a handsome man and the poet wants to know how much the Death likes him. Since the poet capitalizes the initial letters of Buffalo Bill, Death and Jesus, he gives equal status to all these three. But since he does not capitalize "i", the poet thinks that he himself is minor in comparison to legendary figure, William Cody. The style of E.E. Cummings in "Buffalo Bill's" is unique. He has not used fullstops, commas and even abandoned the use of capital letter in "i". He has not used traditional poetic forms. He has written this poem in free verse with lots of spacing. The running together of words in "onetwothreefourfive" indicate that Buffalo Bill shot bullets very quickly without stopping. The words "stallion" and "Jesus" are slightly separated from the preceding lines to indicate that Buffalo Bill was as strong as the horse and as kind as Jesus. This poem is remarkable for its pictorial quality and typographical experimentation.

Some critics also argue that this poem is a satire on Buffalo Bill. Though he was brave and powerful, he has now been made powerless by Death.

## **Oh, My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose by Robert Burns**

"Oh, My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose" written by Scottish poet Robert Burns is a romantic love lyric. This poem shows the ideal love and romantic passion of the poet towards his beloved.

The poet compares his love to a red rose that is newly sprung in June and to the melody that is sweetly played in tune. He claims that his love is deep and he will love his beloved till all the seas go dry and rocks be melted by the sun or till he will be alive. Then, he says farewell to her and promises that he will return even from ten thousand miles away.

## **A Mongoloid Child Handling Shells on the Beach by Richard Snyder**

### **What is suggested by the phrase "unbroken children"?**

The phrase "unbroken children" suggests that the children are whole or complete in every aspects. All their sense organs and body parts are complete and perfect. They can play, shout, hear and see perfectly. By using the phrase "unbroken children", the poet wants us to contrast them with the mongoloid child whose body parts and sense organs are not in a healthy condition.

### **How is the child like the sea? How are the other children like the surf? What do the differences between sea and surf contribute to Richard Snyder's poem?**

The poet uses sea metaphor to explain the mongoloid child while he uses the surf metaphor to present the behaviour of the other normal children. The sea is calm, slow, mysterious and makes small change. Similarly, the mongoloid girl is also slow, sober, mysterious and calm. Likewise,



the surf is wild, stormy, noisy and violent; so are the unbroken children. By using the sea and surf metaphor, the poet wants us to compare and contrast both handicapped and normal children.

**What is the poet's attitude towards the child? How can you tell?**

The poet's attitude towards the mongoloid child is sympathetic and full of love. He does not hate her but finds her lovable and full of potential as the sea. At the same time, he contrasts her with the violent and wild surf-like normal children.

**Should the poem now be retitled as "A Child with Down's Syndrome...." Would that be effective?**

I don't think that this poem should be retitled as "A Child with Down's Syndrome...". The word 'Down' would suggest that the child is down in every aspects. It would suggest negativity in the child. The poet in this poem is actually glorifying the child, so the new title would be bad and will not meet with the poem's theme. The word 'mongoloid' has several connotative meanings. By using the word 'mongoloid' the poet directly gives us the physical structure of the child making us think that the girl is similar to mongol race who have small eyes, flat face, small hands and legs and large head.

**Dream Variations by Langston Hughes**

"Dream Variations" written by black American poet Langston Hughes is a nostalgic lyric which bitterly expresses the poet's wish for a carefree life away from colour persecution and racial discrimination.

The first stanza describes the poet's dream to live a life of freedom in the land where there is no colour persecution. He wishes to rest in a cool evening beneath a tall tree, where dark night would come gently.

The second stanza describes harsh reality that black people has to face in America. In reality, his dream is shattered by racial prejudice and colour discrimination in America. His dream remains unfulfilled. He has to live a harsh life, a life of boredom and frustration. Even the night reminds him of his black colour.

Thus, this poem is entitled "Dream Variations" suggesting that the dreams of blacks is not fulfilled but varies or changes in real life in colour prejudiced American society. This poem is also an attack on American Dream that America is a land of freedom and opportunity.

## 2. An Outline of English Literature

### Chapter 1

#### Old English Literature / Anglo-Saxon literature

The Old English language, also called Anglo-Saxon, was the earliest form of English. Old English was spoken from about A.D 600 to about 1100. Old English language cannot be read now except by those who have made a special study of it.

Major poets of this period were CAEDMON and CYNEWULF. It is difficult to say which work belongs to CAEDMON. But Cynewulf certainly wrote four poems which are *Juliana*, *The Fates of the Apostles*, *Christ*, and *Elene*. His poems are religious and were probably written in the second half of the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Poetry was written in alliterative tradition.

Many lyric poems were also written in this period. They are, *The Husband's Message*, *The Wanderer*, *The Wife's Complaint*, and *Doer's Complaint*. Doer is a singer who has lost his lord's favor. So he complains, but tries to comfort himself by remembering other sorrows of the world.

Many heroic epics were also written in this period. These poems glorified a real or imaginary hero and tried to teach the values of bravery and generosity. The greatest heroic epic is Beowulf which belongs to the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

Many poems of this period were religious in theme often influenced from the Bible. Among them are *Genesis A*, *Genesis B*, *Exodus*, *Daniel*, *Christ and Satan* and *The Dream of the Rood*. The *Genesis B* is about the beginning of the world, the fall of the angels and God's punishment to Satan. *The Exodus* describes how the Israelites left Egypt. Similarly another poem *Christ and Satan* deals with the events in Christ's life and His struggle with Satan.

The important prose writer's of this period were King Alfred and Aelfric. King Alfred translated a number of Latin books into Old English, so that his people could read them. *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* is the first important prose works in English literature which contains the early history of the country. King Alfred ordered the collection of this early history and number of early writings and brought them into order. He brought back learning to England and improved the education of his people. Similarly, Aelfric wrote mainly religious prose such as *Homilies* and *Lives of Saints*. He also wrote out in Old English the meaning of the first seven books of the Bible.

#### Beowulf

*Beowulf* is the greatest and the first Old English epic poem, which belongs to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Beowulf, a brave young man of southern Sweden goes to Denmark to help King Hrothgar and his people. Hrothgar is in trouble because his great hall- Heorot- is visited at night by a terrible creature, Grendel. Grendel lives in a lake and comes to eat Hrothgar's men. One night Beowulf waits secretly, and when it comes to attack the people, he pulls its arm off. Grendel escapes to the lake but dies there. Then, its mother comes to the hall for revenge. Terrible fight begins between Grendel's mother and Beowulf. Beowulf follows her to the bottom of the lake and kill her there. The King Hrothgar rewards Beowulf with lots of treasures.

Fifty years later Beowulf, now king of his native land, fights a fire-breathing dragon that has devastated his people. He kills the animal but is badly wounded in the fight, and dies. The poem ends with a sorrowful description of Beowulf's funeral fire.

The verse of this epic follows alliterative tradition. Metaphors are abundantly used: For example, whale's road is used for ocean; sea soldier is used for a sailor.

Important questions:

1. Anglo-Saxon
2. Beowulf
3. Show your acquaintance with Old English Literature.

## Chapter 2 Middle English Literature

The period from 1100 up to 1500 is termed as Middle English period. Since the rulers of England at this period were of French descent, English language was highly influenced by French literature, vocabulary, forms and themes. French was considered as the language of aristocracy and Latin maintained its role as the language of learned works. The literary works in this period were religious in theme- mainly influenced from Bible. These works taught moral lessons and religious way of life.

### **Poets / Poetry**

1. Geoffrey Chaucer :

Chaucer is the first original genius in the history of English literature. He is often regarded as the father of English poetry. He was the son of a wine merchant but later became duke, diplomat and then the personal attendant of the King. He had wide knowledge of Latin, French and Italian books. His works are

a). **The Canterbury Tales**: It is a realistic piece of literature that gives the picture of the 14<sup>th</sup> century England more clearly than any laborous history. The Characters in this poem are from all sectors of life- rich and poor, good and bad. It contains 17,000 lines-about half of Chaucer's literary production. It is a series of different kinds of stories told by a group of pilgrims who are on their way to Canterbury (The church in which Thomas Beckett is buried). It contains 22 tales told by different pilgrims in verse. Among the pilgrims are monk, the nun, the priest, the friar (the begging monk), the merchant, the lawyer, the doctor, the cook, the sailor, the carpenter, the knight and the most enjoyable character known as the Wife of Bath.

The Wife of Bath has had five husbands and had travelled to Jerusalem and Rome. She is a woman who desires to tightly control her husband. She is like a modern woman with her firm sexuality and independence. The Monk and The Friar do not live religious life. The Monk has the passion for hunting and loves roasted swan while the Friar is corrupt, married many times. He asks people to give him money so that people would go to heaven. The Farmer and the Knight are good, helpful and honest. The characters are like real people with both good and bad sides.

b). **Troilus and Cryseide**: It is a story of love and betrayal with moral overtones. It is about a faithless woman Cryseide. The background is Trojan War. Troilus falls in love with widow

Crysedde and wins her love. But later she falls in love with Greek Diomedes and betrays Troilus. Troilus becomes bold and cruel in battles and is eventually killed by Achilles.

c). **The Legend of Good Women**: It gives accounts of loving and faithful women- including Cleopatra, Philomela, etc.

## 2. William Langland:

Historians know very little about William Langland, however they claim that he wrote '**The Vision of Piers the Ploughman**'. This poem is famous example of old alliterative verse. In such lines the repetition of certain sounds helps create a mood.

*" In a somer seson, whan soft was the sonne..."*

It is sadly concerned with the religious, social and economic problems of his time. It is a work in the form of dream visions describing the sorrows of the poor people, the greed of the powerful, and the sinfulness of all people. Langland sadly describes how most people prefer the false treasures of this world to the true treasures of heaven. The emphasis is placed on a Christian vision of the life of activity, of the life of unity with God.

## 3. Anonymous writer:

a). **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**: This is a story about King Arthur. Green Knight asks King Arthur to send a knight to strike him a blow with the heavy axe. But the bet is that a year and a day later the knight would come and receive the similar blow from that Green Knight. Sir Gawain, one of the knights of King Arthur strikes off the Green Knight's head, but the Green Knight simply picks his head up and goes. Sir Gawain goes to find Green Knight. On the way he meets a lord and a lady. The lady gives him the magical girdles that will save him from death. Later Green Knight gives him a severe blow with the axe but Gawain is saved. This is a tale of a knight who has to struggle against the enemies with magical powers with all his honor.

b). **Pearl**: It is a poem about the poet's daughter whose name is Pearl and who died at the age of two. The poet sees her in heaven living with angels. This comforts him.

## **Prose**

### 1. Richard Rolle:

Richard Rolle wrote '**The Form of Perfect Living**' which is full of religious teachings. It gives detailed moral lessons on how to work, dress, live, talk and behave in society.

### 2. John Wycliffe:

He was a priest who attacked many religious ideas and the church of his times. He believed in direct relationship between humanity and God, without priestly mediation. He believed that by closely reading the Bible, Christians would govern themselves without the help of popes and other religious teachers. He arranged the production of Bible in English and also translated some parts of it. Before this, Bible was only available in Latin. After he was dead and buried, his opponents dug up his bones and threw them in the River Avon.

### 3. Thomas Malory:

Sir Thomas Malory was a violent man, who was several times in prison. He wrote "**Arthur's Death**" while he was in prison. This book is a collection of various tales about King Arthur and his knight-adventurers, who followed the Christian way of life, bravery, love and justice to right people by defeating the wrong ones. Guinevere, the wife of King Arthur falls in love with Lancelot. Their love affair is the major cause of Arthur's ruin and death. It also contains King Arthur's search for the cup used by Christ at the Last Supper.

## **Dramas**

### **1. Miracle plays or Mystery plays:**

The subject matter of miracle or mystery plays were the miracles performed by the saints. The stories were mainly from the Bible. Miracle plays, also known as Saint plays, were presented at Easter (festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ) and on other holy days. During those days very few people could read the Bible which was then written in Latin. So, the clergy (religious teacher) managed these types of plays in order to teach and explain the doctrinal truths of religion to the ignorant peasants. These plays were performed in movable stage that could be moved from one place to another in wheels. These plays were in four main groups, according to the city where they were acted: Chester, Coventry, York and Wakefield. Often several miracle plays were performed at the same time in different places.

### **2. Morality plays:**

These plays were popular in the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The characters of these plays are not people, but they are abstractions (good qualities and bad qualities) such as beauty, flesh, lechery, strength, pride, envy, hope, charity, sin, strength, etc. These are designed to instruct people in the Christian way of life and the Christian attitude towards death. The general theme is the conflict between good and evil in the human soul. However, the play always ends with the saving of the soul and the triumph of good over evil.

The best known of the morality play is *Everyman*, which probably was derived from a Dutch source. In the play, the protagonist (main character, hero) Everyman learns that everything material he has gained in life deserts him as he journeys into the Valley of Death. When Death calls him away from the world, all the characters like Beauty, Knowledge, Strength, Pride leave him but only Good Deeds follow him.

### **3. Interludes:**

Interludes were short plays that provided comic relief in between the acts of long morality plays or in the middle of meals. They were intended to cause laughter among the audiences. They were short plays only with two or three actors that would excite the audiences and remove the boredom. They were not acted in churches but in colleges, gardens and parties. *The Four P's* and *The Play of the Weather* were the interludes written by John Heywood.

Middle English literature: Writer and their works

#### Poetry

1. Geoffrey Chaucer a).The Canterbury Tales b) Troilus and Crysede c).The Legen of Good Women
2. William Langland a). The Vision of Pier's the Ploughman
3. Anonymous writer a). Sir Gawain and the Green Knight b). Pearl c). Patience

#### Prose

1. Richard Rolle a). The Form of Perfect Living
2. John Wycliffe - Translated part of Bible into English and helped it to publish in English.
3. Thomas Malory a). Arthur's Death

#### Types of Dramas

1. Miracle or mystery plays – about the lives of Saints, religious in themes, stories from Bible.
2. Morality plays – designed to teach moral lessons, abstractions were personified.
3. Interludes – used to provide comic relief between two acts of a play.

Important questions:

1. The Canterbury Tales
2. Morality plays
3. Miracle plays
4. William Langland.
5. Geoffrey Chaucer.
6. Show your acquaintance with the Middle English Literature.

