

## Paragraph

Paragraph writing is the basic of all kinds of writing arts –creative or narrative. There should be a topic sentence in a paragraph. The topic is explained and developed by supporting sentences. Supporting sentences substantiate the topic with examples and explanations. Such explanatory sentences should be ordered logically to develop the topic to a good paragraph.

**Q 1: *The principal of Texas School said that Martha had to pay for the jacket. Was it a trick to deny the jacket she deserved? What do you think? Write a paragraph.***

Martha, the central character of the story ‘The Scholarship Jacket’ is a brilliant student in the eighth grade. She has been keeping consistently her A grade since her first standard. So everybody at the Texas school expects Martha to be the winner of the Scholarship Jacket this year. But in the final hours there comes the shocking declaration from the principal that Martha should pay 15 dollars for the jacket as a policy change. This undermines all expectations of Martha and her well-wishers. The school management is clearly under the suspicion of playing discrimination. Martha is the daughter of a poor Mexican farmer and her opponent Joann is an American and the daughter of the school-board member. Joann, though comes second in the list of possible winners, is nowhere near Martha’s grades. There had been a heated argument between her two teachers regarding the award before the principal’s declaration of change of policy. The history teacher stood for justice while the Math teacher wanted to falsify the record in favour of Joann. Martha had accidentally overheard this argument, but did not expect it to shatter her dreams. This argument shows certainly the presence of a foul-play. They believe that Martha cannot pay the amount as she is poor and then the award will smoothly go to the next in the list. Yes, the policy change is a trick to deny the award to the deserving Martha. But the strong determination of Martha’s grandfather made all wrong-doers yield to justice and Martha wins the meritorious award finally.

**Q 2: *Child labour has been banned by law. But now-a-days the rule has been violated by some people at least. Write a paragraph placing your views on this statement with evidences from the story ‘Vanka’.***

One of the masters of the modern short-story writers, Anton Chekhov presents before the world the cruelties and hardships connected with the social evil of child-labour through his story ‘Vanka’. He depicts Vanka, the nine year boy as a representative of the children victimized to child-labour. Most often the orphaned children from poor families are taken to fields and factories where they have to undergo all sorts of mental and physical tortures. Some parents who are not much aware of the rights of their children send them to earn instead of sending them to

learn. The masters at the work-places treat the children like animals. As the child Vanka, they have to do all work but won't get even enough food to eat or time to rest. In our country, there are strict and strong laws against child-labour. Unfortunately, most often the laws are violated knowingly or unknowingly. If only our authorities observe and people obey the rules the rights of our children will be protected. In a society where everything is aimed at making only profit by any means, the human rights are mercilessly violated. There must be a change to this attitude and that change should effect and emerge from the mind of every true citizen. We should raise our protest against the evil of child-labour by word and deed. Let our children go to school, learn to earn and lead our country ahead to a brighter future!

More practice questions from SCERT Question Pool

1. Chekhov describes the poor condition of a nine year old boy Vanka in his story. Do you think child rights are to be protected? Present your views in a paragraph.
2. The screenplay 'My Sister's Shoes' is a typical example of a family drama. Do you agree to this statement? Write a paragraph based on this statement and your reading of the screenplay.
3. The timely help in the story 'The Best Investment I ever made' gave birth to a new man in Mr. John. John was transferred and now working for the derelict youth. How do you view this statement based on your reading the story? Write it in a paragraph.
4. Pets should not be allowed at houses because they cause many infectious diseases which are a threat to the members of the house also. Do you agree to this statement? Write your views in a paragraph.

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