

UNIT SUMMARY

The Best Investment I ever made

It is a short story written by A.J.Cronin which discusses the author's early life as a doctor in London. While returning from New York Cronin meets Mr. and Mrs. John S__ and understands the value of real investment in life.

The Danger of a Single Story

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 'The Danger of a Single Story' is a Ted Talk. In that she explores the negative influences that a single story creates in the mindset. Adichie argues that single stories often originate from simple misunderstandings or one's lack of knowledge of others.

The Ballad of Father Gilligan

The poem penned by W.B.Yeats is the story of an old priest Peter Gilligan, a dedicated priest who is simple, kind and noble. Some of his people in his parish were dead due to an epidemic. He was busy with funeral services and last prayers. He was weary. Once he was unable to attend a last communion. God sent an angel for him to do the service. It shows God's love to his devotee.

Events

The Best Investment I Ever Made

- ❖ The story is written by A.J. Cronin.
- ❖ Once Cronin was travelling in a ship.
- ❖ He noticed a man watching him.
- ❖ The man introduced himself as Mr. John.
- ❖ He recalled an incident that had occurred years ago.
- ❖ One night a police officer came to see the doctor.
- ❖ He reported a suicide case of a young man.
- ❖ The young man was a clerk.
- ❖ He had stolen money for gambling from the office shelf.

- ❖ But he lost all the money.
- ❖ So he attempted suicide.
- ❖ The police officer and the doctor together decided to save him.
- ❖ The landlady offered him free lodging.
- ❖ The Police did not report the case.
- ❖ The doctor offered the money.
- ❖ Thus the young man got a chance to return to his normal life.
- ❖ He dedicated his life to save the maladjusted youth thereafter.
- ❖ Cronin understood the value of his best investment.

The Danger of a Single Story

- ❖ The Danger of a Single Story is a Ted talk by Adichie.
- ❖ She is a Nigerian writer.
- ❖ She said that she was a story teller.
- ❖ She claims her as an early reader and writer.
- ❖ She read American books at a very young age.
- ❖ So her characters were Americans.
- ❖ She later started reading African books..
- ❖ Then her single story about the fictitious characters changed.
- ❖ Her family possessed a servant boy named Fide.
- ❖ The only story she knew about Fide was that he was poor.
- ❖ Once she visited his home with her mother.
- ❖ She was shocked to see their talent.
- ❖ She went America for higher studies.
- ❖ Her roommate was shocked to hear her perfect English.
- ❖ Her roommate thought that Africans were poor.
- ❖ She was ready to patronise Adichie.
- ❖ But her single story completely broke when she met her.
- ❖ So Adichie says that a single story will create stereotypes.

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON**The Best Investment I ever made**

A.J. Cronin describes an experience from his early life as a doctor in London in the lesson “The best investment I ever made.” On his way back from New York, Dr. A.J. Cronin became aware of one of his shipmates observing him intently. He initially ignored him because he wanted to stay away from any awkward situations on board. Dr. Cronin quickly noticed that the man wanted to approach him but was uncomfortable. The following forenoon, Dr. Cronin noticed that the man was looking at him earnestly once more. This time he was accompanied by a lady, his wife. They were Mr. and Mrs. John from a London suburb, according to Dr. Cronin’s steward.

On the last day of the trip, the man went to Dr. Cronin and introduced himself as Mr. John after being persuaded by his wife to do so. He offered Dr. Cronin his business card and inquired about his recognition. The man continued that he has been doing social work for fifteen years, and his wife and he went to New York for philanthropic work.” Despite a brief exchange, Dr. Cronin failed in remembering the latter. Then the man said something to Dr. Cronin that made him go back to his past.

He remembered a terrible thing that had happened 25 years earlier. Dr. Cronin was once asked to attend a suicide case by a police sergeant. Following the investigation, Cronin concluded that the young man’s situation was extremely pitiful because he had attempted suicide. Dr. Cronin was able to revive him after an arduous hour of labour with the sergeant and the lodge’s landlady.

The individual identified himself as John and revealed that he was an orphan when questioned about the circumstance. His uncle helped him get a job in the city, but he soon started living a carefree lifestyle by gambling to pay for his luxuries. In doing so, he destroyed everything and took some cash from his workplace. He made the decision to end his life out of extreme anguish and despair as well as fear of the prosecution. After listening to John’s story, Dr. Cronin decided to help him by giving him seven pounds and ten shillings to put back in the office safe and begin a fresh life. For John, it was like a second life. He determined to change his life and to make a new beginning. The young man was now a successful social worker.