### Chapter 3 & 4 Elizabethan Period

Drama	Poetry	Prose
<p><b>1. THOMAS KYD</b>  <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i>: It is a tragedy of blood in which father takes revenge of his murdered son. A ghost of the son appears to his father demanding revenge. The father later kills his son's murderer. It is a tragedy of blood that was popular at that time. Later Shakespeare wrote Hamlet based in this plot.</p> <p><b>2. CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE</b>  <i>Tamburlaine the Great</i>: It is about Tamburlaine who is blood thirsty and violent. For him even love is a war. Tamburlaine, a shepherd who later becomes a robber, has a terrible ambition to gain more power. He kills everyone who are his rivals.  <i>Jew of Malta</i>: It is about Barabas, a faithless man who poisons his own daughter and later tries to kill Turkish officers but is ultimately killed by them.  <i>Dr. Faustus</i>: This play is based on Faustus who sells his soul to devil Mephistopheles to gain power and more knowledge. He even asks the devil to bring beautiful Helen of Troy so that he can kiss her.  <i>Edward the Second</i>: This play deals with English history. It is about the fall of King Edward.</p> <p><b>3. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE:</b> (</p>	<p><b>1. EDMUND SPENSER</b>  His verses are musical. He wrote his poems in his own rhyme plan- ababbcbcc, which is called 'Spenserian stanza'. He wrote many sonnets about love, nature and beauty.  <i>The Shepherd's Calendar</i>: It is a pastoral poem because it deals with the lives of shepherds, and presents them as simple, honest and healthy. It is a poem in 12 books where each book represents the 12 months of a year. There are various subjects- praise of Queen Elizabeth, discussion about religion, the sad death of a girl and so on.  <i>The Faerie Queen</i>: This poem is about Queen Elizabeth or Glory as a person. He planned to write 12 books but could complete only six books. There are 12 knights who represent different virtues – holiness, chastity, justice, courage etc. Each knight has to overcome obstacles to prove his valour and courage. King Arthur is shown as a gentleman with great virtues.  <i>Epithalamion</i>: It is a</p>	<p><b>1. FRANCIS BACON</b>  <i>Essays</i>  <i>A History of Henry VII</i>  <i>The Advancement of Learning</i>  <i>The New Atlantis</i></p> <p><b>2. BEN JONSON</b>  <i>Timber (Discoveries)</i></p> <p><b>3. RICHARD HAKLUYT</b>  <i>The Principal Navigations</i>  <i>Voyages and Discoveries of the English Nation</i></p> <p><b>4. SAMUEL PURCHAS</b>  <i>Purchase his Pilgrims</i></p> <p><b>5. JOHN LYLY</b>  <i>Euphues</i></p> <p><b>6. THOMAS NASH</b>  <i>The Life of Jacke Wilton</i></p> <p><b>7. WILLIAM</b></p>




<p><b>Next page)</b></p> <p><b>4. BENJAMIN JONSON</b></p> <p>His plays are comic plays. The characters are walking humours and not really humans. His language is polished but not inspirational. He shows how in every one of us there is hidden foolishness. His comedies are called ‘comedy of humours’</p> <p><u>Every Man in his Humour</u>: It is about of Kately who suspects that his beautiful wife is having love affair with Knowell.</p> <p><u>Volpone the Fox</u>: Volpone, a childless but rich man pretends that he is about to die. Many people give him various gifts to please him and gain his wealth. One person even gives him his wife.</p> <p><u>Sejanus</u>: It is tragedy acted at Globe theatre by Shakespeare’s company.</p> <p><u>The Alchemist</u>: This plays shows how people are attracted towards gaining easy gold but are ultimately cheated by the Alchemist. Alchemist is a person who claims that he can turn iron into gold.</p> <p><u>Every Man out of his Humour</u>:</p> <p><b>5. JOHN WEBSTER</b></p> <p>His plays are called ‘blood and thunder plays’. He shows lots of violence, murder and deceit in his plays. His famous plays are <u>The White Devil</u> and <u>The Duchess of Malfi</u>.</p>	<p>marriage song expressing his joy after being married when he was over forty.</p> <p><u>Prothalamion</u>: It is a lyric expressing his joy when his two daughters were married at one time.</p> <p><b>2. JOHN DONNE</b></p> <p>He is a metaphysical poet. He uses irony, and conceit in his poems. He wrote both religious and love poems. His poems are highly intellectual and difficult to understand. His poems are <u>The Flea</u>, <u>The Ecstasy</u>....</p> <p><b>3. SIR PHILIP SYDNEY</b></p> <p><u>Astrophel and Stella</u></p> <p><b>4. CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE</b></p> <p><u>The Passionate Shepherd to his Love</u></p> <p><b>5. BEN JONSON</b></p> <p><u>To Celia</u></p> <p><b>6. THOMAS WYATT &amp; EARL OF SURREY</b></p> <p>They wrote fine sonnets which were influenced from Italian. Surrey was the first to bring sonnet into England. Surrey was the first to write poems in blank verse.</p>	<p><b>TYNDALE</b></p> <p>He translated the New Testament from the Greek, and part of the Old Testament from the Hebrew.</p>
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### Christopher Marlowe


He was both a dramatist and a poet of Elizabethan period. He is the first great dramatist of Elizabethan period. His writings set an example for other dramatists in the Elizabethan period in two important ways – the use of powerful blank verse and the development of characters to heighten the sense of tragedy. His plays are tragic plays with lots of violence and murder. His characters are ordinary people who are full of passion and desire. He was killed in a quarrel at an inn when he was 29 years old.


His dramas are:

 *Tamburlaine the Great*: The first part deals with the rise to power of Tamburlaine, a shepherd who later becomes a robber. He captures Zenocrate and marries her. For him even love is a conquest. His terrible ambition drives him ever towards more power and cruelty. His ambition is to become the ruler of the whole world. So, his armies capture Bajazet, ruler of Turkey, whom Tamburlaine takes from place to place in a cage.

In the second part, Tamburlaine becomes more blood-thirsty. He goes to capture Babylon in a carriage which is pulled by two kings. He whips the kings and curses them. If they become tired, he orders to kill them. He orders his armies to drown all the people of Babylon. He cuts his own arm to show his son that a wound is unimportant. He even kills his own son when he finds him enjoying instead of going to war.

 *Jew of Malta*: The Governor of Malta is cruel towards the Jews and taxes them. But Barabus, a rich jew, refuses to pay the taxes. The governor takes away his house and money. So, Barabus begins his life of violence. He poisons his own daughter and makes her lover to die too. He helps the Turks when they attack Malta, so they make him the governor of Malta. He wants to become more powerful. So he makes a plan to kill all the Turkish officers. He invites the officers to have meal with him and arranges that the room would fall suddenly when they come. But this secret is known by the Turkish. They throw him below the floor into a vessel of boiling water.

 *Dr. Faustus*: This play is based on Faustus who sells his soul to devil Mephistopheles to gain power and more knowledge. The devil has to serve him for 24 years and provide him what he wants. He even asks the devil to bring beautiful Helen of Troy so that he can kiss her.

 *Edward the Second*: This play deals with English history. It is about the fall of King Edward.

### William Shakespeare

He was born in Stratford-on-Avon. His career developed from a curtain puller to actor, then a playwright and later a dramatist. He understood the sentiments of all class of people. He perfected blank verse in his dramas. He is the true representative of Elizabethan period. He studied previous poems, stories, legends, folklores and coloured them a new with his unique imagination and mastery of language.

#### **His Three Roman Tragedies**

a). Julius Caesar    b). Antony and Cleopatra    c). Coriolanus

#### **His Five Great Tragedies:**

a). King Lear    b). Macbeth    c). Othello    d) Hamlet    e) Romeo and Juliet

#### **His Comedies:**

a). As You Like It    b) Comedy of Errors    c) Two Gentlemen of Verona    d). A Midsummer Night's Dream    e) Twelfth Night    f) All's Well That Ends Well    g) Much Ado About Nothing

#### **His Romances:**

a). Cymbeline    b). The Winter's Tale    c). The Tempest

#### **His Historical Plays:**

a). Richard the Second    b). Richard the Third    c). King Henry the Fourth    d). Henry the Fifth  
e). Henry the Sixth.

### **Romeo and Juliet**

It is a story of two teenaged lovers, Romeo and Juliet. Their families are enemies. Romeo and his friends, in a disguise, attend the mask ball given by Juliet's father. Romeo and Juliet fall in love in their first meeting and decide to marry. The next day they get married secretly by Friar

Lawrence. Returning from the wedding, Juliet's cousin meets Romeo and quarrels with him. Juliet's cousin kills Romeo's friend, so Romeo stabs him to death. Romeo is exiled from the city. Juliet's father tries her to marry her cousin because he does not know that she is already married. Friar Lawrence gives her a drug which will put her into death-like sleep for 42 hours. He then sends a messenger to tell Romeo about their plan of escape. But Romeo does not receive the message. He falsely hears that Juliet is dead. He hurries to the tomb where she has been placed. There he takes poison and dies by her side. Juliet awakens to find her husband dead. She stabs herself. The discovery of dead lovers convinces the two families that they must end their feud.

### **Macbeth**

Macbeth, who is returning from a battle, meets three old witches. They tell him that he will receive high honors and then become the King of Scotland. The first part of witches' prophecy comes true. Then Macbeth has an ambition to become the King of Scotland. Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan of Scotland, who has come to his castle as his guest. But King Duncan's sons escape. The three witches had also prophesied that Banquo's descendents would be the kings of Scotland. So Macbeth orders to kill Banquo and his sons. Banquo is killed but his son escapes. Macbeth becomes more violent and kills everyone whom he does not trust. Lady Macbeth dies because she is burdened by her guilt. At the end of the play, Macbeth is also killed and King Duncan's son becomes the king of Scotland. Macbeth's weakness is his terrible ambition.

### **King Lear**

This tragic play shows how people are open to flattery. King Lear has three daughters. His two daughters are wicked while his youngest daughter is truthful. The two wicked daughters try to show their love to King Lear but inwardly they want his kingdom. The youngest daughter always tells the truth. He gives his kingdom to his two wicked daughters but gives nothing to his youngest daughter who loves him the best. His wicked daughters neglect him and force him to spend a night outdoors during a storm. Later he becomes mad. His youngest daughter who has been living in France returns and finds him mad. Armies of two wicked daughters find King Lear and his youngest daughter and kill her. The two wicked daughters love the same man, so one of the sisters poisons her own sister and later kills herself. King Lear also dies of broken heart. This play shows the difference between appearance and reality. King Lear's weakness is his openness to flattery.

### **Othello**

It is a story of a brave commander Othello. He has a young and beautiful wife named Desdemona. Othello raises the rank of Cassio, one of his soldiers. Iago, his another soldier, is jealous of him and makes a plan to destroy him. He tries to make Othello believe that Cassio and Desdemona are lovers. Othello falls under the plan of Iago and kills his innocent wife with a sword. When Othello discovers the truth, he kills himself with the same sword. Othello's weakness is his sexual jealousy.

### **Hamlet**

When the story begins, Hamlet's father, King of Denmark, is dead. His mother has married his uncle Claudius. Claudius has become the King. Hamlet suspects that his uncle murdered his father. The ghost of Hamlet's dead father appears to him and tells him about his murder. Hamlet decides to take revenge but he wants to find the proof before taking revenge. He is too much a thinker. He asks a band of traveling actors to perform a play before Claudius whose plot is similar to his father's murder. Claudius shows violent reaction during the play that makes Hamlet believe that Claudius is the murderer. He goes to kill him, but finding him in prayer, he

changes his mind. At the same time when he sees someone is behind the curtain, he kills the man with his sword thinking that the man is Claudius. But he has killed Polonius. Claudius then sends Hamlet to England. In the letter to King of England he asks for the murder of Hamlet. Hamlet is saved because he had changed the letter. In the end, fighting is arranged between Polonius's son and Hamlet. Both are badly wounded and are about to die. Hamlet raises and kills Claudius. Hamlet's weakness is that he is too much a thinker, not a man-of-action.

### THREE ROMAN TRAGEDIES

#### **Julius Caesar**

It is a political tragedy. The hero is Brutus, who joins with Cassus and other conspirators, to kill Julius Caesar. Before the body of dead Caesar, Brutus defends to the people of Rome that killing of Caesar was necessary for the good of country Rome. After the speech of Brutus, the clever and cunning Antony makes a speech before the crowd. He then describes the plotters with heavy sarcasm and praises the virtues of Caesar. The crowd is ready to kill and burn the conspirators. Brutus and his friends flee away. At last, Brutus commits suicide when he is defeated by Antony.

#### **Antony and Cleopatra**

The main subject of this drama is the Antony's love for the Egyptian queen Cleopatra. Antony, the king of Rome has a wife named Octavia. But he lives in his captured state Egypt with a mistress Cleopatra. Death of his wife forces him to return to Rome. Back in Rome, he marries Octavia's sister Octavia; but he returns to Egypt because of his love towards Cleopatra. His wife Octavia wages a battle with him but Cleopatra does not help him. Cleopatra deceives Antony and makes him think that she is dead. Antony stabs himself with the sword. Before he dies, he learns that she is still alive. He then goes to her and dies in her arms. Later Cleopatra also dies after pressing a poisonous snake to bite her.

#### **Coriolanus**

This play is about the life and death of Coriolanus, a proud Roman commander who leads his armies against the Volscians and beats them. On his return to Rome, he wishes to become one of the rulers of the city. To succeed in his aim, he must ask the people for votes. His pride makes this impossible, he can not beg for votes or for anything else. He is driven from Rome for insulting the people. He comes back with the Volscian army to attack his own city. There he meets his wife and mother who persuade him to lead the army away. The Volscians then kill him for failing in his duty.

### John Donne and Metaphysical poetry

**Metaphysical poetry** is the term given to the poems written by John Donne and other 17<sup>th</sup> century poets like Andrew Marvell, George Herbert. In metaphysical poems, the poet uses clever tricks of style and unlikely comparisons. These poems are complex, paradoxical and with twisting ideas. They blend emotion with intellect. The poems are filled with bold conceits.

**John Donne** is the most important metaphysical poet. He wrote both love and religious poems. In his poems, he often puts the main beat on words of little importance. In his poem *The Flea*, the man asks his beloved not to kill the flea. He says that the flea has sucked the blood of both of them, so the flea has become their marriage bed. Similarly in his another poem *The Ecstasy*, the poet claims that love is the combination of both soul and body.

## Chapter 5

### John Milton and His Times

John Milton lived a pure life, believing that he had a great purpose to complete. At college he was known as the *The Lady of Christ's*. He was the advocator of democracy. He supported the Parliament during the English civil war between the King and Cromwell. He was a Christian humanist. He was a studious person. He had wide knowledge of Greek, Latin, English, French and Italian literature. He also had great affection for music. His literary career can be divided into three phases.

#### ***First phase***

He wrote shorter poems. His poems are:

*L'Allegro* (the happy man): In this pastoral poem the poet describes the joys of life in the country in the spring season. This poem describes beautiful scenery of the fields in the morning and the carefree life of farmers and shepherds.

*I L Penseroso* (the thoughtful man) : This poem is set in autumn season. He describes the activities of a man who has to do his moral duty. The duties include visiting the church, listening to the music and studying books.

*Comus* : It is a masque ie a dramatic presentation with music.

*Lycidas*: It is a pastoral on the death of Edward King, his fellow student at Cambridge. He had died by drowning.

#### *Arcades*

#### ***Second phase***

In the second phase he mainly wrote prose works supporting Cromwell and the parliament. He wrote pamphlets attacking the King. He also wrote articles about church affairs, freedom and divorce. His language was violent in this phase. His main work is *Areopagitica* that advocates the freedom of press. When the parliament passed an act requiring all books to be licensed by an official censor, Milton was against it. In this book he argues that there should be freedom for writers and printers.

#### ***Third phase***

This phase began when Milton became totally blind by 1651. When Charles II became the King, Milton turned into a quiet life and wrote his finest poems. This was his most productive phase. His works include:

*Paradise Lost*: This epic is his masterpiece, which is written in 12 books. The story of the book is taken from the Bible. It is simple and common story of the fall of Adam and Eve from the grace of God due to their disobedience. Satan who lives with God in heaven leads a revolt against God. After the terrible war between Satan and God, he is thrown into hell. Satan then decides to take revenge on God by spoiling God's latest creation – the humans. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, created by God live in Eden. They live a carefree life without any work, boredom or pressure. God asks them not to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. But Satan, disguised as a serpent encourages Eve to eat the fruit. Eve eats the fruit. Encouraged by Eve, Adam also eats the fruit. After eating the fruit, they begin to feel sexual passion and know shame for the first time. God curses Eve that her life would always be sorrowful by bearing children and helping her husband. God curses Adam that he would eat bread only by hard work and sweating.

*Paradise Regained*: It deals with the conflict between God and Satan but is less splendid.



**Samson Agonistes** : It is a tragedy on Greek model that describes the last days of Samson, a character from the Bible. Samson, in his last days, is the prisoner of Philistines. They make him blind and force him to provide entertainment to the Philistines lord. Samson pulls down the columns of the building and the whole building collapses killing all the Philistines and himself.

### **Cavalier Poets**

A group of poets of mid 17<sup>th</sup> century who wrote in favour of King Charles I are called Cavalier poets. These poets wrote witty and light-hearted poems. They wrote short, light, and elegant lyric that appeal 'carpe diem' meaning 'seize the day'. These poets emphasize on the mortality of human life and briefness of physical beauty. These poets usually wrote love poems and poems about nature. The poets belonging to this group are Robert Herrick, Andrew Marvell, Richard Lovelace and Sir John Suckling.

ROBERT HERRICK: His poems are musical, polished and addressed to beautiful ladies. He also wrote about English country, its flowers and nature. In his poem 'To the Virgins to Make Much Time', he asks the lady to love him when she is still young because the time is running in speed. Otherwise, time will turn her old and nobody will love her. In his another poem, 'Upon Julia's Clothes', he praises the woman's beauty.

RICHARD LOVELACE : His best love poems are 'To Althea, from Prison' and 'To Lucasta, on Going to the Wars'.

## **Chapter 6 & 7**

### **Restoration Period**

The period after the restoration of King Charles II in 1660 upto 1700 (98 ?) is known as restoration period.

### **Restoration Drama**

During this period two types of dramas were written- comedy of manners and heroic tragedies.

#### **Comedy of manners:**

After restoration of King Charles into the throne, a new taste in dramas emerged which is termed as comedy of manners. These plays are hard and bright, witty and heartless. These dramas focused on the manners and ideals of high class society. The common themes concerned marriage, sex and fashion. The characters are people of fashion, fops, cunning people and beautiful ladies. The plot concerned battle between male lust and female thoughtfulness.

