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SSLC ENGLISH

Intensive Coaching
Sessions

Unit – 3

Lore of Values

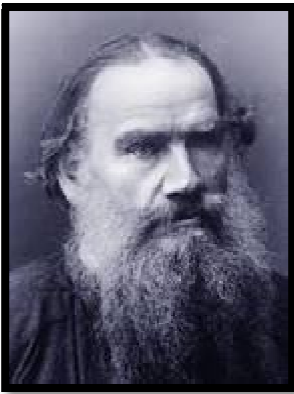
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SSLC English Lesson 8

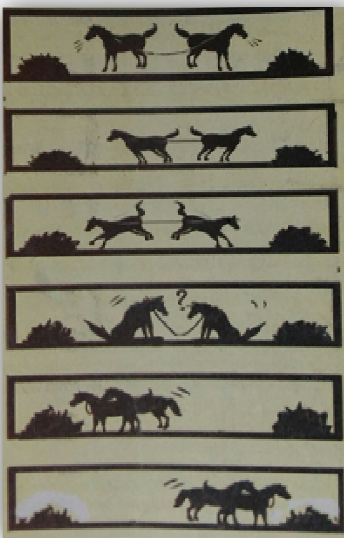


The Two Brothers

About the Author:



Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy (1828 – 1910), popularly known in English as **Leo Tolstoy**, was a Russian writer, who is regarded as one of the greatest authors of all time. He was born on 09 September 1828 at Yasnaya Polyana (Tolstoy's estate, around 200km away from Moscow), Russia. His best works include *War and Peace* (1869), *Anna Karenina* (1877), *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* (1886). Tolstoy's finest literary achievement "*War and Peace*" is regarded as a central work of world literature. In 1862 Leo Tolstoy married Sophia Behrs who was 16 years his junior. The immortal and legendary figure in the world literature, Tolstoy breathed his last on 20 November 1910 at the age of 82 and rests in peace at Yasnaya Polyana.



Go through the following cartoon carefully and respond to the questions that follow.


DISCUSS:

- What were the horses trying to do at the beginning of the story? Did it work?
 - What did the horses do when they found that their first attempts had failed?
 - Did both horses get what they wanted? What did they do to solve their problem?
 - How do you usually solve problems when you have a difference of opinion with your friend?
- Each horse tried to reach the heap of fodder separately. But they failed.
- They tried hard again and again to get the fodder separately for them. Still they failed in their attempts and they became more hungry and tired.
- Having failed to get what they wanted, they discussed to find a solution.
- They decided to eat together from each heap of fodder.

Glossary:

1. **Set out:** started a journey
2. **Lie:** (pt lay, pp lain) to be in a horizontal position on a place, recline
3. **Make out:** (here) read and understand
4. **Cub:** the young of an animal like lion, bear etc.
5. **Jest:** joke
6. **Broad:** wide
7. **Seize:** snatch, catch, capture
8. **Perish:** die, be destroyed
9. **Sort of:** kind of, type of
10. **Inscription:** words that are written or cut in something (here on the stone)
11. **Seek:** look for, search for (pt, sought pp, sought)
12. **Carriage:** a vehicle with four wheels usually pulled by horse
13. **Wage war:** fight a war
14. **Conquer:** defeat and capture
15. **Wanderer:** a person who travels aimlessly
16. **Rejoiced:** felt great delight and joy, became happy
17. **At once:** immediately, soon
18. **Quietly:** calmly
19. **Great deal of:** a large amount of, too much of
20. **Regret:** feel sad or disappointed, repent

➤ **Based on the graphic organiser given below, list the instructions on the stone and write in the appropriate boxes. (Textbook page 84)**

					
Found a stone with inscriptions on it	Go straight into the forest at sunrise	Swim across the river to the other side	Take the cubs from the she-bear	Run up the mountain with the cubs without once looking back	Find happiness in the house on top of the mountain.

➤ **Now, you can answer the following questions.**

1. What situation do the two brothers come across? How do they respond to it?

Ans: The two brothers happened to see a stone with inscriptions on it to find happiness after fulfilling a series of challenges. The younger brother was ready to take those challenges to succeed in life and become happy. But the elder brother was skeptical of the inscriptions and was not ready to risk his life. He was happy and contented with what he had.

2. Do you think the river, the bear and the mountain represent something else? If so, what do they stand for?

Ans: Yes, they represent the difficulties and challenges in a person's life in the way of success and happiness.

