

E
n
g
l
i
s
h
E
d
u
s
p
o
t

The Ballad of Father Gilligan

W. B. Yeats (1865 – 1939)

W B Yeats, an Irish poet and one of the noted figures of the 20th century literature, depicts in this poem the poverty and extreme religiosity of the Irish rural life of his time. This poem tells the story of an old priest Father Gilligan. Half of his people in the parish were either in sick-bed or already dead due to an epidemic. Day and night Father Gilligan was in service of them and he was very tired and weak. In a cursed moment, unintentionally, he uttered complaints that he had ‘no rest, nor joy, nor peace.’ But, the next moment he realized his mistakes and cried in regret. He knelt in prayer and begged to God for forgiveness. He confessed that his tired body spoke so, not his sober mind.

He fell asleep in prayer leaning on the chair, and he could not attend one sick-man’s last moments. Realizing that he failed to do his duty, next day morning in great grief Father Gilligan rode on his horse to the man’s house. Where, his wife told the priest that her husband had already died and she asked him why he came again. From her question he understood that in his absence, God had sent an angel to perform his duties. He knelt and cried in repentance and thanked God for His mercy. The Almighty God having planets in His control showed mercy upon the least of His creatures like the priest. The poet presents in the poem a powerful but merciful God and a pious and dutiful priest, and that is the theme of the poem too.

This poem is a perfect example of the class of poems or songs called **Ballad**. It is written in multiple stanzas of four lines each, keeping a regular rhyme-scheme of **ABCB**. Though not specifically said, the setting of the poem is a country-side dwelled by poor people. The mentioning of the father’s riding a horse “*by rocky lane and fen*” and phrases like “**green sod**” show us more of the settings of the poem.

The poem is rich with imageries. **Visual Images:** We see the dusk and the dawn with presence of moths, we see the night sky twinkling with millions of stars and we watch the whole world gets covered in darkness. We can also visualize the image of Father riding his horse by the rocky and grassy country-sides. **Auditory Images:** we hear leaves shaking in the wind and sparrows chirping at the daybreak and also, the cry of repentance from the priest calling “Mavrone”, mavrone!, which intensifies his feeling of grief and regret.”

The two lines, “*For half his flock were in their beds,/ Or under green sods lay*” are **metaphoric** with illness and death respectively, denoting that half of the villagers are either in sick-beds or in graves due to some devastating epidemic. The lines “... *he turned and died /As merry as a bird*” is an example of the literary device **Simile**. The repetition of the line, “*The old priest, Peter Gilligan*”, constitutes for the use of **Refrain** in the poem.

Poetry - Pablo Neruda (1904 – 1973)

The Chilean poet Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basoalto was a diplomat and politician as well. He wrote using his pen-name **Pablo Neruda**. In the poem ‘Poetry’ the poet Pablo Neruda talks about poetry that arrived in search of him. He did not know where it came from, or how or when. He did not hear any voices speaking to him. He says he was summoned away by an invisible force, and the poetry touched him. The theme of the poem is the ecstatic and inexplicable experience of the poet when he was embraced by the poetic creativity. He had in his mind many ideas which he could not express effectively before he was blessed by that creativity.

By the arrival of poetry, though he could not utter words and his eyes became blind, he felt something started in his soul, like a fever. He could make his own way to express his ideas and thoughts by deciphering the “fire” of poetry. He wrote his first feeble, faint and substance-free line, and suddenly, the heavens opened up in front of him and he could see everything from the planets to the shadows, fire, flowers and all that make up the universe. By the arrival of poetic inspiration, his imagination became boundless.

Although he was an infinitesimal being, by the touch of poetry, he was suddenly elevated to a world of ecstasy, he felt about himself being a pure part of the abyss and free to wheel with the stars. He describes the whole experience as his “heart breaking loose on the wind.”

Free verse is the style of the poem; passion or ecstasy is the tone. ‘The poetry arrived in search of the poet and touched him’-assuming poetry as a person, the poetic device **Personification** is very aptly applied here. ‘Winter’ and ‘river’ represent a ‘frozen’ but ‘flowing’ state and which make a contrast. In the same way, expressions like ‘not voices’, ‘nor silence’; ‘pure nonsense’, ‘pure wisdom’ are example of subtle application of the literary device **Contrast**. The poet has not used the end- rhyme, but instances of **assonance** are there in the line “*I don’t know how or when*” which add beauty to the rhythm. Application of Alliteration can be seen in lines, “*and something started in my soul, / fever or forgotten wings*” and “*planets, palpitating plantations,*”.

