

A Simple Support to First Bell

Std. 10 - English

20-11-2020

The Ballad of Father Gilligan (Last Part)

Dear children,

Today's class dealt with the last two stanzas of The Ballad of Father Gilligan.
written by W. B. Yeats.

Summary of the 1 to 12 stanzas:

Father Peter Gilligan was an old priest. He was tired of continues work. Half of his parishioners were either in bed or dead and buried. He had to administer the funerals. So he was tired. One evening, he was sitting on a chair. He was sleepy and tired. Then , the father was called to treat a poor sick man. Father Gilligan was unhappy to be called at this time. He murmured that he had no rest ,nor joy , nor piece because people were going on dying. Then he thought that he should not have said so. He asked forgiveness to the god. He said that it was his body , not his mind that made him say so. He knelt. Leaning on a chair , he started praying. He fell asleep there. Night came. Stars appeared in the sky. Father Gilligan could not go to the poor man's house. He was very weak. So he knelt down and prayed. He leaned in the chair and slept. Night came. Millions of stars appeared in the sky. Next morning , he got up. He rode to the poor man's house on his horse very fast.Father Gilligan was sorry for he could not go previous night. When he reached there, the poor man's wife was surprised to see Father again. She said that the man had already passed away and that he was happy at the time of death because of the comfort given by Father Peter Gilligan. Father Gilligan cried out in joy, saying that God heard his words and sent down an angel to do his job for him.

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VICTERS CLASS
LINK

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Activity 1 :

Answer the following questions.

1. Who made the night of stars ?
2. Whom did the god send down ?
3. How did the god help Father Peter Gilligan ?
4. Which phrases are used to describe God ?

Activity 2 :

Here are some sentences related with the ballad. They are in jumbled order. Write them in correct order.

1. God sent one of his angels down to help the priest.10
2. Father Gilligan woke up in the morning.4
3. He felt sorry and guilty.6
4. Father Gilligan was very tired. 1
5. Father Peter Gilligan realised what had happened.8
6. He rushed to the poor man's house.7
7. So he could not go to the poor man's house. 2
8. He knelt down and prayed.3
9. The angel went to the poor man's house disguised as father Gilligan.9
10. He realised that he hadn't gone to the poor man's house.5
11. She asked " Father you came again.7

Activity 3 :

Write a character sketch of Father Peter Gilligan.

Activity 4 :

Write an Appreciation of the poem.

Answer Key:

Activity 1

1. God made the night of stars.
2. God sent down one of his angels.
3. God sent down one of his angels to perform the duties Father Peter Gilligan.
4. Wrapped in purple robes, planets under his control.

Activity 2

4. Father Gilligan was very tired..... 1
7. So he could not go to the poor man's house.... 2
8. He knelt down and prayed.....3
2. Father Gilligan woke up in the morning.....4
10. He realised that he hadn't gone to the poor man's house.....5
3. He felt sorry and guilty.....6
6. He rushed to the poor man's house.....7
11. She asked " Father you came again.....8
5. Father Peter Gilligan realised what had happened.....9
1. God sent one of his angels down to help the priest.....10
9. The angel went to the poor man's house disguised as father Gilligan.....11

Activity 3 :

A Dedicated Priest

The Ballad of Father Gilligan written by W. B Yeats tells us the story of an old priest namely Father Peter Gilligan. The poem is in the form of a ballad. An epidemic spreads in his parish. All the people there were either in bed or dead and buried. He was very busy with treating sick people and conducting funeral for the dead. One day the priest was very weak. Then a poor man came and called him to give the last ceremony for a man about to die. He was annoyed for calling him in such a time. Soon he confess to the God for neglecting his priestly duty. As the father was very tired, he could not go to the poor man's house. He knelt and prayed to the God. Unknowingly, he fell into the sleep. In the next morning , father reached the poor man's house. He knew that an angel had come there and performed the last prayer to the poor man for him. He thanked god for helping a poor priest like him.

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The poem is a perfect ballad. The language used is simple. It has a story. The rhyme scheme followed in the ballad is abcb. Country side is the setting of the poem. Visual images like dusk , down , twinkling million stars etc. are present in the poem. Auditory images are used. In short , the ballad is rich with poetic touches and effects.