The important dramatists were:

- a). Sir George Etherege: He introduced comedy of manners. His play 'The Man of Mode' gives the picture of immoral manners of the society at that time. The play presents the war on sex.
- b). William Wycherley: He is a satirical dramatist. In his play 'The Country Wife', Mr. Horner shows himself to be respectable but inwardly he is full of lust. Another character Mr. Pinchwife does not let his wife meet other people because he fears that she may fall in love with other man. But he lets Mr. Horner to come to his house because he looks very simple. Later Mr. Horner seduces the wife of Mr. Pinchwife through his cunning simplicity. Similarly, in his another play



'The Plain Dealer' the protagonist shows hatred towards his corrupted society but later becomes corrupted himself.

c). William Congreve: He is a mature dramatist. His comedy 'The Old Bachelor' is about an old fellow who pretends to hate women. Later he marries a bad woman. His another comedy 'The Way of the World' presents the love intrigue of high class people. This play is finer than any other plays of that time.

d). R.B. Sheridan: In his drama 'The Rivals' he presents a comic character Mrs. Malaprop who talks too much to show her superiority. But most of her words are wrong and out of context. For example she says, 'pineapple' for pinnacle and 'geometry' for geography. His another drama 'The School for Scandal' introduces three characters whose love for scandal is so great that they strike the reputation of another character at every words they speak.

### **Heroic Tragedies / Heroic plays of Restoration period:**

The tragic dramas of this period were made up mainly of heroic plays. In heroic plays, men are very brave and the women are splendidly beautiful. These plays are called heroic plays because they are written in heroic couplets, a form of meter perfected by John Dryden. Heroic plays rhyme in pairs eg, - aa bb cc ... The subjects of heroic plays are love and battle for good purpose. The important dramatists were:

a). John Dryden: He wrote some of the finest heroic plays. His play 'All for Love' is based on the love affair between Antony and Cleopatra and their tragic death. His play 'Aurengzebe' is based on a struggle for empire in India. His other heroic plays are 'The Conquest of Granada' and 'Don Sebastian'.

b). Thomas Otway: His three tragedies are best. They are 'Venice Preserved', 'Don Carlos' and 'The Orphan'.

### **Restoration Prose**

a). John Bunyan: His two major works are 'The Pilgrim's Progress' and 'The Holy War'. These works are religious in themes and are influenced from the Bible.

b). John Locke: He is important because his works contain simple and clear language. His works helped to spread democratic philosophies in the world. His major essay is 'Essay on the Human Understanding'.

## **Chapter 8 Eighteenth Century Literature**

Eighteenth Century is often called as Age of Reason because writers of this period focused their work on social concern. They thought that reason is more important than emotion or imagination. For them, order was important in men's thought. Comfortable towns were usually preferred to the wild mountains. The writers of this period attacked the follies and evils of the society in harsh and direct language. Many journals like 'The Tatler' and 'The Spectator' were published. Similarly, people gathered in coffee houses and debated about religion, politics and literature openly.

### **Eighteenth Century Poets:**

a). **Alexander Pope:** He used mock-heroic poems as a means of satire to attack the social foolishness. He said that the proper study of mankind is man. His health was bad. He thought of life as a long illness. He also translated the Iliad and the Odyssey of Homer.

His important works are:

*Essay on Criticism*: In this book, Pope suggests that writer should follow the classic rules of Homer and Virgil. He says that to copy Homer is to copy nature.

*Essay on Man*: This poem claims that the proper study of mankind is man. He claims that poets should study man and his society.

*The Rape of the Locke*: This mock-epic poem satirizes on the fashions, norms, laziness, and double standards of the ladies of 18<sup>th</sup> century England. Belinda is a fashionable girl. Lord Petre cuts her hair in a theatre sitting behind her. The quarrel begins from home to whole of London.

*The Dunciad*: This mock-heroic poem attacks the dull writers of his times who wrote to earn their breads.

**b). William Blake**: He is also one of the Romantic poets. His poems have hidden meanings that are hard to understand. He did not believe in the reality of matter, or in the power of earthly rulers, or in the punishment after death. His best known poems are included in '*Songs of Innocence*' and '*Songs of Experience*'. The poems in '*Songs of Innocence*' are simple, lyrical and easy to understand. The poems included in '*Songs of Experience*' are difficult, paradoxical and symbolic.

**c). Churchyard Poets / Graveyard Poets**: The poets of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century who chose death for their subject are grouped as Graveyard poets. These poets are Edward Young, Robert Blair and Thomas Gray.

**Thomas Gray**: His '*Elegy Written in a Country Graveyard*' is one of the most beautiful and famous poem. It describes his thoughts as he looks at the graves of country people buried near the church at Stoke Pages. He wonders what they might have done in the world if they had better opportunities. His ode '*The Bard*' is a sad song which curses King Edward I, who had put all the Welsh poets to death.

**Edward Young**: His '*Night Thoughts*' is about life, death, the future world and God. It is written in blank verse.

**Robert Blair**: He also wrote his poems in blank verse. In his poem, '*The Grave*', he begs the dead to come back and tell something about the grave.

### **Eighteenth Century Prose Writers**

**a). Daniel Defoe**: He began his career as a writer by writing pamphlets, essays and poems and later wrote his most famous novel '*Robinson Crusoe*'. The story of this novel is based on real event but the characters are fictional. The main character Robinson Crusoe is left alone in an uninhabited island after a shipwreck. He spends almost 28 years in that island rearing goats, birds and doing domestic activities. Another novel '*Moll Flanders*' is about a beautiful girl whose thirst of money corrupts her. She ultimately becomes a prostitute.

**b). Jonathan Swift**: He was a bitter satirist. He attacked discrimination and the evils of the society. His '*Tale of a Tub*' attacked religious ideas. In '*A Modest Proposal*' he suggests that the poor, who need money should sell their children to the rich as food. This is a severe attack on the wealthy people and government of England that was responsible for poverty in Ireland. Another of his famous satire is '*Gulliver's Travels*'

**c). Samuel Richardson**: His novels examine the human hearts and show the human's character, attitude, feelings and emotions. His novel '*Pamela*' is about a girl named Pamela who is the maid of Squire B's mother. Squire B tries to seduce her. He treats her badly. But Pamela resists him. Due to her virtue, his lust changes to love. He offers her a marriage. Another novel '*Clarrisa*' is about a beautiful and talented girl Clarrisa. She is forced by her family to marry Solmes because every family members would get something in return from Solmes. In revenge she later marries a rake who sell her to a brothel.

**d). Richard Steele and Joseph Addison:** These two worked together in producing ‘*The Tatler*’, a paper of essays on various subjects. A more famous paper ‘*The Spectator*’ followed. They were educators. They were mild satirists. They exposed the evils and follies of the society. The visible feature of 18<sup>th</sup> century was the appearance of coffee houses. The coffee houses became the place for exchange of news and ideas. These two newspapers were born in coffee houses.

**e). Novel of Terror / Gothic Novels :** The novels of terror or gothic novels are about ghosts, witches, supernatural elements and dead persons. The plots are mysterious and frightening. They show impossible events. The writers include:

**Horace Walpole:** His ‘*The Castle of Otranto*’ is a novel about the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is about a ghost that lives in an old building and haunts beautiful ladies.

**William Beckford:** His ‘*Vathek*’ is about a man Vathek who visits the hell and is punished for his crimes.

**Ann Radcliffe:** Her greatest novel ‘*The Mysteries of Udolpho*’ is set in mountains. It describes the life of a girl Emily who is held by her aunt’s husband in a dark castle.

Similarly, **Mary Shelley**’s novel ‘*Frankenstein*’ is also a gothic novel.

## Chapter 9 & 10 Nineteenth Century Literature

Novelists	Poets	Prose Writers
<b>1) Early Nineteenth Century Novelists</b> a). Jane Austen b). Mary Shelley c). Sir Walter Scott <b>2) Victorian Novelists (Later Nineteenth Century Novelists)</b> a). George Eliot b). Emily Bronte c). Thomas Hardy d). Charles Dickens e). Oscar Wilde f). William Makepeace Thackeray g). Charlotte Bronte	<b>1) Romantic Poets (Early Nineteenth Century Poets)</b> a). William Wordsworth b). S.T. Coleridge c). P.B. Shelley d). John Keats e). Lord Byron <b>2) Victorian Poets (Later Nineteenth Century Poets)</b> a). Robert Browning b). Alfred Lord Tennyson c). Matthew Arnold	<b>a). Charles Darwin:</b> He is one of the greatest scientists of the world. His scientific works brought heated debate in England. His works are : <i>📖 A Naturalist’s Voyage Round the World:</i> This book gives account of his journey in the ship named Beagle. <i>📖 The Origin of Species:</i> His famous book that puts forward the principle of natural selection. He claimed that species are not formed by God but by natural selection. Nature brings variation in plants and animals. <i>📖 The Descent of Man:</i> This book claims that human’s ancestors are apes. Thus it attacked the Christian notion that God created humans. This book was highly criticized at that period. <b>b) William Hazlitt:</b> He was an important essayist of his time. He was a quarrelsome man. His most important essays are on literary criticism. His language is violent and filled with political ideas. His works are ‘Characters of Shakespeare’, ‘Lectures on English Poets, and ‘English Comic Writers’. <b>c). Water Pater:</b> He claimed that the main aim of art is to search beauty- not to teach social or moral lessons. Poetry should not contain ideas but should please the senses. His main work is ‘Conclusions to Studies in the History of the Renaissance’.


### ROMANTIC POETRY / ROMANTICISM / ( EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY POETS )


Romanticism is a literary movement that came against the 18<sup>th</sup> century Age of Reason. Romantic poets were against established rules of poetry. They thought that the poems should be written in simple language or the language of common people. For them, imagination is more important than scientific reality. They wrote about nature, village, common people and about mythical characters. For them, the aim of poetry is to please the sense.


Difference between 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Age of Reason & Romanticism	
18 <sup>th</sup> Century / Age of Reason	Romanticism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The writers wrote polished heroic poems caring poetic rules.</li> <li>* For them, reasoning was necessary to find truth.</li> <li>* They wrote poems about kings, soldiers or courtiers and praised them.</li> <li>* These writers preferred comfortable towns to the wild mountains.</li> <li>* They thought that poetry comes from the mind.</li> <li>* For them, the aim of poetry is to teach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The poets wrote simple poems without caring poetic rules.</li> <li>* For them, imagination was more important than reason.</li> <li>* They wrote poems about shepherds, farmers and common people.</li> <li>* These writers preferred wild mountains and nature to the comfortable towns.</li> <li>* They thought that poetry comes from the heart.</li> <li>* For them, the aim of poetry is to give pleasure.</li> </ul>

#### Main Romantic Poets:


**a). William Wordsworth:** He was the poet of nature. He wrote poems about ordinary and common things. He said that the language of poetry should be the same as the language of common people. He praised rural life. His important works are:


 The Lyrical Ballads: This important work gave the signal of the beginning of Romantic age. It was in fact a joint work of Wordsworth and Coleridge. The publication of the first edition of the Lyrical Ballads came as a shock because it violated many established rules of that time. Its major subjects were common people, farmers, and shepherds. Even the language used was simple everyday language of common village people. The poems praised nature. They saw God in nature. In Lyrical Ballads, Wordsworth said that the subjects of poetry should be incidents and situations from common life and should be written in ordinary language understood by common people. His poem 'Tintern Abbey' was collected in this book. In this poem, the poet visits River Wye and remembers his boyhood days. He thinks that nature is far more superior to the corrupt human society.

 London: This poem is a cry for help in the troubles of the world.

 Ode on Intimations of Immortality : In this poem the poet realizes that childhood period is better than the laborious adult days. This poem also praises nature.


**b). S.T. Coleridge:** He wrote about mysterious things. He makes ordinary things seem wonderful. His treatments to supernatural themes and meditative dimensions made him a true Romantic poet. His major poems are:


 Kubla Khan: This poem gives the imaginary description of the castle of Kubla Khan, the emperor of ancient China. The description of the castle produces strange and magical pictures.


 The Rime of the Ancient Mariner: This poem appeared in the first edition of Lyrical Ballads. An old sailor describes some strange misfortunes that happened to the ship. He shot a bird when he was in a ship in the ice of the South pole. A curse fell for this crime, water-supply ended and

all the sailors died of thirst. At last, the mariner blesses the creatures of God and the curse is broken. He is saved. The moral of this poem is that crime against nature is crime against God.

**c). P.B. Shelley:** He was a true revolutionary poet because he was against the accepted religious ideas. He saw goodness in the whole of nature, and he wanted all men to be free. His poems are:


 *Adonais*: It is one of his finest poems, is an elegy on the death of John Keats. The poet claims that John Keats lies in heaven while his critics are the fools of the world.


 *The Cloud*: The cloud is personified in this poem.


 *Prometheus Unbound*: It is a poetic drama on the Greek Prometheus myth. It shows the victory of love over hatred and revenge. The poet says that God are selfish, they hide secret from the world.

 *The Revolt of Islam*: This poem is a cry of impatience at the cruelty of the world.


**d). John Keats:** He wrote poems about mythical characters and mythical themes. He died at the age of 25 because of tuberculosis. He thought that the aim of poetry is the appreciation of Beauty. His poems give pleasure to the senses.


 *Ode on a Grecian Urn*: The main theme of this poem is that art escapes from death, time and change. In this poem the poet claims 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty.'

 *Ode to a Nightingale*: The poet wants to run away with the nightingale but he thinks that imagination is the best medium to escape from this human world.

 *Endymion*: This early poem is based on old ideas : the old gods, the love of moon-goddess for a shepherd, Venus and Adonis. He treats old myths in a strange way.

**e). Lord Byron:** He was a revolutionary poet. He went to fight for the freedom of Greece. He satirized many sides of English life and hated all false and insincere ideas. His poems are about adventure, love and rebellion. His major poems are:


 *Don Juan*: It is an adventurous poem which describes the life of rebellious and moody Don Juan. Don Juan falls in love with the friend of his mother. He has to run away because the society can not tolerate this type of love. This poem is the expression of free sexuality.


 *Childe Harold*: This poem is written in Spenserian stanza. It is about the story of a man who goes off to travel far and wide because he is disgusted with life's foolish pleasures.


### **Victorian Poets / ( Later Nineteenth Century Poets)**

**1..Alfred Lord Tennyson:** He is one of the most excellent Victorian poets. His works are serious and thoughtful as well as musical. He wrote about nature, God, men and meaning of life. His poems are often sad and pessimistic. He was worried about the modern science and about Darwin's theory. He experimented with new meters and his stanza's rhyme plan is often – abba. His poems study myth and mythical characters from a new perspective.

His major poems are:


 *The Lotos Eaters*: This poem is about the soldiers of Ulysses, who on their way to home from Trojan war, happen to eat the flower of a 'Lotos' plant. After eating the plant, the soldiers feel that all the troubles of life, work, war and ambition are meaningless.

 *The Idylls of the King*: This poem is based on Arthurian legend where the love story of Guinevere (Arthur's wife) and Lancelot is shown.

 *In Memoriam*: This is an elegy on the death of his friend who died at the age of 22. Later, the sorrows for the death of his friend changes into an expression of a wider love of God and man.


 *The Princess*:





 Ulysses:

**2. Robert Browning:** He thought that idea was more important than music in poetry. While Tennyson's poems were pessimistic in tone, his poems are optimistic. He married Elizabeth Barrett Browning, a Victorian poetess. He is especially famous for the development of dramatic monologue, a literary composition in which the speakers reveal their own character. His major poems are:

 Andrea del Sarto : This poem studies Renaissance artists.

 The Ring and the Book: This book is his masterpiece. It is about the events of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian murder trial. The characters in the poem are studied with psychological depth.

 The Pied Piper of Hamelin: It is about a Piper who gets rid of all the rats of a town called Hamelin by playing his musical pipe. When the mayor of the town does not give him money that he had earlier promised to give, the Piper then plays his pipe and takes all the children of the town and hides them in a cave.


 My Last Duchess: This poem also presents the psychology of the rich Duke of Ferrara. He kills his wife when he thinks that she is immoral.


## Chapter 11 & 12


### Nineteenth Century Novelists


#### Early Nineteenth Century Novelists

**1. Jane Austen:** Her novels are calm pictures of society. She understood the importance of family in human affairs. Though her two brothers were in navy (army), she paid little attention to the violence of nations. Her novels are novels of manner. She brought the novel of family life to its highest point of perfection. Most of her characters correct their faults from the lesson learnt from the life's hardship. In every of her work, she highlights the need of friendship and respect for a happy family. Her major novels are:


 Sense and Sensibility: It is a novel about two sisters- Elinor and Marianne. Elinor is balanced, reasonable and has too much sense while her sister Marianne possesses too much sensibility. Marianne is too much emotional. These two sisters are betrayed by their lovers. The novel ends with both of them getting married. Elinor gets the man whom she loved dearly. But Marianne marries an old man who helped her when her first lover betrayed her.