By the touch of the poetry, a world of ecstasy is opened in the mind of the poet. References to flowers, violent fires, the branches of night, the heavens, wings, planets, plantations, part of abyss etc. create beautiful and perfect **visual images** of the universe in the imaginations of the readers.

Theme of the poem

The theme of the poem is the ecstatic experience of a poet who is embraced by the poetic creativity at a time when he earnestly wished to become a poet.

[This poem has a very strong political background as well. The poet Pablo Neruda had an eventful political life, bitter life experiences during his exile. His mind was always revolting against all political oppressions – especially the western colonialism.]

Structure of the poem:

Written in Free Verse style, this poem does not have a consistent metric pattern, rhyme scheme or a distinct stanzaic system.

The subject-matter of the poem can be explained in three parts or phases:

1. The period when the poet wished to become a poet, and the poetry arrived in search of him and touched him.
2. The phase in which the poet got the poetic inspiration and he scribbled his first faint lines.
3. The phase after he composed his first lines - his imagination knew no bounds and he achieved his poetic creativity fully and became a poet.

Phase or Part wise summary of the poem, PoetryPhase 1

The poem starts abruptly with a reference to a period when the poet wished to become a poet.

The amazing thing in Pablo Neruda's achieving poetic inspirations is that instead of his search for poetic inspiration, poetry came in search of him, summoned him and touched him. How was he summoned- by voice or silence? Where was he summoned from – any street? When was he summoned- at night? When the poetry touched him whether he was alone or among others, whether he was in a peaceful mood or in a violent emotional situation, he does not know all these. But, he knows that he was a man without a face – a man without a personal identity or popularity before the arrival of poetry to him.

Phase 2

It was an inexplicable experience for the poet when he was touched by the poetry. He became somewhat blind and dumb. Something started in his mind, fever or forgotten wings – fire of poetic inspiration (a burning passion) or hidden and nameless emotions. Whatever, he was so inspired that he composed his first feeble and faint lines without much confidence, deciphering that fire. What he wrote may be the simple wisdom of a beginner who knows nothing, or utter nonsense. Anyhow, when he started composing verses, the heavens opened up in front of him and he could see everything from planets to plantations, shadows, fire, flowers, and all that make up this universe.

Phase 3

The poet considers himself to be a very minute and insignificant being as compared to the vast universe. He is almost intoxicated with the wide and starry sky. When the poet started writing poetry, he reached another world that was full of mystery and imagery. He wheeled with starts and his emotions travelled freely in the boundless sky. He himself felt to be part and parcel of everything in this universe from boundless and starry sky to the fathomless abyss. His heart broke loose and started flying with wind, and his feelings had no bounds. He became a poet with unending imaginations!

Mr. John

Mr. John appears in the anecdote 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' as a middle-aged man in his early 40s. He is short-built with a fair complexion and clear blue eyes. He has started getting bald as his thin hair began to recede from his forehead. He is rather reserved in temperament and serious in appearance, especially in his dark suit and sober tie. He has earnestly been in search of Dr AJ Cronin for a quarter of a century. But when he comes across him unexpectedly during a ship journey, his timidity prevents him from approaching Dr Cronin. His wife persuades and encourages him to meet and talk to Dr. Cronin. Mr. John is a respectful person with high regard to his life saviour. He tries to remind Dr. Cronin the tragic incident that took place about 25 years ago. Mr. John had an unpleasant and miserable past. In his youthful days, he led a loose life and lost everything he possessed. He gambled, borrowed money hugely and spent extravagantly. He even stole some money from his work place. Lost everything, became distressed and anguished, he decided to end his life. From the suicide attempt he was saved by three kind-hearted people – Dr. AJ Cronin, a police sergeant and the landlady of the lodge where he had stayed. After gaining a second life, he decided to become a new man with a fresh start. He pledged the rest of his life for charity and social work. For the last 15 years he and his wife have been in the field of the social service. Mr. John remembers the three people in utmost gratitude and believes that he is indebted to Dr. Cronin for every breath now he takes.