Dr. Cronin realised that his modest investment had been profitable. Dr. Cronin realised that his small investment—which had brought him great joy but had brought him no financial gain—had turned out to be the best choice he had ever made.

The Danger of a Single Story

According to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in the lesson “The Danger of a Single Story “ , single stories frequently result from misunderstandings,

ignorance of others. She discusses the potential risk of only knowing one side of a story. Stereotypes are produced by the singular narrative, and the issue with stereotypes is that they are both incorrect and misleading. They force one narrative to become the sole narrative heard and conveyed to others. She uses a few examples to explain how misleading news have affected her personally.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was a prolific author who started when she was around seven years old. Her stories always had white and blue-eyed characters playing in the snow and eating apples, and they talked a lot about the weather. She used to write exactly the same stories that she read. She dramatically changed her perspective of view after learning about African books.

She discovered after reading Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye that literary characters with characteristics similar to hers—girls with skin the colour of cocoa and kinky hair that was unable to be pulled into ponytails—could also exist.

Her family welcomed Fide as a new house boy in the year she turned eight. Her mother merely provided her with the information that his family was extremely poor. Then, one Saturday, she spotted a gorgeously designed basket that Fide's brother had woven from dyed raffia. She could no longer perceive them as anything other than poor because that was the only way she had ever thought of them. Her first personal account was what made her realize how deceptive such things may be.

She later left Nigeria at the age of 19 to attend higher studies in the United States. Her English proficiency and way of life surprised her American roommate. When Adichie produced her tape of Mariah Carrey, she was extremely disappointed. Her initial reaction to her was one of patronising, well-intentioned sorrow because she was an African. She only had one story about Africa. In this one scenario, there was no chance that Africans would be similar to her in any manner, that they would have emotions other than pity, or that they would establish a relationship as human equals.

She started to understand that the same narrative must have been told and seen in many ways by her American roommate during her entire life. A professor once claimed that her book was not truly African because the protagonists were too much like him—educated, middle-class men who drove automobiles instead of going hungry. He therefore concluded that they were not truly African.

She realised that insisting on only these negative stories was flattening her experience and ignoring the many other stories that formed her when she learned that writers were expected to have really unhappy childhoods in

order to be successful. On the other hand, she had a very happy childhood, full of laughter and love, in a very close-knit family.

The Ballad of father Gilligan

“The Ballad of Father Gilligan’ written by the Irish Poet W.B.Yeats tells the tale of an elderly priest named Father Gilligan who is simple, religious and dedicated. Due to an outbreak, half of his parishioners were either dead or ill. Father Gilligan served them day and night, but he was weak and exhausted. He was unable to attend a sick man’s last communion because he fell asleep in his chairs. The following morning, Father Gilligan rode his horse to the man’s house in deep sorrow after realising he had failed to fulfil his obligation. But the sick man’s wife informed him that her husband had passed away and questioned why he had returned. Father assumed from her query that God had appointed an angel to serve in his place while he was away. He knelt and cried in repentance and thanked God for His mercy.

SAMPLE QUESTION 1

English

Total Marks :20

Read the following lines of the poem ‘The Ballad of Father Gilligan’ and answer the following questions. (1 × 5 = 5)

He knelt, and leaning on the chair
 He prayed and fell asleep;
 And the moth-hour went from the fields,
 And stars began to peep.

They slowly into millions grew,
 And leaves shook in the wind;
 And God covered the world with shade,
 And whispered to mankind.

1. Why did he fall asleep?
2. Pick out example of a visual image.
3. “They slowly into millions grew”... What does ‘they’ indicate?
4. Pick out the rhyme scheme of the stanza.
5. Give an instance of Personification.
6. **You were the co-passenger of Dr.Cronin who witnessed the whole events. You met a friend and discussed the story of Mr. John. Prepare the likely narrative. 5**
7. Mr. John meets Cronin for the second time. He scribbles his experience in his diary that night. Prepare the possible **diary entry.** 5

8. Prepare a short **profile** of W B Yeats using the hints given below: 5

Name: William Butler Yeats

Born : 1865 June 13

Place : Sandymount in County Dublin

Father : John Butler Yeats.

Major works: 'The Tower: and 'The Winding Stair and Other Poems'

Awards: Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923

Died: 1939

SAMPLE QUESTION 2

English

Total Marks :20

1. Prepare an appreciation of the given lines of the poem 'The Ballad of Father Gilligan'. 5

The old priest Peter Gilligan
Was weary night and day;
For half his flock were in their beds,
Or under green sods lay.