 Pride and Prejudice: The book focuses on Bennet family and the search of the Bennet daughters for suitable husbands. The story follows Bennet and her lover, who have to give up their personal pride and prejudice before they enter into a happy marriage.

 Emma


 Northanger Abbey

**2. Mary Shelley:** She was the wife of P.B. Shelley. She wrote novels of terror. Her main novels are:

 Frankenstein: This book can be considered as the first attempt at science fiction. Frankenstein, a college student, collects bones, builds a human body and then gives life to it. The creature is ugly but good. Everyone hates it for its ugliness, so it leads a lonely and violent life. This monster demands a female being like him who will become his companion. Frankenstein makes a female monster but immediately destroys it before giving it life. The monster then promises to take revenge. It kills Frankenstein's brother, friend and his wife. Frankenstein goes




in search of the monster but dies in the North pole. The monster is the symbol of modern scientific invention.


 *The Last Man*: It is a story of the slow destruction by disease of every member (except one) of the human race.


3. Sir Walter Scott:


### **Victorian novelists / Later Nineteenth Century Novelists**

**1. Charles Dickens:** He is one of the greatest English novelists. He wrote novels based on social issues. He is a realist novelist. He bitterly attacked the social evils, the money-minded rich people, and the industrial society. In his novels, he presents the lives of poors, their miserable condition and the cruel treatment of society to the poors. He attacked the bad effects of Industrial revolution that caused poverty, diseases, injustice and many other ills. He shows how true man is surrounded by villains, social climbers, criminals and cheats. In his different novels he describes and attacks many kinds of unpleasant people and places- bad schools, school teachers, government departments, bad prisons and bad houses. His characters include thieves, murderers, men in debt, stupid, hungry children and cheats. His major novels are:


 *Hard Times*: Thomas Gradgrind is a scientific man who teaches his children about facts and scientific reasoning. Emotion and imagination are never allowed in the lives of children. Consequently, his son robs the bank of his own relative while his daughter becomes a fragmented woman. Later Gradgrind understands his foolishness. This novel is an attack on science and scientific reasoning.

 *A Christmas Carol*: The main protagonist Scrooge does not celebrate Christmas and he gains pleasure by behaving other people badly. He is greedy and selfish. Three ghosts remind him his past, present and future and his coming death. Scrooge then becomes helpful, warm, loving and leads a religious life.

 *Nicholas Nickleby*: This is a tale of a boy who is left poor on his father's death. He is sent to work in a school, Dotheboys Hall. There the master, Squeers, treats forty miserable students cruelly, and teaches them nothing. Nicholas beats the criminal Squeers and then escapes.


 *Oliver Twist*: Oliver Twist is an orphan. He runs away from his workhouse and joins a band of pickpockets. He leads a criminal life because of hunger and poverty. Twist gets caught stealing from a wealthy man. The man finds that Twist is his nephew. This novel presents the cruel treatment of poor by the society.


 *David Copperfield*

 *Bleak House*

 *Pickwick Papers*


**2. William Makepeace Thackeray:** He was born and raised in a wealthy family. He is famous for his humourous and ironic description of the middle and upper classes of his time. He attacked the behaviours, duplicity and falsity of upper class society of his time. He gave the honest view of life. He knew that men and women are complex and humans have both good and bad qualities. His novels are realistic, colourful and lively. He understood that weak and innocent people are not rewarded but pushed to the wall. His major novels are:

 *Vanity Fair*: This novel is about an ambitious woman named Becky Sharp, poor but of noble birth. She uses her wit, cunningness and duplicity to become successful. She has to change according to the society's worldly standards. This novel satirizes the values of upper class English Society. Duplicity and double-standard are essential to succeed in life.


 *The Newcomes*: This novel is based on the life, love and marriage of Clive Newcome, the son of an honourable officer who loses all his money.


 *The Pendennis*


**3. Emily Bronte:** Her characters are passionate but cruel. She was too much imaginative and passionate than her sister Charlotte Bronte. Her most successful novel is:

 *Wuthering Heights*: In this novel, passionate Heathcliff falls in love with Catherine. When Heathcliff hears Catherine saying that she could not marry such a low man, he leaves the house. Three years later he returns becoming rich but finds Catherine married to Edgar, a man of weak character. Heathcliff buys neighbouring estate Wuthering Heights. Heathcliff then begins a life of cruelty and revenge. Catherine dies, and Heathcliff marries Edgar's sister, and treats her badly.


**4. Charlotte Bronte:** She lived in poor surroundings. Her poverty and unhappy life frequently appear in her novels. Her novels are able to develop strong feelings and emotions on the readers. Her novels are realistic. Her main novels are:


 *Jane Eyre*: It tells the story of an orphaned girl who falls in love with a married man. Jane Eyre is a poor and unbeautiful girl who is brought up by a cruel aunt and sent to a miserable school. She goes to teach the daughter of Mr. Rochester. Although she is not beautiful, Rochester falls in love with her. When she discovers that his mad wife is still alive, she runs away. Later the house of Rochester is on fire and his mad wife is burnt to death. Rochester tried to save her but could not. He becomes lonely and depressed. On hearing all of this, Jane Eyre marries him.


 *Villette*: It reflects the personal experiences of the writer when she was in Brussels; without beauty or money. She then becomes a teacher and wins respect by her good character.


 *The Professor*: It describes the events in the life of a schoolmaster.

**5. Thomas Hardy:** In his novels, nature plays an important part. Almost all of his novels are set in Wessex, among farms, trees, fields and low hills. His novels are darker and pessimistic in tone. The characters are controlled by fate, chance and natural forces. The characters work hard but can not fight with the fate or natural force and they die a miserable death. Most of Hardy's characters can not control their passion, greed and lust, so they are destined to fall. All of Hardy's major works deal with unhappy relationship, several with divorce. He thought that in this meaningless world people only suffer and surrender to fate. His major novels are:

 *Far from the Madding Crowd*: In this novel, Gabriel, a shepherd, loves Bathsheba with a true heart. He serves her faithfully for many years. But Sergeant Try, an attractive but cruel soldier, marries her and treats her badly. He is murdered by an angry farmer, and after many troubles Bathsheba marries Gabriel. This is the story of patient love on one side and selfish passion on the other.


 *The Mayor of Casterbridge*: This novel is about Michel Henchard. He sells his wife and daughter when is drunk for a few pounds. He promises that he will not drink alcohol for twenty years. He then goes to Casterbridge, becomes mayor and wealthy person. He falls in love with Lucetta. But when his wife and daughter arrive, he changes his mind. Lucetta marries Henchard's enemy. Henchard then loses all his wealth and starts drinking again. At the end, he dies a miserable death.


 *Jude the Obscure*: It is a story of Jude Fawley – a poor stone-worker. Since childhood he longed to become a religious teacher, but could not escape the problems caused by his own sexual desires and heavy drinking. Fate is against him. His marriage is a failure, and he falls in love with a clever teacher. Sorrows follow their life together; their children die, then Jude begins to drink heavily that causes his death.


 Tess of the D'Urbervilles: It is a tale of a poor girl, Tess, who is seduced by D'Urberville. She marries another man Angel Clare who abandons her on learning of her misfortune. Tess later murders her seducer D'Urberville to free herself from him. She is arrested and hanged.

 The Return of the Native

**6. George Eliot:** She wrote with sympathy, wisdom, and realism about English country people and towns. She wrote seriously about social and moral problems. She wrote calmer books which are full of moral lesions. She wanted to teach through her novels. Her novels are set in domestic and rural environment. Her major novels are:

 Middlemarch: The story revolves around moral choices in an imperfect world. It is considered to be her masterpiece and one of the greatest English novels.

 Adam Bede: It is about Adam Bede, a carpenter, who dearly loves Hetty Sorel. Sorel is interested only in Captain Donnithorne. Marriage is arranged between Adam and Hetty, but she escapes in search of her lover Captain Donnithorne. She does not find him. She gives birth to a child but leaves it in the woods. The child dies. She is sent to prison.

 Daniel Deronda

 Silas Marner

### Chapter 13 Twentieth Century Literature

Drama / Plays	Novels (and Prose)	Poetry
1. Absurd Theatre a). Samuel Beckett b). Harold Pinter 2. Serious Political and Social plays a). G.B. Shaw b). John Galsworthy  3. Comic plays a). Oscar Wilde b). Tom Stoppard	1. Women Novelists a). Virginia Woolf b). Iris Murdoch c). Doris Lessing d). Margaret Drabble 2. Detective Novelists a). A.C. Doyle b). Agatha Christie c). John Le Carre 3. Science Fiction a). Arthur Clarke b). George Orwell c). H.G. Wells d). Doris Lessing 4. Other Novelists a). Rudyard Kipling b). E.M. Forster c). D.H. Lawrence d). James Joyce e). George Orwell f). Joseph Conrad	1. War Poets First World War Poets: a). Rupert Brooke b). Siegfried Sasson c). Wilfred Owen d). Isaac Rosenberg 2. Second World War Poets: a). Roy Fuller b). Keith Douglas 2. Poets who attacked modern civilization: a). W.B. Yeats b). T.S. Eliot c). W.H. Auden 3. Poets who wrote about nature and natural life: a). Dylan Thomas b). Ted Hughes

## **Main features of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature [Literary Creativity of 20<sup>th</sup> Century England.]**


1. Many women writers like Virginia Woolf, Iris Murdoch and Margaret Drabble wrote about female experiences. They attacked male dominated codes, norms and themes. Their main characters are women and they write from female point of view. They wrote about the lives, problems and special concerns of women in the modern world.
2. Many writers wrote psychological novels examining the deep and hidden psyche of the characters.
3. Writers wrote about taboo subjects like lesbianism, gay, sex openly. The works of modern writers had no fixed themes. They were open to many interpretations.
4. Since this century faced two World Wars, the writers wrote against war, violence and barbarism. Patriotism began to be thought as absurd and meaningless.
5. Writers invented new forms and techniques, breaking away the established literary rules. James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and D.H. Lawrence introduced stream of consciousness technique. Similarly many absurdist writers introduced the theme of meaninglessness of human existence.
6. In this period, the marginal groups raised their voice in their works. Writers such as G.B. Shaw and John Galsworthy attacked the social and political corruption of England.
7. Writers like T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden and W.B. Yeats wrote about religious awakening. These writers thought that modern world has gone mad because man has lost faith in religion and God.
8. Science fiction and detective novels also emerged in this period.


## **Twentieth Century Drama**


### **1. Theatre of the absurd / Absurdist dramatists:**

Samuel Beckett is considered as the grand master of theatre of the absurd. The other dramatist belonging to this group are Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard. The writers belonging to this group show their anguish at the absurdity of human condition. For them, the man's existence on earth is meaningless. We do the same thing day after day. There is no newness or growth. They claim that our life is boring, dull and monotonous. The characters in their plays are often handicapped and like prisoners. They cannot communicate with other individuals. There is no proper plot and there is action without any purpose.


a). Samuel Beckett: He was born in Ireland. His plays are despairing plays. His characters refuse love and relationship with other person. He sees the language as building a wall between human beings which stops them communicating. His major dramas are:


 *Waiting for Godot*: This play shows two tramps, Vladimir and Estragon, waiting for Godot whom they haven't known. Godot never comes to meet them, and may not even exist. They do a lot of talking but their communication is meaningless and without any logical reasoning.

 *Krapp's Last Tape*: It has only one character, an old man sitting in a closed room with the tape-recorder, in which he hears his previous recordings and compares to his present situation.

 *Happy Days* :

b). Harold Pinter: The central theme of his plays is every people is stranger to the other. Humans can not communicate meaningfully with others. Humans are trapped in their own world. His major plays are:


 *The Caretaker:* The main themes of this play is that no one takes care of others. There are only three characters and each characters are empty. Their words and actions do not match.


 *No Man's Land:* This play shows the meeting of two old men who had known each other when they were young. One is now rich and successful while the other man is in many ways a failure. In a sense, they are enemies. Although on the surface they meet as friends, there is always a feeling of danger between them. In some ways it is the rich and successful man who is the real failure, because in his heart he is living in the 'no man's land' of no feelings and no hope.


 *The Birthday Party:*


## **2. Serious plays on social and political criticism:**


a). G.B. Shaw: He was born in Ireland. He gave new points of view and way of looking at themselves and the society they lived in. He delighted in showing the opposite of what his audiences expected. Several of his plays show in various ways the working of his theory of the 'Life Force', the power that drives people to value life as a great gift and fight for a better world, and that leads women, in particular, to want to have children so that life can be continued. He did not believe in Christianity but the life force. He uses comedy to expose the social evils. Shaw wrote more than 50 plays during his lifetime. His major plays are:


 *Man and Superman:* This drama shows that a women's real aim in life is to find the man that nature tells her is the right father for her children.

 *The Apple Cart:* This is a political play which shows that he was in favour of monarchy rather than democratic leaders.

 *The Devil's Disciple:* In this play, the man whom conventional society has thought of as evil and selfish is willing to sacrifice himself for others, while the minister of religion discovers that he should have been a soldier.


 *Major Barbara:* In this play, the heroine, a woman of strong personality and ideals, exchanges her belief in Christianity for that in the Life Force.

 *Arms and the Man:* He presents a soldier as a sympathetic figure who does not want to fight.

 *Pleasant and Unpleasant:*

a). John Galsworthy: He criticizes the social and political evils of the society and shows great sympathy towards poor and helpless people. His major novels are:

 *Strife:* In this play, he shows how the strike troubles the poor and working class people.

 *Justice:* This is about a poor man who signs a false cheque and later is sent to jail by the judge. Hopelessly he kills himself.

## **3) Comic plays:**

a) Oscar Wilde: His most famous play is 'The Importance of Being Earnest' which is filled with witty language. Two girls in this play fall in love with the name Earnest. They are in search of the man named Earnest. Two men pretend themselves to be Earnest and trap those girls in their love. This shows the difference between appearance and reality. The characters are shallow and cunning with double standards.

b) Tom Stoppard: He chooses characters from earlier plays and places them under different situations to provide audiences with new insights. His play 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead' is about two minor characters of Shakespeare's play Hamlet. Similarly, his another play 'Travesties' contains the characters of Wilde's play 'The Importance of Being Earnest' but they are analyzed from different point of view.



## **20<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry**

**1. War Poets:** The poets who participated in the war or whose poems are about war are termed as war poets.

► First World War poets: These poets participated in the First World War from England.

a). **Rupert Brooke:** He had a Romantic and patriotic view on war. In his poem 'Soldier', he glorifies England and says that he will be proud even if he dies for England.

b). **Siegfried Sasson:** He attacked the war lords or officers who ordered soldiers to kill other soldiers. He thought that war is destructive, pointless and inhuman because it turns humans into beasts. He also hated the patriotic satisfaction of the people at home who believed the heroic stories that the government told them about war. He also hated people who glorified war without understanding the misery and sufferings of people who went into the battlefield. In his poem 'Everyone Sang' he writes how the end of war brings comfort to everyone.


c). **Wilfred Owen:** His poems show very sorrowfully the discomfort, danger and pain of the soldiers, and the permanent damage which the war did to their minds and happiness. For him the soldiers who fight from different countries are all humans and their suffering is same. No one can become a hero by killing fellow humans. In his poem 'Strange Meeting' he imagines a meeting in hell with an enemy soldier he had killed who reminds him of their common humanity. His another poem 'Anthem for the Doomed Youth' shows the waste of many young men in the First World War who died as cattle.


d). **Isaac Rosenberg:** He also shows the brutality of war in his poem 'Returning We Hear the Larks'.


► Second World War Poets: These poets saw the destruction caused by the Second World War. The heroic patriotism was lost for ever. War did not only kill soldiers it also killed their hopes and future. The poets wrote demanding the end of all sorts of war. The poets of the Second World War are: **Roy Fuller** and **Keith Douglas**.

### **2. Poets who attacked Modern Civilization:**


a). **W.B. Yeats:** He was an Irish poet. In his earlier days he wrote poems about Ireland, its people and traditions. In later days, his poems became more universal in theme. He was disturbed by the brutality, loss of values and fragmentation caused by modern civilizations. His major poems are:

 *An Irish Airman Foresees His Death:* In this poem, the Airman knows that he will die in war which won't leave any positive effect for his country. Though he is fighting for the people, actually it won't benefit the people and his village.

 *The Second Coming:* He thought after every 2000 years, the earth gets destroyed and a new era begins. He envisions that the modern civilization is very near to destruction because it is about to pass 2000 years and new monotonous types of creatures will rule this world.