Martha

Martha, the central character in the story 'The Scholarship Jacket' is a character of mixed feelings. She is sensitive, bold and brilliant. She is 14 years old and an eighth grade student maintaining a consistent 'A' level since her first grade. She is in every sense qualified enough to win the prestigious scholarship jacket, an award to the class valedictorian of her school. Martha is the daughter of a poor Mexican farm labourer. Owing to the poverty at her own family, she has been living with her grandparents. In appearance she is very lean and her friends call her 'beanpole' and 'string bean'. Once she happens to overhear a heated argument between her two teachers. She understands that a conspiracy is going on to undermine her chance of winning the jacket. Eventually the principal asks her to pay 15 dollars for the award. Although bold and brilliant, this incident makes her cry in despair. But when Martha's granddad tells her that a paid award is not an award at all, she accepts his words. She strongly believes that she deserves the award by merit and it will come on her way. She determines to tell the principal looking straight into his eyes that she is not ready to pay. Here, we see a bold Martha. However, later when Martha hears from the principal the happy news that she is going to get the jacket, she cannot control her happiness. She wants to express her extreme joy by whatever means – she wants to yell, jump or run the mile. While rushing back home to impart her happy news to her grandpa and grandma, she can't help crying – but this time a cry of joy. Martha's words and deeds show that she is quite bold and sensible but at the same time sensitive and childlike too.

Character Sketches

Martha's Grandfather

Martha's grandfather is probably the most important character in the story, **The Scholarship Jacket**. In our mind he will be the winner once we finish reading the full story. His words "if you pay for it, it won't be a scholarship jacket" could make even the principal change his decision. He is somewhat a rich farmer owning a two-hundred acre ranch. He is seen in the story always working in his farm field. He is a sort of reserved type but a man of strong determination. Though he is uneducated, he believes that it is injustice to pay for a deserving award. So he strongly stands with his belief even when his granddaughter cried for money. Finally, his words win and Martha gets the award. On both the occasions when he hears the sad and happy news regarding the scholarship jacket, his reaction does not change. When his granddaughter tells him about her winning the jacket, he still doesn't express his rejoice in words. He just gives her a smile and a pat on her shoulder. As the proverb says, 'still waters run deep', some people will not show overtly their deep love and affection. We are sure that Martha's grandfather is a man of this sort.

Write-up

The Best Investment I Ever Made' is the story of a timely help that saved a man and transformed his life. What is your opinion? Prepare a **write-up** on the suitability of the title of the story.

The Best of all Investments

The word 'investment' literally means the act of putting money, time, efforts, etc. into something to make a profit or an advantage. But Dr A J Cronin used the word in connection with his story in a different sense. He invested his money, time and efforts not for any worldly gain. He intended only to help a poor young man.

All of us have read the story by Dr AJ Cronin, 'The Best Investment I Ever Made', and we have learned about the transformation happened in the life of Mr. John. Instead of doing his part honestly and working hard to solve his problems, Mr John had sought evil ways to find money and led a loose life. He borrowed money, gambled and even stole some amount from his work-place. He lost everything and finally committed a suicide attempt. Dr AJ Cronin gave him the money required to put back in his office safe and the other two people also did their part well and saved Mr. John. Their timely acts of kindness later transformed Mr. John to a great social worker.

Their timely help changed the young man's life and he became later a great social worker. Thus Dr. Cronin's investment turned out to be the best investment he ever made in his life. It brought tremendously good results both to the young man and to the society. So we can say for certain that the title 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' is very apt and appropriate to the theme of the story.

**Aunt Jane in the one-act play
'The Never-Never Nest'**

Aunt Jane is one of the major characters in the one-act play **'The Never-Never Nest**. Her words and actions make the play humorous and interesting. She appears to be a lady with a generous and philanthropic mind. She loves her nephew Jack and his wife Jill very much and shows much concern in their well-being. Aunt Jane had given Jack and Jill a gift-cheque for two hundred pounds at the time of their wedding. Now she doubts whether it was really two hundred pounds or by mistake she had written two thousand! The reason is that now when she visits their house and sees their comfortable and luxurious life with all modern facilities, she cannot just believe it. Jack and Jill have a cosy and luxurious house with all facilities like refrigerator, radio, all furniture, piano, car, etc. They say that their house is not on rent, but they own it. But when she realizes that they own them all by the hire-purchase system, she disapproves the way of using others' things as theirs. She even refuses to sit on the furniture and travel in their car because she believes that these things actually belong to someone else. She proclaims that her motto is to buy thing by paying down, and she dislikes owing a penny to others. She feels restless and wants to leave the house immediately as she believes it belongs to some Mr. Serge or Marks and Spencer. But even when she leaves bidding good bye to Jack and Jill displeased in their way of life, she doesn't hesitate to help them with a cheque for ten pounds.

Speech

Martha delivers a speech after receiving the Scholarship Jacket. Prepare the likely speech.

Honourable principal, respected teachers and my dear friends: first of all, I would like to wish you all a very good morning!