Once, while he nodded on a chair,
At the moth-hour of eve,
Another poor man sent for him,
And he began to grieve.

'I have no rest, nor joy, nor peace,
For people die and die';
And after cried he, 'God forgive!
My body spake, not I!'

He knelt, and leaning on the chair
He prayed and fell asleep;
And the moth-hour went from the fields,
And stars began to peep.

They slowly into millions grew,
And leaves shook in the wind;
And God covered the world with shade,
And whispered to mankind.

Upon the time of sparrow-chirp
When the moths came once more.
The old priest Peter Gilligan
Stood upright on the floor.

'Mavrone, mavrone! the man has died
While I slept on the chair';
He roused his horse out of its sleep,
And rode with little care.

He rode now as he never rode,
 By rocky lane and fen;
 The sick man's wife opened the door:
 'Father! you come again!'

2. You are the Secretary of your School's Youth Club. Prepare a speech to be presented on the Youth Day which falls on January 12th. 5

3. Read the following passage from the anecdote 'The Best Investment I ever Made' and answer the questions that follow: (1 × 5 = 5)

On the second day, out from New York, while making the round of the promenade deck, I suddenly became aware that one of the passengers was watching me closely, following me with his gaze every time I passed. I wanted to rest, to avoid the tedium of casual and importunate ship-board contacts. I gave no sign of having noticed the man.

Yet there was nothing importunate about him. On the contrary, he seemed affected by a troubled, rather touching diffidence. He was in his early 40s, rather short in build, with a fair complexion and clear blue eyes. His thin hair had begun to recede from his forehead. His dark suit, sober tie and rimless spectacles gave evidence of a serious and reserved disposition. At this point the bugle sounded for dinner, and I went below.

- a. Who is the narrator of the story?
- b. What is the setting of the story in these two paragraphs?
- c. Describe the stranger.
- d. Pick out the word with the meaning 'lack of confidence'.
- e. Identify the sentence that tells the author was not in a mood to talk to the stranger.

4. Edit the given profile of A J Cronin. 5

A J Cronin **were**(a) born **at** (b) 19th July **on** (c) 1896. He was a famous novelist and **alsoan**(d) physician. His first novel was Hatters Castle. His major works **is**(e) The Citadel, The Stars Look down.

SAMPLE QUESTION 3

English

Total Marks :20

1. Read the following passage from the anecdote 'The Danger of a Single Story' and answer the questions that follow: (1x5=5)

I began to realize that my American roommate must have throughout her life seen and heard different versions of this single story. A professor once told me that my novel was not 'authentically African.' I did not know what African authenticity was. The professor told me that my characters were too much like him, an educated and middle-class man. My characters drove cars. They were not starving. Therefore, they were not authentically African.

When I learned, some years ago, that writers were expected to have had really unhappy childhoods to be successful, I began to think about how I could invent horrible things my parents had done to me. But the truth is that I had a very happy childhood, full of laughter and love, in a very close-knit family.

- Why was Adichie's view on her American roommate's perspective on her?
- Why did the Professor think that Adichie's characters were not authentically African?
- What kind of person was the Professor?
- What kind of childhood did Adichie have?
- Read the following sentence and frame a similar sentence.

The Professor was an educated and a middle-class man.

2. Fill in with suitable phrasal verbs: (1x5=5)

One Saturday morning, Adichie and her mother _____(a)_____ to visit Fide's family. Adichie was startled when she _____(b)_____ the basket made by Fide's brother. She could not _____(c)_____ how a poor boy could make such a beautiful basket. She _____(d)_____ to _____(e)_____ her thoughts in her diary.

(put down, make up one's mind, set out, came across, make out)

- Mr. John in 'The Best Investment I ever made' created a great influence in the mind of the readers. Prepare a character sketch of Mr. John.5
- Prepare a small write up based on the speech of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in the Danger of a Single Story. 5

SAMPLE QUESTION 4

English

Total Marks :20

Read the following passage from the anecdote ‘The Best Investment I ever made’ and answer the questions that follow: (1 × 5 = 5)

What this shows, I think, is how impressionable and vulnerable we are in the face of a story, particularly as le children. Because all I had read were books in which characters were foreign, I had become convinced that books by their very nature had to have foreigners in them and had to be about things with which I could not personally identify. Now, things changed when I discovered African books. There weren't many of them available, and they weren't quite as easy to find as the foreign books. But when I read Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye, I realised that people like me, girls with skin the color of chocolate, whose kinky hair could not kinky form ponytails, could also exist in literature. I started to write about things I recognised. I loved the American and British books I read. They stirred my imagination and opened up new worlds for me. But African writers saved me from having a single story of what books are.