 *Sailing to Byzantium:* The theme of this poem is that art never dies, it escapes old age, decay and biological change.

b). **T.S. Eliot:** He is one of the pioneers of modern poetry. He was disturbed by the damage, loss of hope, and fragmentation caused by the two world wars. He thought that belief on Christianity and submission to God are only means to escape from fragmentation caused by modern civilization. For him, modern man is sexually impotent, hollow, fragmented and destroyed. His major poems are:


 *The Waste Land:* This is a long, complex poem which brings together a group of characters from different parts of the world and from different times. It gives a true picture of western civilization where people suffer from emptiness, barrenness, loss of values, cultural decay. Here



Hindu philosophy, Buddhist philosophy and Christian philosophy are brought together to make people aware that modern man should find solace from these ancient philosophies. He used fragmentary technique to show the fragmented man. The ending of this poem is :

Datta. Dayadhvam. Damyata.

Shantih. Shantih. Shantih.

 Four Quartets: In this poem collection, he claims that God is the only source that will provide wholeness and purpose to man's life. Modern people are depressed and fragmented because they have forgotten the values of religion and God.

c). **W. H. Auden:** His earlier poems show a concern for the important political and social events. He thought that the present situation of politics and social systems need to be changed. He thought that literature should help social and political change. He wrote directly about political events and their effect on private lives. His poems are about depression, unemployment and indifference of human kinds towards others sufferings. He also hated modern civilization that made humans like a machine without love and affection. In his poem 'Museum of Fine Arts' he shows how people are indifferent towards others sufferings. In his later years his poems show that spirituality and belief in Christian values can help humans to overcome anxiety, loss and depression. He was also like Yeats because he believed that modern civilization has gone mad because humans have lost faith in God.

### 3). Poets who wrote about nature and natural life:


a). **Dylan Thomas:** The language of Dylan Thomas is completely different: full of life, energy and feeling with great strength and power. His works praise and delight in natural forces: the life of nature and the countryside, the forces of birth, sex and death. His poems raise issues completely different from others.


b). **Ted Hughes:** He is considered as an animal poet because his most poems are about animals and their uniqueness. He thought that violence is unconsciously hidden in human and animal world. He describes the beauty and brutality he saw in nature. Some of his fine poems are 'The Pike' and 'The Cave Birds'.


## 20<sup>th</sup> Century Novelists

### 1. Women Novelists

a). **Virginia Woolf:** She is the leading figure of modern experimental novel. She also used stream of consciousness technique in her novels to reveal the true psyche of her characters. Her novels are about loneliness and love. She was the supporter of women's rights. Her novels show the psyche of characters rather than sequences of events in the external world. Her famous novels are:


 To the Lighthouse: This play presents a family holiday in an island. The youngest son wants very much to go by boat to the lighthouse but is prevented by his father. The son becomes very sad. After 10 years the same family goes to visit the same island. The son visits the lighthouse as ordered by his father. But this time also he is sad and hates his father. This novel shows the conflict between factual truth and more deeper truth.

 Mrs. Dalloway: In this novel, Mrs. Dalloway invites people to her party, but the people who come there seem lonelier in the crowd.


 Orlando: This presents a main character who begins as a man in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and ends as a woman in 1928, still only thirty six years old. On the surface, the story is fanciful and amusing but it is highly symbolic.

**b) Iris Murdoch:** Her characters face difficult moral choices in their search for love and freedom and are often involved in complex networks of love affairs. Her novels are complex. Her characters struggle with the society but at last they think that they can not change themselves and their society. Her major novels are 'The Bell', 'A Severed Head', 'Under the Net' and 'The Black Prince'.


**c) Doris Lessing:** She is one of the most politically conscious women novelists of 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her characters are unable to distinguish between the way things appear to be and the way they really are. Much of her works are concerned with the everyday and inner lives of sensitive women. She wrote psychological novels exploring the madness of characters and their deeper self-analysis. Her major novels are:


 *The Grass is Singing:* This novel is set in southern Africa. It explores the mind of the wife of a poor white farmer and her difficulties that lead to her destruction.


 *Children of Violence:* This novel is about Martha Quest who tries to isolate herself from the old ideas of the society, politics and religion. She lives by her own beliefs and ideals.

 *The Golden Notebook:* It is a powerful attempt to write honestly about women's lives and beliefs and the pressures that political and social events in 20<sup>th</sup> century life and society put on them. The male characters in the novel often try to hurt females because they themselves are weak.

**d) Margaret Drabble:** Her main characters are always women, and they are often women who are studious and intelligent. Before joining literary career, she had been an actress on the theatre. She is often called the "women's novelists". She explores the theme of feminism, search for identity, equal rights, freedom and justice. Her characters are confused women who try to integrate the family life and her career. Her major novels are:

 *The Milestone:* It is about a girl who has avoided any deep feelings or close relationships with other people. She finds that she is brought into the world of human feelings by her love for her child.

 *The Waterfall:* It is about a poetess, who is unable at the beginning of the novel to connect body and mind. She is saved from the coldness of her life by sexual love, and is at last able to understand herself and her personality as a woman.

 *The Ice Age:* This novel presents a wider picture of an unhappy world in which the coldness of the spirit and the feelings that comes when people only live in one part of their personalities is shown as a danger to the whole society.

## **2) Detective novelists ( Spy novelists):**

The detective novels are based on mystery, suspense and murder. The main character goes in search of finding the murderer, robber or something lost. The main character has to disguise in order to find the murderer or to solve the mystery. The detective novelists are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie and John Le Carre. Agatha Christie's famous detective novel is 'The Mysterious Affair of Styles' and John Le Carre's famous novel is 'The Spy Who Came in from the Cold'.

## **3) Science fiction:**

Science fiction is generally described as stories based on developments in science or technology, either existing developments or fictional developments of the future. Early science fiction falls into three main areas/ themes / categories:

☛ **Pessimistic View:** Some writers were afraid of the rapid developments of science and technology. They thought that scientific developments puts in danger to future of man and this world.

☛ **Neutral View:** Some writers thought that developments of science are both boon and curse. They raised the question what may happen after man has defeated the problems of war, disease and poverty. They may go beyond the limits of human body and gain some qualities of machines.

☛ **Optimistic View:** Some writers were in favour of rapid advancement in science and technology. They thought that although man may have lost something of natural life on earth, they can explore the world of space.

a) **Arthur Clarke:** His books take an optimistic view of technological progress. His novels and stories often focus on space travel and other ways in which technology will shape the future. In his novel, 'The City and the Stars', the struggle between man and the machine is shown. His another novel '2001: A Space Odyssey' takes up the subject of exploration in space.

b) **George Orwell:** His 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' is also a science fiction in which he shows how the advancement of all watching T.V would help to limit the freedom of people.

c) **H.G. Wells:** He was very interested in the scientific advances of his age and looked ahead to imagine what the results might be in future. He was optimistic about scientific advances although he was conscious of possible dangers. He also shows the struggle between humans and non-humans.


d). **Doris Lessing:** Her most of the novels are science fiction. She describes the world after it has been almost destroyed. Her famous science fiction is 'The Four-Gated City'.

#### 4) Other Novelists:


a) **Rudyard Kipling:** He was born in India and spent much time there but later moved to England. His novels project his ideas that English and England are superior to others. His novel 'Kim' presents an Indian boy named Kim who is born of foreign parents. Kim helps the agent of British Empire to acquire some secret papers from the Russians. His another novel 'The Jungle Book' is about a boy who is raised by wolves. He lives in the remote areas of India but later leaves the jungle in order to become a man.


b) **E.M Forster:** He presented new ideas about people and society. He was a humanist writer. Though he was a British, he attacked the British government for its inhuman treatment to Indians. He attacked the false and pretentious behaviour of people. He thought that society should be free from materialistic attitude to achieve harmony and understanding. His famous novels are:

 Where Angels Fear to Tread:

 Howard's End: This novel shows the conflict between spirituality and materialism. He attacks the people who are running towards wealth and false appearance. The people are judged by society as failure may indeed be more successful than others. Success is not marked by money and wealth but by goodliness, humanity and spirituality.

c) **D.H. Lawrence:** His works express the inner qualities of human nature. His novels have an influence of psychological theories of Sigmund Freud. His works analyze the human relationship in depth. He shows how the relationship between people is always changing. He analyzes the relationship between man and his environment, the relationship between the generations, the relationship between man and woman, the relationship between instinct and intellect. His major novels are:

 Sons and Lovers: This is a thinly autobiographical novel. This novel deals with the conflict between Paul's working class father and his middle-class mother. The mother turns towards her son for the emotional fulfillment denied to her by her husband. The novel ends with the death of the mother which gives relief to the son.


 *The Rainbow*: This novel tells the story of a family through three couples who are of three generations:


**First generation:** (Lydia and Tom): They have a deep and loving understanding of each other and also communicate with the outside world.

**Second generation:** (Anna and Will): They have physical passion for each other but their souls remain separate.

**Third generation:** (Ursula and Anton): They do not love each other but try to force their own wishes on the other.


**d) James Joyce:** He was born in Ireland. He created a completely new style of writing which is termed as '*stream of consciousness technique*' or '*interior monologue*'. This technique allows the reader to move inside the minds of the characters, and presents their thoughts and feelings in a continuous stream. It breaks all the usual rules of description, speech and punctuation. The works of Joyce are complex, paradoxical with no fixed themes. He brings history and myth in his novels to give new insights. He wrote realistic novels. His major novels are:


 *Ulysses*: This novel is about an artist named Stephen Dedalus who wants to free himself from this cruel world. The titles and characters of this novel are connected with and reflect characters and events from ancient Greece stories. This novel is funny, touching, satirical and paradoxical.

 *The Dead*: It is about a husband who realizes that his wife is in love with another man. But when he finds that her lover is dead, he finds satisfaction.

 *Finnegan's Wake*:

**e) George Orwell:** He was a political conscious novelist. He attacked all kinds of falsity, barbarism and corruption in British government. His major novels are:

 *Nineteen Eighty-Four*: This book describes a future world where word and action is seen and controlled by the government. The government has developed a kind of television that can watch the people in their homes. The government changes the language and teaches them to talk about only those what the government want them to do. This book provides the pessimistic picture of future government where people's feelings and emotions will be controlled by the government.

 *Animal Farm*: It is a political allegory, which tells the story of political revolution that has gone wrong. The animals on the farm, led by pigs, drive out their master Jones and take control of the farm. Soon the purity of their political ideas is destroyed and they end by being just as greedy and dishonest as the farmer whom they had driven out.

### **3. Reading between the Lines**

#### **1. Family**

##### **Father and Son by Cat Stevens**

The father says that life is more permanent than dreams. So, he advises his son not to be emotional. He suggests him to lead a stable life so that it would bring happiness in his life. He tells such things out of his experience. He points out the importance of being calm and thinking seriously and not making hasty decisions alone. The son complains that his father does not pay any attention to his desires. From the time the son learned to speak, he was oriented only to listen and not to talk. To avoid this, the son thinks that he should leave his home. He cannot agree with his father. It is very hard for him to keep dreams under control and even harder to ignore them. The writer talks about the so called 'generation gap', it means the difference in ideas, feelings and interest between older and younger people. In the poem, the father and son belong to different generation. So, their level of understanding and looking at the things are different. So, it has resulted in complete lack of understanding.

**What is the father's attitude to his son and son's attitude to his father? Which do you more easily identify with?**

The father thinks that his son is not a realist but too much dreamy. He wants to make his son do what he had done in his times. He wants his son to marry and settle down. He dislikes his son's bold desire for a change. He thinks that his son is still young and ignorant of world affairs. The son's attitude towards his father is negative. He thinks that his father has oppressed him since he began to speak. He thinks that his father is the obstacle in his progress. He is fed up of with the father's conservative and static thinking.

I more easily identify with the son because the son is bold, independent and wants to live a life of freedom. He leaves the stable life to fulfill his lofty desire. Even though he may fail, but he leaves the pleasure and protection of his house to fulfill his mission.

##### **Sons and Lovers by D.H. Lawrence**

The text explains about the son Paul's hatred to his father Morel. The hatred is caused by the father's nature and behavior. The father comes home late after drinking. He eats in manner which his son does not like. He is an outsider so the children do not talk to him although they would say everything to the mother. When the father came home, everyone would be silent. Mr. Morel is very happy when he is working or when he is among the working people. He wants to help him when he is mending something at home. The children enjoy it. When he is joining the metal tool he wanted by hammering, they watch him. We have some sympathy for the father. He dearly likes the children to talk to him. He is creative and skilled working man. He acts as he does because he knows that all his family members keep quiet when he goes home. He feels that they want to avoid him. When he realizes that he is not a real part of the house, he feels

uncomfortable. It is not clear neither he fully realizes what others think of him. Although the husband and wife have a sympathetic attitude for each other, this overall relationship between them is not a satisfactory one.

**Why is father an outsider in the home?**

The father is an outsider in the home because he has denied God in him. He does not share his emotions and feelings with the family members. He spends much of his time at the mine. When he comes home, he drinks alcohol to free himself from tiredness and frustration. Due to his bullying nature and drinking habit everyone treats him as an outsider.

**Is it common at Paul's age for young people to feel they hate their father's and mother's or conversely have a very strong attachment to them?**

Yes, it is common at Paul's age for young to feel they hate their parents. This is due to conflict between teenage psychology and adult psychology. Generation gap also brings conflict between parents and children.

**The father is presented very unfavorably. Do you have any sympathy for him? When, and how is it brought out?**

Yes, we have some sympathy for him. It is brought out at first when the narrator says, "*He would dearly have liked the children talk to him*". The description of father (cobbling, soldering, sewing, hammering and singing) shows that he has human virtues.

Similarly, his habit of putting patches on his moleskin trousers without leaving it to be done by his wife also signals his hard-working behaviour.

**In the extract from D.H.Lawrence's Sons and Lovers, Paul's father is presented in two different situations. Describe how he is presented.**

In D.H. Lawrence's 'Sons and Lovers', Paul's father is presented in two different situations- *one at home in the evening* and other *during working hours*. In the evening, he comes home being drunk. He scolds everyone and shouts at them. He does not talk with anyone. He becomes an outsider in the home and is hated by all family members.

But when he is at work or with his own working people, he is in good humour, happy and always sings. The children also enjoy working and helping him. He sits absorbed in his own work. He also puts patches on his moleskin trousers without leaving it to be done by his wife.

**Why do you think father acts as he does? Do you feel he realizes what the others think of him?**

Paul's father is a collier. He has to work hard in the mine to feed his family. In the evening he drinks alcohol to free himself from tiredness and frustration. But when he comes home he



realizes that the other family members do not understand him. So he directs his frustration and tension towards the family members by being violent towards them.

I think that he realizes what the others think of him. He realizes that he is not the part of home. This is the reason why he becomes so brutal and violent towards them.

### **Chicken Soup With Barley by Arnold Wesker**

The extract presents an unhappy family which consists of parents and their two children. Harry and Sarah are husband and wife. Ada is 24 years old married daughter and Ronnie is a teenager son. Harry is an irresponsible and undutiful father. He would spend much of his time visiting his mother and going to the cinema. The children were brought up by their mother. She has to do everything to run a family. Writer dramatises the situation by using third person pronouns for him and complains about his negligence and untidy manners. She even tries to remind him of his mistakes and wants to speak to her. Harry does not like to remind of his past and talk to her and asks her to leave him alone. This makes Sarah angrier. To escape the situation Ada wants to go her home but Sarah does not like her to do so. She is ready to do everything for her and says that a mother is to help her children and to do everything to make them happy. But Ada ultimately leaves and Harry is again accused of not asking her to stay there. Ronnie accepts the unpleasant situation at his home and tries to make peace because he has to live in the same house as his parents. His belief is that things can be solved by talking about them.

**Do you agree with Ronnie that ‘you can solve things by talking about them’? Or do you prefer Harry’s reaction?**

Yes, I agree with Ronnie that we can solve things by talking about them openly with family members. By talking, we can make our attitude clear and also will be able to understand other members’ opinions and attitudes. If we do not communicate with others and remain aloof, it will only increase misunderstanding and mistrust and ultimately damage family relationships.

**What difference in behaviour do you notice between Ada and Ronnie? Why do they react so differently?**

Ada wants to avoid the family quarrel while Ronnie thinks that problems can be solved by discussion. Ada has her own house and husband, so she does not tolerate the quarrel in the home and leaves away. Ronnie, who is still at school, has no other place to go. So he tolerates the family quarrel.

**How would you describe the relationship between Harry and Sarah? Who seems the stronger?**

The relationship between Harry and Sarah is not built on love, co-operation and mutual understanding. Sarah only finds fault in her husband while Harry does not communicate and help her in her work. So their relationship is bad.