"Where there is a will, there is a way"! As the proverb says, today it has happened to me and that's why I am standing in front of you now. It has been my dream to win the scholarship jacket ever since my sister won it, and that dream has now come true in my life. My sister Rosie really inspired me from the beginning and I should thank her first. I am a member of a poor Mexican farmer's family having great difficulties to bear the expenses of my studies. When I was told to pay 15 dollars for the scholarship jacket which I deserve to win by my merit, I was really shocked and became disappointed. My grandfather, with whom I am staying, was not ready to pay for the jacket. He told and taught me that honours are not to be bought by money. It should come our way by our efforts and merit. Yes, finally it has come in my way as he said. Also, many of our teachers have supported me greatly, especially our history teacher Mr.Schmidt. I should thankfully remember them all on this occasion.

I believe that honours like this scholarship jacket are to inspire students in their studies. Merits should only be the consideration while bestowing such honours, and beyond any sort of discriminations or considerations the deserving candidates should get them. Let me conclude my words expressing my sincere gratitude to all you for supporting me to win this prestigious award. Thank you very much and I wish a good day to all of you!

Speech

From a state of loss and despair, John came to a life of success and joy. What lesson do we learn from the eventful life of John?

Prepare a **speech** on the topic - '**Self help is the best help**' in the light of Mr. John's life-story.

The Youth Welfare Organization has decided to honour Mr John for his valuable contributions in the field of social work. You are delivering a felicitation speech attending the function. Prepare the likely **speech**.

Honourable principal, respected teachers and my dear friends: I wish you all a very warm good morning. I am very delighted and proud to be here to speak a few words about the topic 'Self help is the best help'.

What is self help? Self help means that we should do our part without always waiting for the help of others in everything. It does not mean that we should not cooperate with others or seek advice or help from others. It simply means that we need not rely on others to do things that we can do on our own.

All of us have read the story by Dr AJ Cronin, 'The Best Investment I Ever Made', and we have learned about the transformation happened in the life of Mr. John. Instead of doing his part honestly and working hard to solve his problems, Mr John had sought evil ways to find money and led a loose life. He borrowed money, gambled and even stole some amount from his work-place. He lost everything and finally committed a suicide attempt. Dr AJ Cronin and the other two people did their part well and saved Mr. John. Their timely acts of kindness later transformed Mr. John to a great social worker. He determined to make a fresh start and pledged the rest of his life for the care of boys and girls from the city slums.

This story tells us the importance of self help or doing our part well without waiting for others. As students, we should practise this quality from our school days. We need not always wait for our parents to do things for us. Whenever and wherever possible, we should practise doing simple things for us. There are students who do part time jobs to meet the expenses of their education, without depending on parents for all their needs.

I would like to conclude my speech here once again reminding you of the importance of the self help. We should remember that God helps those who help themselves!

Thank you for your time and listening to me. Have a nice day!

Honourable dignitaries on and off the dais, our esteemed chief guest Mr. John and dear friends:

I am very much delighted in having got an opportunity to share a few words with you on this occasion. We have assembled here to witness a noble function of honoring Mr. John for his unique services he has been rendering in the field of rehabilitating the needy youths of our society. "Man proposes, but God disposes!" As the proverb says, we cannot rewrite our destiny. Mr. John's life substantiates that great truth. Once he transgressed and led a loose life in his youthful days. He gambled to find money for his pleasures. He lost everything and he even stole some amount from his work-place. Finally having lost everything, he resolved to end his own life. Luck alone saved him. Kind-hearted persons like Dr A J Conin helped and brought him back to a normal life.

I'm very proud and happy to tell you that Mr. John has already paid all the debt he owed to the society. He and his wife have been travelling to different parts of the world to learn and practise the charity work among the maladjusted and delinquent youth. We have a lot to learn from the life-story of Mr. John. A timely intervention of three good people saved a young man and the young man in return keeps on serving our society!

A tiny deed of goodness can sometimes change the life of a man. That's what has happened in the case of Mr. John. "God helps those who help others!" May this maxim be our guiding force! Let me congratulate Mr. John on behalf of our Youth Welfare Organization on his achievements and let me conclude my speech with much pleasure. Thank you all, thanks a lot!

Diary Entry

Narrative

Imagine that Mr John, after meeting the narrator for the second time, writes his diary.
 What would be the possible **diary entry**? Write it down.

The story is told from the point of view of the narrator. This is called 'the first person point of view'. The pronoun used here is 'I'. **Now, change the perspective of the narrative to the third person point of view using the pronouns 'he' and narrate the events in the story.**

Saturday, 14 Sep 2019

11:00pm.

