

Review

A review is a discussion on a piece of text, film, play etc. It is a critical analysis of the plot, characters, setting and background, style of presentation, use of language etc. A review is the reviewer's study or assessment of the subject and its result may be presented in a supporting or opposing manner agreeing or disagreeing with the author/creator of the subject.

- Identify the text and theme.
- Interpret different shades of meaning on the text.
- Identify images, symbols, catchy expressions, etc.
- Bring in personal observations and views.
- Attention-grabbing beginning and ending.
- Make a good character analysis.
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Q1 : Anton chekhov's story 'Vanka' subtly raises questions against the social evil of child labour. Write a review of the story focusing on the theme and character of the nine year old boy Vanka.

Vanka- a review

"Vanka" is a short story by Anton Chekhov, the famous Russian writer. The plot of the story is the plight of the children who are victims of child labour. The nine year boy Vanka is presented as a representative of children victimized to the social evil of child labour. His innocence and ignorance when writing hopefully a letter to his grandfather and posting it without writing proper address and stamp appeal much to the readers.

When his mother died his grandfather sent him to Moscow. He could not complete his primary education. He was apprenticed to Alyakhin, a shoemaker. His master Alyakhin and his wife treated him cruelly. He had to do all the household work. They beat him often for silly matters. He was not provided good food or place to sleep. Other apprentices made fun of him. They forced him to steal cucumber and persuaded him to buy vodka from the tavern.

In short, the little boy's life in Moscow was worse than that of a dog's. He said it in his letter to grandfather and begged him to come and save him from Alyakhin. He also had very strong nostalgic feeling of his village life, especially at the time of Christmas. He liked very much his grandfather's dogs and Miss Olga, his favorite. His sufferings at his workplace and feelings of homesickness he mentioned in his letter are enough for the readers to experience the grievous state of the child labourers. His begging to his grandfather and his promises are enough to create a dejected and dull mood in readers' mind and wet their eyes. Anton Chekhov has succeeded in making every reader of Vanka curse severely the evil of child labour.

More practice questions from SCERT Question Pool

1. 'My Sister's Shoes' depicts four scenes of a family drama of the film 'Children of Heaven' by Majid Majidi. What do you think? Prepare a review of the screenplay.
2. 'The Best Investment I ever made' is a typical story of an investment made by the author. Prepare a review of the story based on the theme, characters and plot of the story.
3. The one-act play 'The Book that Saved the Earth' is a typical play. The characters Think Tank and Noodle play critical roles in the play. Their characters influence the play. Prepare a review based on the theme and characters of the play.
4. In the story 'Adolf', D H Lawrence gives a vivid picture of a wild rabbit brought to be made domestic. How does the story progress? Prepare a review of the story.

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