Sarah seems stronger than Harry because she bears the responsibility of rearing her children. Harry is weaker because he is always negligent of family affairs.

### **A Night Out by Harold Pinter**

The extract taken from Harold Pinter's play, A Night Out centres on a mother's role. The family has only two members: a widowed mother and her 28 years old son, Albert. He has an official job in a firm. Albert wants to go to attend a farewell party but his mother tries to make him stay at home through emotional blackmailing such as asking him to play a game of cards, to put the bulb in Grandma's room and reminding him that he was all she had got. The mother is possessive and does not like her son to lead an unclean life by mixing up with girls in an unfair way. But Albert seems to be used handling his mother's demands.

#### **What similarities and differences do you find between Sarah's and Albert's mother?**

The similarities between Sarah's and Albert's mother are that both of them are strong women and both show strong attachment towards their children. The difference between them is that Sarah's relationship with her husband is bad and troublesome while the relationship between Albert's mother and Albert's dead father seemed to be full of love.

#### **Do you think Albert would 'rather stay with' his mother? If not why does he say it?**

Albert would not stay with his mother but would rather go out and enjoy the party. He says it to her only to make her believe that he loves her dearly. He is also emotionally blackmailing her.

#### **Albert's mother uses different stages of emotional blackmail to try to make Albert stay at home- 'our game of cards' is the first. Can you trace the others? What is the climax of this?**

Her first emotional blackmail is the game of cards. Then she asks him to put the bulb in Grandmother's room. Again she asks him not to mess with girls. Later she mentions him not to upset his dead father. I think that the climax of this emotional blackmail is when she talks about his dead father and reminds him that he is all she has.

#### **Why is Albert's mother so possessive?**

Since Albert's father is dead, she has no one to share her feelings, emotions and sorrows. She is afraid that Albert may mess with girls and neglect her later. So, she is possessive because Albert is the only source of her emotional fulfillment.

#### **"What's a mother for?" asks Sarah. How has she interpreted her role and why? What do you think a mother's for?**

She has interpreted her role as a loving mother because she thinks that mother should help her children whatever way she can. She says to Ada that she will wash the belongings of her. I think that a mother's position is higher than God. She has to love, nurture, protect and help the children in whatever way she can. She also has to understand the feelings of her children.

## **Emma by Jane Austen**

The extract taken from Jane Austen's Emma presents a happy family. The family is on a holiday for sea bathing. On the way, they are visiting Mr. Woodhouse, Mrs Knightley's father, at Hartfield. Mr. Woodhouse is very happy hoping their arrival at his house but he is unnecessarily worried about their return journey. When they arrived, Mr. Knightley is very careful about her father and the ways of Hartfield. She did not allow her children to disturb her father. She is a beautiful woman with friendly and loving nature. But her slight weakness is that she does not see a fault in anyone and she is not very clever like her father. Her health is poor but she is over careful about her children. As her father, Mrs. Knightley is kind and respects every old acquaintance. Mr. John Knightley is very clever. He is rising in his profession. He is domestic and respectable in his private character. But his small weakness is that he has reserved manners and was, sometimes out of humour. His wife's extreme sweet manners make his nature more defective. Compared to other families, there is a good love and understanding in this family. In the absence of these things, these seemingly insignificant flaws could lead the family towards difficult situation.

## **2. Environment**

To the question of Brazilian Government, Pet Wilkinson replies wittily that it is a typical dogmatic view. He says that, even if an area contains no human life, there are other lives such as plants, insect and animals. All of them have to perform their own functions. They maintain ecosystem and keep the nature in balance. To destroy forest, ignoring their function, is our selfishness and foolishness which invites a terrible tragedy.

### **A Proposal to save the world's Tropical Rain Forests. World Ecological Areas Programme**

According to the report published by World Ecological Areas Programme, the world's tropical forest is being destroyed very fast which will have many harmful effects. The people living in these areas will be very poor and they will lead miserable life around the overcrowded cities. Wild life and various plant species will disappear forever and the store of natural resources will be lost. The fertility of soil will be lost and it will cause erosion and landslides. The water level will go down and there will be reduction in water availability. The Co2 will increase and world food production will be affected. There will be great loss aesthetically and scientifically. We are destroying forest to earn foreign currency which will be spent in buying raw materials for industry and for imported consumer products.

**What are the statements of problem given by World Ecological Areas Programme (WEAP)? Or Why should we preserve Natural Environment? Or What will happen if ecology / natural environment / forests are destroyed?**

If natural environment or forests are destroyed, we humans will have to face a terrible tragedy. The life on earth will be near to complete destruction. The habitat and way of life of indigenous people will be destroyed. They will have to move to the crowded towns in search of habitat and

job. This will increase unemployment rate and lead to their systematic pauperization. Many species of unidentified plants will be extinct from the earth. This will be the loss of genetic resources that could provide new foods, medicines, fuels, textiles etc in the future. Many species of animals such as tigers, leopards, gorilla, orang utan etc will be extinct from the earth. This will also mean aesthetic loss. It will increase soil erosion, landslides and ultimately lead to desertification of most parts of earth. Loss of trees and plants will lead to water shortage, decrease of soil fertility and increase in pollution. The level of Carbon-dioxide in atmosphere will increase but due to lack of adequate plants, this Carbon-dioxide will not be absorbed sufficiently. This will cause global warming.

### **The Poplar Field by William Cowper (1731-1800)**

The poem “The Poplar Field” written by British poet William Cowper is a defense of nature conservation. This poem is remarkable for its celebration of the rural and its nostalgic tone. The poet finds that the poplar field which he saw twelve years before is now devastated and barren. The poplars are cut down; the winds no longer play in the leaves, the black birds have moved to other places and trees no longer afford him a shade. The trees that once gave him a shade are laid down and have become his seat.

The poet then realizes that his years are passing very quickly and one day he will have to die and lie in the grave. But other trees will not have grown in their places by then. This sight makes him think that though humans cut down trees for short-term physical comfort and profit; they are actually destroying human life and eternal human pleasures. The poet thinks that pleasures given by nature are far more superior and eternal than pleasures provided by modern scientific inventions.

In the poem The Poplar Field, the poet expresses the sense of loss in the environment through a series of contrasts. The environmental misbalance was not a pressing social problem during his life time; the poet is more personal and less universal. So, the poet reflects on an incident and its effects rather than a continuing and expanding problem. He also regards his death as personal and romantic and makes his point that man is destroying something precious for momentary pleasures. He considers men's enjoyments as less durable than their lives. The poem is written in the 18th century poetic language. The rhythm and rhymes of this poem are simpler and more obvious. Cowper's poetic style is formal and ordered.

### **Going, Going by Philip Larkin (1922- )**

The poem “Going, Going” written by modern poet Philip Larkin indicates that modern people, generally English people, are going in the wrong direction. He is worried about the future of whole of mankind. He thinks that by destroying natural environment, people of modern world are corrupting their village and their mind. He predicts that in the near future, England is going to become the first slum of Europe, full of cheats and tarts.

The poet had thought that the nature of village would not be destroyed in his life time. But he is worried to find that nature of the village has been replaced by concrete and tyres. The businessmen are ready to move their factories to the serene and beautiful village areas for more

profit and to obtain government grants. Now the city has become like the jungle of concrete and motor vehicles with only false peoples, tarts and cheats living in it. The poet thinks that England is going to become a polluted and barren country.

The poet talks about the threat to the country side and natural world by the expansion of city life. In the Larkin's time, environmental problem was a serious social problem. Therefore his voice is more universal and less personal. He regards his death lightly and less romantically but with a more urgent sense of time passing. Larkin talks about the loss of countryside in terms of what remains rather than what is lost. Poet's earlier thought that the environment would not be completely spoilt in his life time seems to be wrong which suggests the rapid environmental loss during the 20th century. The poem is less formal and seems less ordered. It is written in the current colloquial language.

### **What similarities and differences do you find in between Cowper's and Larkin's poems?**

Both the poems are similar in the sense that they appeal for nature conservation and show the hazards caused by destruction of environment. Both the poets talk about life and death. Both of them are worried about future.

Cowper was a Pre-Romantic poet while Larkin is a modern poet. So, we can find many differences in their poems. Cowper uses poetic language while Larkin uses colloquial language. Cowper talks about hazards of deforestation in general but Larkin talks about hazards of urbanization and scientific invention. Cowper's poem is full of romantic and personal feelings while Larkin uses realistic images and talks about social issues. Larkin thinks that destruction of nature brings poverty, prostitution and also corrupts the mind of modern people.

### **Civilized Man's Eight Deadly Sins by Konrad Lorenz**

Civilized mankind has forgotten that resources of life on earth are limited. Many fertile land in US have turned into desert and many animal species have become extinct due to cutting down of trees. Now the general public have understood this truth. By destroying nature blindly, in fact, man is destroying himself. He will realize his mistakes if he calculates the loss in terms of money. This barbarian act actually destroys his own mind. The young people will only see ugly and cheap man-made things, so they will not respect beautiful nature. The city people will not see the clear sky due to high-building and chemical clouding. The more we are civilized, the uglier we are making the town and country.

The writer thinks that the farmer knows more about the limited resources of life on earth than the civilized man. He presents the case of the USA and says the cruel exploitation of the top soil of the large area of plough land and cutting down of trees will change the land into a desert and various useful animal species will disappear. The man will realize the ecological destruction as a great mistake when his factories and farms will suffer economically but then it will be too late. Man's savage act, in fact, damages his own mind. If the rapid urbanization is kept on, the youth will find only artificial and ugly things all around them. Their view of the sky will be unclear because of the tall building and air pollution. In such situation a sense of respect to the older generation cannot be expected from them. So, it creates yet another problem. The civilization of

the modern time is bought at the cost of the destruction of nature. The writer presents the theme of environmental loss in very persuasive and effective way.

**Konrad Lorenz believes that ‘this barbarian process damages (man’s) own mind’. Do you think this is true? In what ways?**

Yes, I think that Konrad Lorenz’s statement is true. Modern people call themselves as civilized, but in fact, they are barbaric and savage. They measure the degree of civilization in terms of economic progress. They cut trees and destroy environment for more profit and physical comfort. Their desire for more and more profit makes them depressed and frustrated. So modern people suffer from many mental illnesses such as depression, hyper-tension, high-blood pressure etc. Due to this, suicide rate has increased in most of the industrialized countries. On the other hand, due to destruction of nature, everything--land, air, water--has become polluted which has damaged the health of people. Unhealthy body will certainly have an unhealthy mind. Thus, by destroying nature, people are destroying their own mind and their mental peace.

### 3. War

**Fredrick Forsyth's 'The Dogs of War'**

The extract taken from Fredrick Forsyth's, The Dogs of War presents a mercenary who regards the war as good because it gives him employment. As soon as the war ends, he becomes jobless. So, he describes the peace as 'Very nasty'. The mercenary called Shannon is being ironic because he holds positive attitude towards war. Through him the writer wants to criticize those people who have war mentality and employ such jobless people in very destructive wars instead of constructive works.

**Why does Shannon consider peace would be nasty?**

Shannon is one of the 'dogs of war' who wants war for personal benefit. He wants war for job and profit. He does not want peace because it will make him jobless and without economic benefit. So he considers peace would be nasty.

**Thucydides' History IV**

The extract taken from Thucydides' History IV presents negative attitude towards war. The war is evil and it has many disadvantages but a man goes to war if he thinks that the profits are more important than suffering and immediate loss. In 'History IV', Thucydides claims that everybody knows the evils of war but still they go to war. One side wages war thinking that profit is more than loss. The other side also engages in war thinking that it is better to face danger than accept an immediate loss.



## **Henry V by William Shakespeare**

The extract taken from William Shakespeare's Henry V presents the king's attempts to convince his soldiers. He advises them that as the war begins, they must be ready to fight for the country. The king wants to provoke them by describing various physical actions. The king reminds them of their bold ancestors of the glorious history of England. The king uses figurative language for his purpose. The similes used in it are so forceful that the soldiers are made to feel a sense of identity with the tigers, the brass cannon, the galled rock, the fore fathers and greyhounds. The king is commanding, patriotic and persuasive whereas Shannon is obedient and submissive.

In William Shakespeare's "Henry V", King Henry advises his army to fight bravely with their enemies just like their brave ancestors. Before the battle of Agincourt, King Henry encourages his army to imitate the action of the tiger, to make eyes like cannon, to stiffen their muscles, to set the teeth tight and to stretch the nostrils wide. They should fight to save their country England, their King and the glory of their ancestors. King Henry's advice is full of nobility, patriotism and pride for the motherland.

**Would you fight for your country or for your beliefs? What would motivate for you to fight?**

I think that our country is more important than our beliefs. We Nepali have different opinions and doctrines but our country Nepal is our collective identity. First of all, I would fight for my country because if there were no Nepal, I would not be called Nepali. Foreign countries may attack us and enslave us if we will not fight for the country. I would also fight for my beliefs but my fight would be peaceful. My spirit of nationalism would motivate me to fight for the country.

**What difference can you notice between Henry's and Shannon's attitudes to war?**

In Frederic Forsyth's "Dogs of War", Shannon is in favour of war for personal gain. War will provide him money and job. He does not like peace because it will make him jobless and without profit. In William Shakespeare's drama "Henry V", King Henry advises his army to go to war to protect their country, their King and the glory of their ancestors. King Henry is in favour of war for the benefit of the nation and to save the nation from enemies but Shannon is in favour of war for personal benefit.

## **Anthem for Doomed Youth by Wilfred Owen**

"Anthem for Doomed Youth" written by British poet Wilfred Owen is an anti-war poem that presents the grim reality of war. The title suggests the waste of many youths in the First World War. He juxtaposes church rites for the dead with the demented noise of bomb and shells.

The poet claims that soldiers die as cattles in the war, so it is useless to mourn, hold prayers or ring bells for them. The soldiers only hear the loud, demented rattle of bombs and guns in the war. There is no use of lighting candles for the dead soldiers because now they cannot come back. Their tearful eyes have already said goodbyes. The girls' brows will be their coffin cloth and their sorrowful minds will be their flowers. And in every dusks there will be more dead

soldiers coming to the funeral. He hated the patriotic satisfaction of the people who did not understand the misery of the soldiers.

Owen's poem *Anthem for Doomed Youth* presents the scene of battlefield where the soldiers are dying as cattle's because of the cruel and destructive war. The various references of the church services and religion in the poem show the purity and innocence in contrast with the bitter experience of war. Para rhymes (half rhymes) and heavy mono syllabic words emphasize the sadness of the war. The words like 'cattle' and 'rattle' shockingly emphasize the vastness of the killing. The poet is sympathetic towards the soldiers who die in the battlefield. His powerful poem evokes the pity of war and he maintains the distance from the horror of war by using third person plural pronouns throughout the poem.

### **'Returning, We Hear the Larks' and 'Everyone Sang' by Isaac Rosenberg and Siegfried Sassoon**

The poems by Isaac Rosenberg and Siegfried Sassoon present momentary joys in the battlefield. But even in this joy, a sense of fear is hidden. In the Rosenberg poem, the sense of sadness is dominant. The whole poem describes the pain of war except one exception of joy that is centred between the two fearful descriptions. The climax of the fear is seen when Rosenberg asserts that instead of the song death could drop. It suggests how narrow the margin is between death and life.

### **Speech to the House of Commons, 13 May 1940 by Winston Churchill**

**What arguments does Churchill give in favour of going to war?  
How does Churchill associate victory in the war with survival?**

Winston Churchill, in his speech to the House of Commons, during the Second World War, claims that their main policy is to wage war against the monstrous tyranny that has become their enemy. He has a patriotic view on war. He thinks that their main aim is to gain victory at whatever costs because without it there is no survival for British Empire and the values that British Empire has stood for.

## **4. Women**

Both the quotations taken from Patmore and Chopin present unfavorable attitude of a man towards woman. Patmore quotation roughly means, a husband cannot understand his wife even after passing a long married life with her. Chopin quotation says that a woman is very strange and delicate creature. She is very sensitive and highly organized and she should be handled very carefully. Patmore quotations displays male superiority, lack of understanding and ignorance and Chopin quotation displays awe, fear, lack of understanding as well as ignorance.

**Do you think Patmore is serious when he says- 'A woman is a foreign land'. Is he right? Do you think men and women have fixed attitudes or standard ideas to each other?**

I think that Patmore is not serious. He is ironic towards the females when he says 'A woman is a

foreign land'. I think that he is not right because women are also like males. There is no difference between males and females because both have same sense organs and both good and bad qualities. The women should also be looked as fellow humans. Neither men nor women should judge the other sex negatively. I think that both men and women have fixed unchanging attitudes towards the other sex. Men think that women are weaker sex, complex, objects that should be controlled, fashion-crazy, ignorant, immoral, sex dolls and inferior beings. Similarly women also think that males are arrogant, immoral, oppressive, brutal and complex. Men think that women should be confined to the four boundaries of the house and should do all the household activities. They think that women should love, honour and obey their husbands. Similarly women think that all the outside activities should be done by men. They should protect and earn money for the family.