How can I ever forget this day! Today I met the man who gave me this life 25 years back. God brought us together on the same ship. At the very first glance I recognized him. But my excitement or embarrassment, I don't know exactly, what prevented me from approaching him. My wife encouraged me to meet and talk to him. When I told Dr. AJ Cronin about my charity work, he showed interest to talk; but he couldn't still recognize me. Then I whispered in his ears about the foolish attempt of suicide that I had committed 25 years before, he could distinguish me. What a play of fate! For 7 pounds 10 shillings I tried to take my life; like an angel this man came, saved me and gave me that paltry sum, which made me a new man. Now putting an end to my 25 years' search, God brought him in front of me again. Oh God, You're Great! This is the happiest day in my life!

Mr. John expresses in his diary his regrets upon his loose life, foolish attempt of committing suicide and his determination to start a fresh and fruitful life. **Prepare the likely Diary Entry.**

Thursday
 12 Dec 2019
 11:00 pm

What a terrible experience...!
 In that moment of despair, I tried to embrace death. Hope came in the form of the sergeant and the doctor. They saved my life. The landlady also helped me. I will never again follow that dark and evil life of mine. Definitely I will change.... Just like the doctor, the sergeant and the landlady, I will also try to change the lives of many....thus bringing light to others. Now I see that the light never fades out!

Dr. AJ Cronin's Ever Growing Investment

It was the second day of Dr. AJ Cronin's voyage out from New York. Suddenly he became aware that one of the passengers was watching him closely. As he was not interested to make an importunate ship-board contact, he gave no sign of having noticed the man. The man was in his early 40s, rather short in build, with a fair complexion and clear blue eyes. He appeared to be affected by a troubled and touching diffidence to approach Dr. Cronin.

On the following forenoon, he again observed the man earnestly watching him. This time his wife was also there with him. From the steward Dr. Cronin realized that they were Mr. and Mrs. John S_ from a small suburb of London.

On the final evening of their voyage, urged by his wife, Mr. John approached Dr. Cronin with utmost timidity. He introduced himself by offering his visiting card to Dr Cronin. He said that he and his wife had been active in the field of youth welfare for the past 15 years. They took derelict adolescents from the juvenile courts, healed them in mind and body, trained them in a handicraft and made them worthy members of the community.

Still, Dr. Cronin could not recognize Mr. John. Then, bending near, he spoke tensely a few words in Dr. Cronin's ear. That parted the veils. Cronin's thoughts sped back a quarter of a century. When Cronin was practicing in a working-class district of London, one night a sergeant took him to attend a suicide case in the lodgings nearby. In the attic of the building, they found a young man lying apparently lifeless. After long hours of strenuous efforts, the trio -Dr. Cronin, the sergeant and the landlady of the lodgings – managed to bring him back to life.

As he regained his strength, he told his story. He was an orphan and his uncle had found him a job in the town. Soon he had fallen victim to bad companions and started running after pleasures of life beyond his means. To get more money he started gambling and even stole some amount from his office safe. Having lost everything, sick at heart and sunk in despair he tried to commit suicide.

Hearing his pathetic story, the tree people decided to help him. The sergeant risking his job, resolved not to report upon the case, the landlady offered a month's free boarding and Dr. Cronin gave him 7 pounds and 10 shillings to put back in the office safe.

Thus, a timely act of kindness changed the young man's life, and later he became a great social worker. Dr. AJ Cronin firmly believed that his investment of a meagre amount finally turned out to be the best of all his investments, though it did not bring any worldly gain personally to him.

Narrative

Joann was recommended by Mr. Boone for the Scholarship Jacket. Eventually, it was Martha who won the Jacket.

Narrate the events that led to Martha's winning the Jacket.

Here Martha tells her own story (**First Person narrative**). Imagine that you are a friend of Martha and you know everything that happened in her life in connection with the issue of the Scholarship Jacket. If you narrate the story (**Third Person narrative**), how would you do it? Write the likely narrative.

Final Victory is for Truth

Martha is an eighth grade student of the Texas school. She is the class valedictorian and expects to win the Scholarship Jacket of the school this year.

Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Boone are Martha's history and Math teachers respectively. Mr. Boone has a prejudice against Martha. He does not want Martha, who is a Mexican-American girl, to win the scholarship jacket, though she deserves it by merit. He favours another girl Joan who is an American as well as the daughter of a school board member. But Mr. Schmidt firmly stands with truth and justice. He very angrily argues with Mr. Boone and declares that he will not take part in falsifying Martha's merit record. Martha happens to overhear this heated argument between her teachers and becomes very disappointed. The following day the Principal informs her that this year the scholarship is not free and she has to pay 15 dollars to get it. She becomes very upset, and feels like all her dreams about the scholarship got shattered. She informs her grandfather about this sad news. Though he is an illiterate farmer, he takes a firm decision not to pay and buy the scholarship jacket. He tells Martha to inform the principal that 'if he paid, it would not be a scholarship jacket'. His stand and statement were strong enough to make the principal and the school board change their wrong policy. Thus, finally Martha wins the award, which is her life's dream and the fruit of eight years' hard work.

Award is for merit, not for money

Martha, a 14 year old Mexican-American girl, was an eighth grade student at the Texas school. The school had a tradition of awarding a beautiful gold and green jacket to the class valedictorian every year during the eighth grade graduation. That year Martha was expected to win the jacket as she had been a straight 'A' level student since the first grade. Her sister Rosie had also won the jacket a few years back. One day at school, she happened to hear a heated conversation between her history teacher, Mr. Schmidt and Mathematics teacher, Mr. Boone. From their talk she understood that there was a conspiracy taking place against her regarding the award. Mr. Boone was of the opinion that they should falsify the record in favour of Joann, another American student and daughter of the school Board member. Mr. Schmidt knew that Joann's grades were nowhere near Martha's. He realized that Mr. Boone and the school management wanted to play partiality against Martha, a Mexican-American. So, he strongly opposed to the suggestions of Mr. Boone. Then the school management changed the policy and decided to charge 15 dollars for the scholarship jacket. They thought Martha could not afford to pay the sum as she was the daughter of a poor Mexican farmer. When the principal told her about this decision, she became very much shocked and disappointed. In great despair and disappointment she went home and asked her grandfather to pay for the award. Though he was an illiterate old farmer, he was determined not to pay and buy the award. He said that if she paid for it, it wouldn't be a scholarship jacket. The following day, desperate Martha met the principal and informed him that her grandfather was not going to pay. She was about to leave the principal's office totally depressed when the principal asked her to wait. He said that they had decided to make an exception in Martha's case and to award her the jacket free of cost. Upon hearing that, she couldn't control herself. She wanted to yell, jump, run the mile and do something. Mr. Schmidt was also very much happy to hear the good news. She ran back home crying - but that time, it was a cry of joy. She explained everything to her grandfather; but he was apparently motionless. Perhaps he was also having a cry of joy in his mind.

©English Eduspot Blog

www.englisheduspot.blogspot.com

Whatsapp & Voice Call: 8848153351

Prepared by Mahmud K Pukayoor

Letter

English Eduspot

The management decides to change the policy regarding the Scholarship Jacket. The principal feels uncomfortable and unhappy about this change. He expresses his resentment in a letter to the management.
Write the likely letter.

Martha after receiving the Scholarship Jacket, writes a letter expressing her immense gratitude to Mr. Schmidt for supporting her.
Draft the likely letter.

**The Principal,
Texas School, Texas, USA.
10 March 2020**

**The Manager,
Texas School, Texas, USA.**

**Subject: Change of policy regarding the
Scholarship Jacket.**

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to your attention that the new decision taken by the management regarding the Scholarship Jacket is unfavorable. This decision puts me in a dilemma.

The scholarship has so far been a prestigious award presented every year to the valedictorian student of our school free of cost. Now, to pay 15 dollars for it is unjustifiable. I believe that honours should be bestowed to students based on their merit. I hereby express my strong disagreement on the management's new decision – money for award!

I would like to request you to rethink about the new decision and consider poor and deserving students like Martha. Thank you.
Yours faithfully,

Sd/

**Steve S. Parker
(The Principal)**

**Coalinga,
California, USA.
13 Dec 2017**

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in a mood of immense pleasure. As you very well know, after the initial painful and troublesome experiences, finally I won the scholarship jacket. I am sure it wouldn't have been possible if teachers like you had not supported me.

I had heard accidentally the argument between you and our Math teacher Mr. Boone, which I haven't disclosed to anyone so far. You firmly stood for justice and talked for me.

I am very much obliged and my words cannot express my gratitude to you. Still I say thank you very much for your kind-hearted support.

Yours obediently,

Sd/

Martha.

New Report

Martha is awarded the Scholarship Jacket by the Vice - Chancellor of the Texas University. Prepare a **news report** about the award ceremony.