3. What are the main ideas conveyed through the proverbs exchanged between the two brothers?

Ans: The elder brother cites two proverbs: 1) "In seeking great happiness small pleasures may be lost". 2) A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush".

The elder brother appears to be a simple man contented with what he has and he means: 1) We should not ignore small pleasures in life while hoping for great happiness. 2) We should appreciate and be happy with what we have in our possession rather than what we do not have.

The younger brother also quotes two proverbs: 1) "He who is afraid of leaves must not go into the forest". 2) "Beneath a stone no water flows".

The younger brother appears to be adventurous and willing to pursue dreams and he wants to say: 1) whoever is afraid of silly things cannot take any risks and succeed in life. 2) To find water we have to dig deep, it is not as simple as turning a stone. In order to gain something in life, we have to take some pain.

4. Which brother had a happier life? Why do you think so?

Ans: Both the brothers seem happy. The younger brother had a happy life as a king. Although he has now lost those happy days, he has something great to remember in life. But the happier one seems to be the elder brother as he could lead a simple, quiet and happy life permanently.

5. If you were one of the brothers, which course of action would you choose? Why?

Ans: I would choose the younger brother's course of action because I believe in the saying that 'no gain without pain'. If we do not take risks or work hard, we will not succeed in life.

OR

Ans: I would choose the elder brother's course of action because I prefer a simple, quiet life with small happiness. I am contented with what I have in life and I believe that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Questions and Answers based on Textual passages

Read the paragraphs 1 to 4 in page 82 of the textbook and answer the following questions.

Q 1-5

1. When and where did the two brothers find instructions to get happiness?
2. What were the instructions to find happiness?
3. How do they react to the instructions?
4. What do the river, the bear and the mountain represent?
5. What was the elder brother's justification in the first place for not going into the forest?

Read the paragraphs 5 to 9 in page 83 (starting from "She will seize..." to "remained behind") of the textbook and answer the following questions.

Q 6-10

6. What was the most important one in the elder brother's arguments?

7. What kind of a person was the younger brother?
8. What does the proverb “a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush” mean?
9. What does the proverb “beneath a stone no water flows” mean?
10. Whose arguments are agreeable to you and why?

Read the paragraphs 10 to 14 in page 83 (starting from “No sooner...” to “memories at all”) of the textbook and answer the following questions.

Q 11- 15

11. Were the inscriptions on the stone true? Why?
12. In the sixth year what happened to the younger brother?
13. When the younger brother arrived back home, what was the condition of the elder brother?
14. What did the brothers do when they met again?
15. The two brothers try to justify their stands. Do you agree with them? Why?

Answers

1. The two brothers lay down in a forest to take rest while they were on a journey. When they woke up they saw a stone with some instructions written on it.
2. The instructions were that one should go into the forest at sunrise, swim across the river, take the cubs from the she-bear, run up the mountain with them without once looking back and one will see a house there filled with happiness.
3. The younger brother is ready to accept the challenges following the instructions whereas the elder brother is not ready and he advises the younger brother not to take the risk.
4. They represent the obstacles and challenges in the path to success.
5. In the first place, the elder brother thinks that what is written on the stone cannot be true, may be a jest and there is chance for they have understood it wrongly.
6. The stone does not say what kind of a happiness one will get. It may not be the sort of happiness that they want.
7. The younger brother is an optimistic. He believes if he does not make an effort and try hard, nothing in the world will succeed. He has a positive attitude toward challenges.
8. The proverb ‘a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush’ means that ‘it is better to be satisfied with what you have got than to risk losing everything by trying to get more’.
9. If you turn up a stone, you will not find water beneath it. To find water, you have to dig deep. To be successful in life, you have to take efforts.
10. The younger brother’s arguments are a little more agreeable than the elder brother’s. No one can achieve success in life without making efforts.
11. Yes, the inscriptions on the stone were true. The young brother found everything as written on it.
12. In the sixth year a stronger King waged war against the younger brother, conquered his city and drove him out.
13. The elder was in the same condition as before. He had grown neither rich nor poor.
14. They rejoiced their meeting and started telling about all that had happened to them.
15. Both the brothers are right in their arguments. ‘A bird in hand is worth two in the bush’ is true in many situations. ‘Beneath a stone no water flows’ is a success mantra and the younger brother attains a little more support.