### **Dead As They Come by Ian MacEwan**

The extract from Ian MacEwan's *Death As They Come* seems at first to present male superiority. The narrator is proud, rich and selfish. He uses the tone of flattery and exaggeration. The speaker, with his limited information, judges her and shares her understanding. He is attracted towards her and wishes to possess her even by buying. The passage presents the picture of a very affected woman who is fond of artificiality. The first impression is that she tries to impress the narrator through different body postures and varieties of lavish dress. In fact, there is a trick in this passage and the secret is that she is not a real woman but a plastic model dummy in a fashion shop window.

### **How would the modern feminist react towards Ian McEwan's description of women in "Dead As They Come", and why?**

The speaker in Ian McEwan's "Dead As They Come" has negative fixed attitude towards women. The speaker claims that he does not care for posturing women, but at the same time describes the different postures of the woman he loved. He later says that clothes are peripheral to beauty, but at the same time he gives the details of all the clothes she wore. The speaker then says that he loved her but soon his 'superior male ego' is seen when he says that to possess her he has to buy her.

Modern feminist would react violently towards the negative description of women in this extract. They would attack the speaker's notion that women are only consumer goods that can be sold or bought by money. Here the woman is presented as an inanimate doll that can be controlled and possessed at the will of males. The woman is judged not from her behaviour, conduct, talent, human feelings but from her physical beauty, postures and clothes. The speaker who had already divorced three wives thinks that all women can be bought by money. Modern feminist would strongly condemn the arrogance of the speaker who has marginalized women as weaker sex, sex dolls, fools, consumer goods, inferior beings and the object that should be controlled.

### **What aspects of the woman make her suitable for such a 'superior man'?**

In McEwan's "Dead As They Come" the speaker has negative fixed attitude towards women. His beloved's physical beauty, her artistic postures and clothes makes her suitable for such a 'self explained superior man'.

## **Middlemarch by George Eliot**

In the extract taken from George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, Dorothea is judged on the basis of limited information. The social judgment of Dorothea, which is unfavorable, is described by the writer. The writer is against the general social judgment of Dorothea. She wants to show how false and meaningless it is to judge her as 'not.....a nice women'. The determining acts of her life were her two marriages. At Dorothea's own impression of herself is unambitious with the idea that things might have been better if she had only been better and known better. This suggests a negative judgment on some aspects of her past. Though the society does not like her two marriages she positively thinks about them. The writer seems to sympathize with Dorothea. Sir James' View of the marriage is certainly negative. In fact, he was an early suitor of Dorothea and being rejected, married her younger sister. In *Middlemarch* Dorothea was considered a fine girl. So, it is her second marriage which causes negative comment.

**Do you think George Eliot is judging society and / or Dorothea? What conclusions do you think she wants us to draw from what we have heard of Dorothea?**

In my view, George Eliot is judging both Dorothea and the rigid Victorian society in her novel “*Middlemarch*”. She wants to highlight how the male-dominated society suppresses the women and imposes them the cruel moral rules. Here the society in which Dorothea lives is harsh and cruel towards women. The society does not evaluate her feelings, love towards her husband, benevolence, pity, struggle and her spirit but only negatively evaluate her on the basis of her first and second marriage. Though the love between Dorothea and her husband Will is deep and selfless, the people like Sir James Chettam think it as a shame.

Since George Eliot is a female writer, she wants to show us that male-dominated society always judges females in negative terms as weaker sex, immoral, ignorant, complex and inferior beings.

## **Othello by William Shakespeare**

In the text taken from Shakespeare's *Othello* the speaker is a woman named Emilia. She thinks that the main reason for the fall of wives is due to their husband's unfaithful behaviour. She bitterly criticizes the wrong doing of husbands which involves verbal abuse and negligence and sometimes physical violence. She challenges that their wives also have the same senses and desire for sport as men have. She says that it is the husbands who teach ill manners to their wives. She wants husbands to realize this fact. Otherwise they would not tolerate it.

In William Shakespeare's drama “*Othello*”, Emilia argues that wives learn the lessons of immorality from their husband's immoral behaviour. She says that both men and women have same sense organs, same sexual urge and both good and bad qualities. She wants the husbands to respect, love, co-operate and understand their wives. She further claims that if husbands have sexual relationship with other women, the wives will also satisfy their sexual urge from other men.

### **Do you think Emilia's position is compatible with Coventry Patmore's?**

Emilia's position is not compatible with Coventry Patmore's. Emilia stresses similarity between man and women but Patmore stresses differences. Emilia argues that men and women have same sense organs, body parts and sexual urge while Patmore argues that women are foreign, complex and inferior to men.

### **Our Bodies Ourselves from Boston Women's Health Collection**

The extract taken from Boston Women's Health Collection presents the condition of women and injustices against them. It was written by women to show other women that they were not alone in their problems and perhaps to make men aware of some of these problems. Women suffer from various injustices such as restrictions, frustration and limitations imposed on them. But they are unable to react and cannot leave home easily because they are financially dependent on men and it is difficult for them to find another home. For these reasons, women have to tolerate and turn their violent feelings inward and they may suffer from depression. This passage is different from other passages in many ways. It is modern, factual, committed and scientific in its attitude.

### **Summary of "Our Bodies Ourselves" published in Boston Women's Health Collective.**

The social structure and power relationships affect all human relationships. If we feel powerless, we are likely to be in stress and strain. This stress and strain need outlets; otherwise we will suffer from depression and frustration.

Men channel out their stress by walking out of the house or by using physical violence against their wife and family. On the other hand women cannot leave their home, so they often direct their violence towards their children. Generally, their violence is against themselves. Therefore, twice as many women as men suffer from depression.

This is because women are powerless in many legal and economic cases. They get low wages, the home is in the name of husband, and they are considered responsible for the care of their children. Women only leave their home when they find that their children are in mental and physical danger from their fathers.

### **Is the passage "Our Bodies Ourselves" more sympathetic to men or women? Do you think it is obvious that the passage was written by a woman?**

The passage "Our Bodies Ourselves" published in Boston Women's Health Collective is more sympathetic to women. The author of this passage has focused on the difficulties and problems of women. The author describes how the females suffer from frustration and depression because they cannot channel out their mental pain due to social or legal prejudice. It is clear that the author is a woman when in the fourth paragraph she writes "*Many women do not have the ultimate sanction: we cannot easily leave home*". Throughout the passage she has used 'they' and 'he' to refer males and 'we' and 'us' to refer females.

# 5. Authority

## **Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll**

The extract taken from 'Alice in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll presents a court scene. The Hatter, who is guiltless, is being interrogated by the king and the Member of Jury. The Hatter is nervous because he is afraid of the court and the power of the king and the Queen. The officers of the court are strict and they do not allow the guinea-pigs to cheer. The king and the Queen are proud and expecting obedience. They are tyrannical and dictatorial and they just enjoy exercising their authority. However, the passage is also humorous because of a great deal of word play which satirized the authority.

### **What is authority?**

Authority is always related to power. A person's political authority can be measured in terms of what taboos he can impose on others. Any authority is not absolute. It is again controlled by higher authority with much power.

### **What are the different types of authority that we have to learn to accept? In what ways have you attempted to react against them, and perhaps to impose your own authority?**

We have to learn to accept different types of authority at different places and at different stages of life. In childhood, we have to learn to accept school authority, parental authority and teacher's authority. We have to obey the commands of our parents and teachers. Similarly when we grow adult we have to learn to accept governmental authority, political authority, and legal authority. In the office we have to learn to accept higher official's authority, office authority, organizational authority, legal authority etc. Similarly at home we have to learn to accept senior member's authority, parental authority etc.

I have attempted to react against them by various ways. I have challenged teacher's authority by complaining their faults to my guardians and to the head of the school or by running away from school. Similarly I have reacted against parental authority by crying, being silent and running out of the house. I have attempted to react against governmental authority by revolting against them and being engaged in strikes.

I have also imposed my authority over my sisters, younger brother and servants by giving commands in loud voice and by beating or scolding them if they do not follow my orders. The tone of my language towards them is harsh.

## **Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell**

The extract taken from 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' by George Orwell presents an atmosphere of insecurity and unfriendliness. The Big Brother, in this passage, is the symbol of the state control of everything, constantly watching every individual. The Thought Police are employed by the state to look into everyone's thoughts, words and actions. It makes Winston live constantly with



the idea that everything he does is watched. So, he is very careful in what he says, does or even thinks. He feels that the police patrol is an intrusion (interference) into people's privacy. He also considers the telescreen's talk to be meaningless. This shows both a distrust and lack of respect for authority to be meaningless. This shows both a distrust and lack of respect for authority.

### **What impression do you have of the King and Queen?**

I think they are brutal and tyrannical. They treat their people as puppets and make fun of them. They even punish them even if they do nothing wrong.

### **Do you think the Hatter has any important 'evidence' to give?**

I think that the Hatter has not any important evidence to give. If he had evidence, he would have probably explained to the King and the Queen. Even the King and the Queen do not want evidence; they only want to make fun of him.

### **Why is the Hatter nervous?**

Hatter is nervous because he is afraid of the court and the power of King and Queen. He is afraid that he will be wrongly executed by the court.

### **a) Teachers / priests / policemen / entertainers / chairpersons, all of these exercise authority in one way or another. What is it about their appearance and general behaviour which enables them to convey this authority?**

Teachers use sticks and policeman carry guns to show their authority. Similarly entertainers use sticks to control the animals. Teachers, priests and chairperson look serious. Teachers and policeman have their own uniform to show their authority.

### **b) What are the characteristics of the language they use, and the way they use it? Give examples from your experience.**

They use imperative sentences. They express their authority by insistence, order, threat or by granting permission. The tone of their speech is usually harsh and commanding.

### **c) In their use of language, in what ways do they interact with those over whom they have authority? Do they differ much from individual to individual?**

They interact with those over whom they have authority by different ways. They use commands, requests, advice, suggestions, invitations, warnings, promises, threats and offers. Usually the tone of their language is forceful. Usually they use formal language in their exercise of authority. Their use of language differs from individual to individual. Teachers use a great deal of imperatives, priests use classical philosophical language while policeman use legal clichés. Chairpersons use formal language in a serious tone.

### **What are the Thought Police? [2058]**

*Thought Police* are the police who would watch over the people and would suppress those who are against the government. They would watch over people's thought, attitudes, beliefs, words and actions so that they would not revolt against the government and the ruler.

### **Who is Big Brother?**

Big Brother is a tyrannical ruler who would not give freedom to his people. He is also the symbol of future government that would closely watch people and suppress their political ideologies.

### **What is the effect on Winston of the ever-present watching authority?**

Winston is greatly troubled by the ever-present watching authority. He feels himself powerless in the hands of tyrannical government. He has to control his speech, words, actions and thoughts and even live in a manner of mental slavery.

### **Catch-22 by Joseph Heller**

The extract taken from 'Catch-22' by Joseph Heller states that one has to obey his commanding officer even if he is wrong or goes against the rules. Yossarian wants to go home after completing more than forty missions. According to the regulations of Twenty-Seventh Air Force Headquarters, a pilot could go home after forty missions. But Colonel Cathcart wants him to fly more missions and he has to be obeyed. The extract clearly shows how authority demands loyalty from the junior officers against logical rules.

### **What is Catch-22?**

In Joseph Heller's "Catch – 22", Catch-22 is a military law enforced during war or crisis. It states that junior officers' should always do what the senior commanding officer commands them to do. It says that junior officers should unconditionally obey every order of the commanding officer.

### **What impression does the passage give you of Colonel Cathcart?**

The passage from Joseph Heller's "Catch-22" leaves a negative impression of Colonel Cathcart on me. He imposes his excessive authority and power only for his self-esteem. He is a prejudiced officer who even hates all men outside his group. Actually he is corrupted by power and does not understand the problems, feelings and emotions of his junior soldiers.

### **What differences do you see between the authority of Big Brother and the authority of Colonel Cathcart?**

Big Brother is all powerful. He is the symbol of future ruler who would try to control the people

by controlling their thoughts and words. He wants to become an absolute ruler with no limitation of power. But, Colonel Cathcart is not all powerful because he has other senior officials who can limit his power. Big Brother wants to control even the words, thoughts and actions of the people. He even strictly watches discussion between people. But, in the authority of Colonel Cathcart, junior and senior officials can hold discussions. The authority of Big Brother is gloomy and deadly while the authority of Colonel Cathcart is temporary and less gloomy. The authority of Big Brother indicates the authority of the tyrannical government while the authority of Colonel Cathcart indicates the strict military atmosphere during war or crisis.

### **Loot by Joe Orton**

The extract taken from 'Loot' by Joe Orton shows a police officer using his authority. A bank robbery has taken place and Hal is suspected guilty of robbing the money. To get true information about the robbery, the police inspector Truscott is interrogating him. Hal is nervous because he is guilty and telling the truth, but the inspector does not believe him and tortures him physically by using police authority. The extract is humorous through word-play and contrast.

## **6. Indifference**

### **Nobody by Emily Dickinson**

Emily Dickinson's poem 'Nobody' presents poet's desire for a lonely life. She may be satirizing the position of the people who are great in the society. She likes the position of invisibility when she can enjoy herself. She uses metaphor 'frog' and 'admiring bog' for the great people and the society which admires them respectively. For her, to lead a public life is dull and boring. So, she wants the society to be indifferent towards her. Emily Dickinson thinks that she is 'Nobody' because she is quite different from others whom the society thinks as great people. She does not like to be "Somebody". She does not like to be what the society wants her to be. She wants to be unnoticed by the society because society always cares name, fame, popularity and outward appearance. She is an aloof personality. She thinks that being somebody is like being a frog in the bog. The frog only makes loud noise to attract the attention of other but that noise has no meaning.

### **Who are 'they'? Why do you think 'they'd advertise'?**

They are the people of the society. They are the people who are thought as great and popular in the society. They are the people following the codes of society.

They would advertise because they would want to prove themselves great by showing them. They would advertise them because they would think them as quite unique and abnormal.

### **Do you consider yourself a 'Nobody' or a 'Somebody'?**

I consider myself as "Somebody". I want to be known to the society. I want to participate in other people's sorrows, grief and happiness. I don't want to remain aloof. I want to change according the rules and norms of the society.

### **What makes a frog 'public' in the month of June?**

The frog is like a public in the month of June because at this time they croak a lot. They shout a lot to show their worth. Though they shout a lot to show their greatness, they are completely valueless.

### **Why does the poet like to be 'Nobody'?**

[Write the theme of the poem.]

### **I am by John Clare**

John Clare's poem 'I am' presents the poet's feeling of being neglected by the friends as well as by rest of the world. Due to the negligence, the poet finds himself in an unpleasant situation. He is suffering from chaos and confusion in the dream like world of forgetfulness. So he wants to escape from the problems and pressures of this world and live in perfect harmony with which he had experienced in his childhood. The figurative expression (the use of simile and metaphor) strengthen the poet's idea of loss and abandonment.

***Being fed up with the scorn, noise and meaninglessness of the world, what does the poet long for? OR Why does he want to be return to his childhood? Is this just an idealistic dream, or do you think he can recover some of his lost innocence? OR Summarize the John Clare's "I am".***

The poet John Clare in his poem "**I am**" is fed up with the scorn, noise and meaninglessness of the world. He longs to return to childhood, to sit with the God, to walk where no one has ever walked and where there is no trouble.

He thinks that no one cares him, no one understands his sorrows, and no one truly loves him. He thinks that his dearest ones have become stranger to him. He wants to escape from the problems and pressures of the world. He is quite unhappy because people have become indifferent towards his tragedy.

### **How does the poet assert his identity and existence?**

The poet asserts his identity by saying that though he is, no one cares and understands him. Even the title of the poem "I am" shows that he wants to assert his identity.

### **Down There on a Visit by Christopher Isherwood**

The extract taken from Christopher Isherwood's 'Down There on a Visit', describes different people's various reactions to the growing threat of war. The writer visits four different places and observes different reactions of the people. At the barber's shop a jaundiced-looking customer confidently takes about the certainty of war but the manicure girl is indifferent about it. Another customer is interested in the war. Then the author goes to the cinema and finds it difficult to enjoy it because he is continuously reminded of the crisis of the war. At Aunt Edith's it seems that she has strong dislike for war but she does not care about it. Finally he visits Dr. Fisch who

says that violence is never dangerous and he suggests the writer to analyze the incidents by objective and logical point of view.