Martha wins Scholarship Jacket

10 March 2019, Staff reporter

TEXAS: Martha, a 14 year old Mexican-American girl and eighth grade student of the Texas school has won the scholarship jacket of the school this year.

The scholarship jacket is a prestigious award the school awards to the valedictorian student as a tradition every year, during the eighth grade graduation. It is a very beautiful green and gold jacket awarded to the student who has maintained the highest grades for eight years.

Vice Chancellor of the Texas University distributed the award to Martha in the presence of the school principal, teachers and students. *“I was very much disappointed and was afraid of losing it, when I heard that I had to pay for it. But, thank God, I have won it, and it’s like my dream has come true”*, jubilant Martha said.

Review

Prepare a Review of the Story ‘The Best Investment I Ever Made’.

‘The Best Investment I Ever Made’ – a review

The Scottish writer Dr. A J Cronin’s story ‘The Best Investment I Ever Made’ is a typical short story with all its ingredients. It has suspense in the beginning, a fantastic flash-back to develop the plot and a moral lesson which is exemplary.

Dr Cronin was on a voyage back from New York. On the second day, he noticed that one of the fellow passengers was closely watching him. He evaded his attention as he was not interested to make an annoying ship-board contact. On the following forenoon, the man with his wife was seen again earnestly watching him. This time Dr. Cronin also had some interest to know about the person and his intention. Here the story creates suspense and arouses eagerness also in the minds of readers to know about the person. Induced by his wife, finally the man approached Dr. Cronin and introduced himself very timidly.

In the beginning Dr. Cronin could not recognize him .When he said something in his ears, he got a clear picture of this man and his mind went back to an incident that had happened 25 years before. Here starts the flash black of the plot in the story. Dr. Cronin started his practice in a working-class district of London. One night, around at one o’clock he was awakened by a police sergeant. In a nearby lodge a man had attempted to commit suicide. In the attic of the lodge, on a narrow bed lay an apparently lifeless body of a young man. After more than an hour’s hard work Dr. Cronin could bring him back to life. The young man told them his pathetic story. His name was John and was an orphan. His uncle found him a job in the town. Soon he began to lead a loose life, spent lavishly for pleasure beyond his means and gambled to find more money. He lost everything and stole some money from his office. Being afraid of the prosecution, in great despair and anguish, he decided to end his life. Having heard of John’s story, the trio- Dr. Cronin, the sergeant and the landlady decided to help him. Dr. Cronin gave him seven pounds and ten shilling to put back in the office safe.

Mr. John determined to change his life fully dedicating himself for the care of the derelict and delinquent youths from the city slums. He and his wife had been for the last 15 years in charity work and thus he paid off his debt to the society. For Dr. Cronin, though his investment did not bring any worldly gain to him, it turned out to be immensely profitable. Through this story, Dr. Cronin teaches the world that a tiny but timely help sometimes will bring unpredictable goodness to the whole society.

Some slogans for making Posters

Drug addiction and alcoholism are major social issues today.

A programme is to be held in the school campus to make the children aware of the dangers of these issues.

- It’s No Lie; Drugs Will Make Your Mama Cry**
- DEAD: Drugs End All Dreams**
- You don’t need Heroin to be a Hero**
- Think Before Drink**
- A big loser in life is a drug user in life**
- Don’t Let Your Cheers End in Tears**
- Say NO to Drugs**

Paragraph

The summary of the TED speech 'The Danger of a Single Story

Or

Write in a paragraph about Adichie's experiences of the Single stories which she mentioned in her TED speech

The Danger of a Single Story is a TED speech in which the Nigerian speaker and writer, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie talks about the danger of having a single story and by which judging people, things, nations etc. She explains her own experiences of having had a single story about people and things in her life. As a child, she used to read American and British children's books. She had convinced that books by their nature should have foreign characters, and unfamiliar subject matter in them. But when she got chances to read books by African authors like Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye, her single story about books was changed. She realized that people like her- girls with chocolate-colour skin and kinky hair - could also be characters in books. Adichie's family had a house-boy named Fide. She had heard a lot about his poor and miserable family from her own mother. Thus Adichie developed in her mind one single story about them - a poor boy and his poverty-stricken family without any abilities. But when she visited once his house, she found out that they had other abilities of craftsmanship. Fide's brother could make beautifully patterned baskets of dyed raffia. Then she realized the foolishness behind her false assumption about Fide and his family. When she was 19, Adichie went to America to continue her university studies. Her American roommate had a single story about Africa. She believed that African people were a poor, uneducated tribal community, backward in every field. She even did not know that English was the official language of Nigeria and was shocked to hear Adichie's excellent English. Similarly, one of Adichie's American professors had also a false idea about Africa and even African literature. He once told her that her characters were not authentically African. He believed that an African writer should create only African characters and they should be uneducated and starving. He had such a dangerously false single story about African people. She argues that "the single story creates stereotypes and the problem with stereotype is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete". Talking about her own experiences, Adichie substantiates her argument. And we cannot but agree that having a single story about someone or something will mislead us to false judgments.

Language Elements

➤ **Complete the conversation between Martha and her friend.**

Friend: Martha, why are you so gloomy?

Martha: The principal just conveyed some bad news.

Friend: _____ a _____?

Martha: He told me that there was a change in policy of awarding the scholarship jacket this year.

Friend: You are going to get it this year, _____ b _____?

Martha: Yes. But... they say that I've to pay fifteen dollars for it.

Friend: _____ c _____?

Martha: No. I haven't informed my grandfather.

Friend: Don't worry, if you tell your grandfather, _____ d _____

Martha: I don't think so.

Friend: Then, you'd better _____ e _____.

Martha: Ok, let me ask my grandmother also.

➤ **Supply the missing words to the following passage.**

I was also...(a)...early writer, and when I began...(b)...write, at about the age...(c)...seven, stories...(d)...pencil with crayon illustrations that my poor mother was obliged to read.

(a, an, of, in, with, by, to)

Answers:

- What did he tell you?
- aren't you?
- Have you informed your grandpa?
- he will give you the money.
- ask your grandma.

Answers: a) an b) to c) of d) in

➤ **There are certain errors in the passage given below. They are underlined. Edit them.**

I heard the speech of Adichie. It was realy(a) an attractive one. She were (b) talking about the danger of having a single story about someone or something. In her childhood she read mostly British and American children's books. Later she when (c) began to write stories, she was influenced by that (d) stories.

Answers: a) really b) was c) when she d) those

➤ **Read the following conversation and answer the questions given below.**

Doctor: What are you doing?
Mr. John: I am a solicitor by profession.

- a. What did Doctor ask Mr. John?
b. What did Mr. John reply?

Answers:
a. The doctor asked Mr. John what he was doing.
b. Mr. John replied that he was a solicitor by profession.

➤ **Complete the following passage choosing the phrasal verbs from the bracket.**

Martha -----(a) to the principal's office worriedly. The principal looked uncomfortable and unhappy. He tried to -----(b) to her the new policy regarding the scholarship jacket and asked her to pay fifteen dollars. She -----(c) to hear his words and became very disappointed. She believed that she had to ----- (d) the hope of winning the jacket. She could not -----(e) such a situation. (Put up with, was taken aback, got into, give up, make out, put across)

Answers: a) got into b) put across c) was taken aback d) give up e) put up with

➤ **Analyse the following sentence and identify the NP in the subject position, the VP, Prepositional phrases and the Relative Clause in it.**

“Martha's grandfather looked out over the field that was filled with the tiny green bean plants”.

Answers: NP in the subject position: Martha's grandfather
VP: looked out over the field that was filled with the tiny green bean plants
Pre Ph: over the field, with the tiny green bean plants
Relative Clause: that was filled with the tiny green bean plants

➤ **Report the following:**

a) The roommate: how did you learn to speak English so well? b) Adichie: English is our official language.	Answers: a) The roommate asked Adichie how she had learned to speak English so well. b) Adichie replied that English was their official language.
c) Mr. Schmidt: Did your grandpa pay the money? d) Martha: No, he won't pay the money.	c) Mr. Schmidt asked Martha whether her grandpa had paid the money. d) Martha replied negatively that he wouldn't pay the money.
e) Aunt Jane: Don't buy things on hire-purchase beyond your means. f) Jack and Jill: Thanks Aunt Jane. We will take care.	e) Aunt Jane advised Jack and Jill not to buy things on hire-purchase beyond their means. f) Jack and Jill thanked Aunt Jane and said that they would take care.

➤ **Complete following sentences appropriately.**

1. There is nothing wrong in buying things on hire-purchase,.....?
2. Mr. John led a loose life,.....?
3. When you are doubtful about the meaning of a word, you had better..... .
4. If Mr. Schmidt..... (agree) with Mr. Boone, Martha wouldn't have got the jacket.
5. Martha: Grandpa,.....? Grandpa: No, I will not give you the money.

Answers: 1. is there? 2. didn't he?
3. **consult** a dictionary. / **ask** your teacher.
4. had agreed
5. will you give me the money?