### **Musee des Beaux Arts by W.H. Auden**

In the poem 'Musee des Beaux Arts' W.H. Auden uses a painting by Brueghel to show the indifference to the death of Icarus by falling into the sea while trying to fly near the sun. The poet shows the contrast of past and present attitude to the human sufferings. The Old Masters had understood the suffering and its human position. In spite of Icarus's tragedy, everyone is indifferent to it and life goes on as usual. The poem presents the normality of ordinary life and human suffering going on simultaneously.

### **Summarize the poem “Musee des Beaux Arts” by W.H. Auden**

In his poem “Musee des Beaux Arts”, W.H Auden shows how life goes on indifferent to a crisis or one person’s tragedy. The poet uses a painting by Brughel where Icarus is half-drowned in the sea to show that man is indifferent to other sorrows and tragedy. The poet says that the old painters and old scholars were never wrong because they knew that being indifferent to other sorrows is a human position. When old people are waiting their death and want the miraculous birth of Christ, the young’s do not care, nor do they want it because they are happy in their own playful world. The old masters or old scholars never forgot that even once powerful and great has to surrender before death. He then says that in the painting of Brughel everyone turns blind eye to the disaster of Icarus. The ploughman may have heard the cry of Icarus but for him it was not important to save him. Even the nature was in its own course. The sun shone as usual. The expensive ship may have seen the falling body of Icarus but it had to sail to its own destination. So, it sailed calmly away.

### **Who are ‘they’? What did they understand, and never forget?**

‘They’ referred in the poem “Musee des Beaux Arts” are the ancient masters, old painters or ancient scholars. They understood that being indifferent to other sorrows and tragedy is a human position. No one cares the sorrows, pains and sufferings of other people. Everyone is engaged in his / her own personal benefit and own world. They understood that when old people chant the name of Christ the young people only care their own playful world. When one suffers, he is alone in his tragedy.

### **What do you think the ‘miraculous birth’ might be?**

The ‘miraculous birth’ might be the birth of Christ. The old people wait for the miraculous birth of Christ because they remember God only when they are about to die. In other words the old want to be born again. They want to rise again like the Christ who had resurrected after his death.

### **A Refusal to Mourn the Death by Fire, of a child in London by Dylan Thomas**

The poem 'A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a child in London' by Dylan Thomas explains why he finds it important to remain indifferent in some situations. The poet is

indifferent towards the death of the girl because death, in his opinion, has to be accepted as a simple fact in this world. So he refuses to mourn the death until the end of the time and the world as we know it.

**Summarize the poem “A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London” by Dylan Thomas.**

The poet says that he will not mourn for the death of the child because man is made in darkness and ultimately goes to darkness. It is a grave truth to die. There is no greater truth than death. No one can stop it. The sea is still and does not mourn for the death of the child. The poet will meet her in heaven after he will also die. So he thinks it useless to mourn for her death. For him, death is not an end. It has continued since the beginning of the world. But after death, we again enter to life. There are long friends of dead because from the very beginning of the world infinite numbers of people have died.

**The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that’s the essence of inhumanity. Discuss**

Indifference means showing lack of interest, feeling or reaction towards something or somebody. Man is by nature a social animal. Man cannot live by bread alone. He needs emotional fulfillment. He needs someone with whom he can share his emotions, feelings, sorrows and sentiments. A man cannot live a lonely life. Man needs a society where he is sometimes loved and sometimes hated. In a family, if parents scold and beat their children, the children do not feel so much bad. They feel much worse when their parents do not participate in their sorrows and feelings or when their parents are indifferent towards them. There are various types of people in the society- beggars, poor, handicapped etc. They have to be helped. If we are indifferent towards their sorrows and sentiments and do not interact with them, it is a worst crime. Being indifferent breaks the heart of people. So, it is worst crime than hating.

## **7. Rebellion**

### **Animal Farm by George Orwell**

The extract taken from the political allegory 'Animal Farm' presents a rebellion caused by the negligence of the master Mr. Jones. Formerly Mr. Jones was a capable farmer and took control of the farm but later on he becomes careless. His men are idle and dishonest. The animals in the farm are underfed and mistreated. Finally they cannot bear it and they revolt against the masters and drive them out. The rebellion is caused by the cruel and dishonest behavior of the masters.

#### **Why did the animals revolt?**

Mr. Jones and his keepers did not care the animals in the shed. The keepers had milked the cows and had gone to hunt rabbits without feeding the animals. Even in the evening no one cared the animals. When they tried to quench their hunger by breaking the store-shed, they were severely beaten. So, the animals revolted because they could not tolerate their hunger.



### **Do you think the animals' reaction was justified? [2057-15]**

Yes I think that the animals' reaction was justified. The basic need of all living creatures is food. Living beings cannot live without food. In George Orwell's novel "Animal Farm", the animals are not properly cared and fed by the masters and the keepers. They only milk the cows but do not feed them properly. The animals revolted only when their life was in danger. Even when they tried to go to the store-house to quench their hunger, they were severely beaten by their master. So, they had no other option than to revolt. This shows that even animals unconsciously revolt when there is danger of their life.

### **Decide on possible reasons for Orwell's making his rebels animals. Why not human beings?**

In his novel "Animal Farm", George Orwell chooses animal characters to show that rebellion is necessary when there is threat of life and freedom. Actually this is a political allegory. He wants to say us that rebellion is not done by brain or in a pre-planned way. Rebellion bursts itself if the basic needs of the citizens are not fulfilled by the government. From this novel, he wants us to show us that even animals unconsciously revolt when there is danger of their life.

### **Paradise Lost by Milton**

The extract taken from Milton's 'Paradise Lost' presents a rebellion caused by Satan's revenge motive. Satan tries to motivate one of the God's angels to join his camp. The angel shows unwillingness and says that it is good to serve in heaven than to rule in hell. To serve the unwise is to accept slavery. He challenges Satan and attacks him, and a fearful battle takes place between the power of heaven and hell. George Orwell passage conveys the violence of the rebellion by words indicating action where as Milton poem conveys violence by using sound and movement words. Many sentences have an unusual word order to heighten the poetic effect for his epic purpose.

### **How does the extract describe the battle between the Powers of Heaven and Hell? [John Milton, "Paradise Lost"]**

In his epic "Paradise Lost", John Milton describes how Satan and his followers revolted against God and the angels of Heaven. In this extract Abdiel is in favour of God. He says to Satan that it is better to serve in Heaven than rule in Hell. He does not like the rebellion of Satan against God. He says that Satan is not fit to become the master because no one can be as great as God. Abdiel then raises his weapon and hits on the head of Satan. Satan can not protect himself, so he turns ten steps backward. Soon war is announced on both sides. The angels of God also want to fight against Satan while the Satan and his followers are also ready to defeat God. Michael sounds the trumpet to announce the battle. Soon there is loud noise in Heaven. The chariots start running towards the battle field. Several arms are thrown to kill the Satans. The sounds of the weapons and the cry of the wounded armies is heard everywhere. On both sides armies are willing to kill their enemies.

## **Macbeth by William Shakespeare**

The extract taken from Shakespeare's tragedy 'Macbeth' presents a background of rebellion due to the growing ambition of Macbeth. He is on the point of committing the ultimate act of rebellion. In this soliloquy, Macbeth analyses the positive and negative possibilities in the intended action. If the killing would not cause any difficult consequences, he would commit the murder as soon as possible. But he sees various negative possibilities because of the king's virtues and kindness, and there are not any good reasons for killing the king apart from his growing ambition.

**Macbeth, in Shakespeare's play, is on the point of committing the ultimate act of rebellion.**

**Now give answer for:**

**a). What is the ultimate act of rebellion?**

Macbeth's ultimate act of rebellion is to kill King Duncan who has come to his castle as a guest. He wants to kill him and become King himself.

**b). What reasons does Macbeth give for not killing Duncan?**

Before killing Duncan, Macbeth also thinks that Duncan should not be killed because of two reasons. The first reason is that King Duncan is his relative and the virtuous King loved by all. The second reason is that King Duncan has come as a guest in the castle of Macbeth. He also thinks that killing Duncan will anger the God and angels of the God; and he will be punished for his crime.

**c). What is the only reason he has for killing Duncan?**

The only reason Macbeth has for killing Duncan is his terrible ambition, that is, his passion for power and glory.

**d). Will the action of killing Duncan be over quickly, or will it have consequences?**

The action of killing Duncan will not be over quickly. It will have consequences. The murderer will not live in mental peace. He will be punished for his crime in this earth. The man who lives by the power of sword will be killed by the sword. Killing of Duncan will anger the powers of Heaven and punish Macbeth.

**Why does Shakespeare make the contrast between angels and damnation?**

In William Shakespeare's "Macbeth", King Duncan is a virtuous king while Macbeth is a cruel, selfish and power-mad king. The angels' represent the goodness and simplicity of King Duncan while damnation represents the evilness and cunningness of Macbeth. By making contrast between angels and damnation, William Shakespeare wants to show us that deeds and names of virtuous person are always heard by angels and Gods while the evils done by anyone will have its consequences in the hell.

**Do you think Macbeth killed King Duncan? Give reason.**

Yes, Macbeth killed King Duncan because Macbeth was blind with his terrible ambition. He had the desire to become the king. On the other hand, it was very easier to kill King Duncan because he was in the castle of Macbeth. Even no one would suspect Macbeth for the murder since he was the relative of the King.

**The Sacred and Profane Love Machine by Irish Murdoch**

The Irish Murdoch passage presents a short sharp and violent rebellion which is called terrorism. The two young men shoot the people in the airport lounge with machine guns. The reason of the murder is unknown. There is no evidence why the man in the lounge was deliberately chosen as a victim. The killing seems for nothing. So, this type of rebellion does not seem justifiable.

## **8. Ideals**

**Autobiography by Bertrand Russell**

The extract taken from Bertrand Russell's 'Autobiography' presents his three strong desires which control his life. They include the deep desire for love, the search for knowledge and the feeling of pity for the human suffering. He desires love because it brings him greatest happiness, helps him forget loneliness and makes him realize a sense of heaven. He desires knowledge because it makes his understanding broad and helps him to understand human heart. Love and knowledge always lead him towards heaven while pity brings him back to earth. He is greatly affected by the human sufferings which mocks the true human life. In spite of these, he finds life worth living.

**Summary of Bertrand Russell's "Autobiography". Or, How do love and knowledge lead Russell upward? Or, In what way does Russell find life to be worth living? Or, List the three passions that governed Russell's life.**

In his "Autobiography", Bertrand Russell writes that three passions have governed his life: *the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and pity for the suffering of mankind*. He thinks that love brings ecstasy, it frees us from loneliness. Heaven is created out of love. Poets and saints imagine Heaven as the model of Love. He thinks that knowledge is necessary to understand the hearts of men and laws of nature. Love and knowledge lead upwards to the heaven. Russell thinks that pity had always brought him back to earth. He feels pity towards the people who suffer from famine, oppression, loneliness and poverty. Pity is the greatest human virtue. Russell says that he would devote his whole life for these three passions and make his life worth-living.

**Heaven by Rupert Brooke**

The poem 'Heaven' by Rupert Brooke presents an ideal heaven of fish. The fishy hope or fear and thoughts and dreams are similar to human dreams and ideals reflecting human hopes. They

reflect eternal hopes for something better and the benevolence of God. They like water and mud of better quality, a different kind of vegetation, better food, relaxation and water everywhere. They do not like land, threat, dryness and scarcity of food as they may face in this world. No doubt, such ideal heaven makes them feel their life worth living.

### **Kubla Khan by Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem 'Kubla Khan', gives the idealized magical pictures of the 'pleasure-dome' of Xanadu and its surrounding. The poem is full of visual symbols. The 'pleasure-dome' is a creation of perfection. The description of the dome, the fountain, the scared river, the sweet-smelling trees, the caves of ice and sunless sea together create an enchanted atmosphere and it reminds us of a concept of ideal heaven. The whole scene was a miracle of rare device as if it needed a heavenly touch of the Maker. As Kubla Khan ordered to make a pleasure dome in Xanadu, the poet wants to recall the sound of music and singing of 'an Abyssinian maid of his dream so that he would be able to recreate the pleasure-dome in his imagination.

### **Bleak House by Charles Dickens**

The extract taken from Charles Dickens's 'Bleak House' shows blind idealism of Mrs. Jellyby. The whole extract describes the 'Telescopic Philanthropy' means the misguided love of mankind. She seems to forget the idea that charity begins at home. For her family matters little but the faraway place Borrioboola-Gha is much more important. She thinks more about the families in Borrioboola-Gha but the situation at her own home seems to be totally neglected. The passage is humorous and ironical.

**Discuss why 'Telescopic Philanthropic' is an apposite title for the chapter. OR How many individual examples of Mrs Jellyby's neglect can you find? OR What is Charles Dickens criticizing in the passage of 'Bleak House'.**

Charles Dickens is criticizing the duplicity of humans. He is criticizing the behaviour of Mrs. Jellyby who has a false ideal to help the natives of Borrioboola-Gha. She is busy in her African project. In fact, she does not care her own house and children. She wants to raise her social impression, but she is negligent of family affairs. Her house and room are dirty, filled with papers and litters. Her children are untidy, dirty and with out proper clothes. Her house has no proper lights. She does not show her motherly love when one of her child falls from the stairs. The furniture's are broken. She does not comb her hair and even her dresses are not good. The children are unhealthy and thin. They have no slippers on their foot.

This chapter is titled 'Telescopic Philanthropic' to show how people like Mrs Jellyby only look farther away like a telescope without concentrating on their homes. They try to show that they love humanity only to raise social status. They neglect other humans nearer and around them.

### **Ulysses by Alfred Lord Tennyson**

The poem 'Ulysses' by Alfred Lord Tennyson presents the voice of an aged Ulysses. He is an idealist, a world-famous hero of Homer's Odyssey. He is restless and dissatisfied with his present

normal life at home. For him life is something much more than only to breathe. So, in spite of his old age, Ulysses desires to set out on an infinite and adventurous journey in search of knowledge. The age hero's hungry heart for knowledge, his intense will for noble work and his great commitment to endeavor, to find and not to yield in life present and ideal philosophy of human life.

## **9. Ambitions**

Most of the people have small ambitions which they would never admit. The extract taken from Peter Tinniswood's 'I Didn't know you cared' presents a character's power ambition which he desires to have in order to control everybody's sound in a crowded room as if by magic power. In the extract from 'Tamburlaine', Marlowe describes the four elements (air, earth, water, fire) within the human soul which teach men to have ambitious minds. So, men wear themselves and never rest unless they reach the summit of their ambitions.

### **Robert Browning by Andrea del Sarto**

The poem Andrea del Sarto of Robert Browning is a dramatic monologue which is addressed to Lucrezia. The poem presents the contrast between the speaker's uninspired but flawless and other painters' inspired but technically imperfect craftsmanship. Compared to other painters' inspired man ship, Andrea del Sarto's art is perfect within his grasp and not aiming beyond his limitations. But his ambition makes him view his work as worse because it would be better to overreach himself, to run risks, to try unknown instead of remaining predictable and perfect.

### **The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde**

The extract taken from Oscar Wilde's 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' presents Sybil's ambition not for herself but for Jim. The nature of Sybil's fantasy is impossible and exaggerated. It is romantic and almost traditional in nature. She imagines that the hero overcomes all kind of mensters and difficulties, and finally becomes rich and happy and returns with a dream girl. Her fantastic ambitions for Jim show that she cares about Jim, but knows very little about him. Her faith in God is rather childish.

### **Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard by Thomas Gray**

Thomas Gray's poem 'Elegy written in a country Churchyard' shows him sympathy towards the poor villagers who are buried near the church of Stoke Poges. These villagers have been the victims of total negligence and forgetfulness. The poet warns the great and ambitious people not to mock them because death knows no discrimination and after death all are equal. The poet also thinks that if they had got opportunities, they would have been great personalities. In fact the poet thinks that ambitions is useless and 'the paths of glory lead but to the grave'.

## 10. Meaning

Meaning emerges in various ways. Sometimes characters deliberately do not say what they mean. In the extract taken from Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest' Gwendolene and Cecily make a pretence of politeness, in fact, engaging in a 'war of nerves'. So their speech contains unexpressed meanings. As in Jane Austen's passage taken from Emma, at times, hidden meaning can be found in riddles and enigmas. They require a person's wits for solution. Sometimes, it is wrong to read too much meaning into an author's work as in the extract from Beckett's 'Happy Days' in which Winnie does not mean anything in particular.