1. How did foreign books influence Adichie?
2. Name the African writers who changed Adichie's way of thinking?
3. How did Adichie feel when she read book authored by African authors?
4. Identify the lines which show that she could not read many African books in her childhood.
5. Identify the word with the meaning 'easily influenced'.

6. Edit the following passage. (1 × 5 = 5)

Chimamanda Adichie begins her speech by telling us a story **what about**(a) she used to write as a child. She would write stories that **was**(b) similar to the foreign stories she had read **who**(c) had white skinned children with blue eyes, nothing like her. Only when she **find**(d) African stories did she realise the people like her could be in stories. If we read only a version of stories about the world, we **would**(e) feel that this is the life of the people in that place.

7. Study the following notice and answer the questions that follow: (1x5=5)

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

WELCOME FOREIGN DELEGATES

Dear Friends,

Mr. and Mrs. John S, the well-known social workers of East London, is visiting our school as a part of their Indian tour on Friday, November 6, 2023 at 5 pm. They are now working as directors of a charitable organization in London and they are taking care of the maladjusted and delinquent youth. They would interact with the children to know more about their

social backgrounds. Our school has decided to arrange a grand function to receive these foreign delegates, in our school auditorium.

Our Education Minister has consented to inaugurate the function. The District collector will also attend the function. All the teachers and students are cordially invited to the function.

Sd/-

Secretary

2 November, 2023

- a. When is the function proposed to be held?
 - b. Who are the foreign delegates arriving at your school?
 - c. What is the purpose of visit?
 - d. Which country do they belong to?
 - e. Who will inaugurate the function?
8. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie goes to America for her higher studies. There she meets her roommate who is surprised to find a different person which is contrary to her single story of Africans. **Prepare a possible conversation between Adichie and her roommate.** **5**

ANSWER KEY

SAMPLE QUESTION 1

1. Because he was very tired.
2. The leaves shook in the wind.
3. The night turned to midnight.
4. abcb
5. And stars began to peep
6. The narrator's journey had only entered its second day. He was suddenly conscious that someone was intently observing him. The narrator thought the man lacked the self-assurance to approach him and seek clarification. He was just over his forties. The man's name was John, the narrator discovered. Mrs. John convinced John to meet the narrator on the last night at sea.

John introduced himself to the narrator and his wife before beginning to share his experience. His parents had passed on. His uncle assisted him in obtaining employment as a clerk in a London legal firm. He was socially awkward and hung out with the wrong crowd. He began to indulge in excess pleasures. He began placing wagers on horses. He quickly lost all of his savings. He attempted to obtain funds by stealing from his office safe in order to place a last-minute wager. But he lost once more. Now, he desired to end his life. He entered the space and started the gas.

He was discovered unconscious, so the narrator, a doctor, was brought in to tend to him. Along with the land woman who belonged to John, there was a policeman. He was quickly revived by the doctor. John explained why he wished to pass away.

He was offered assistance since the doctor, the police officer, and the landlord felt sorry for him. He received the cash from the doctor to make up for the items he stole from the office safe. The officer would not file a complaint against John. He would receive a month of free lodging from the landlord. John has completely transformed now. He put up a lot of effort and succeeded. He and his wife are now assisting the retarded, misbehaving, and delinquent youth in getting back to a regular life. The money the narrator gave John was, in his opinion, the best investment he had ever made.

7. 7th July 1999

Thursday

One of my happiest days ever is right now. I had been looking for this man who had altered my life for almost 25 years. In addition to saving my life after my failed suicide attempt, this man, this doctor, also gave me the cash to return to the location where I stashed it. For me, he is more than simply a guy; he is an angel. I would not have survived without his assistance. He and I met today when I was travelling back from the United States. Although the doctor is getting a little older, his face still retains a happy expression. He caught my attention at first glance. He did not, however, recognise me. I went and introduced myself to him. So I went and introduced myself and thanked him for his assistance 25 years prior. When he saw me and learned about my work, he was pleased. Likewise, I was overjoyed to meet him. I ask God to make the world a better place by creating more people like him.

8. **William Butler Yeats**

William Butler Yeats was born on June 13, 1865 in Sandymount in County Dublin. His father was John Butler Yeats. W.B. Yeats major works include 'The Tower', 'The Winding Stair and Other Poems'. He got many awards and the major one was the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923. He died in 1939 at the age of 73.

SAMPLE QUESTION 2

1. WB Yeats, an Irish poet and notable figure of twentieth-century literature, depicts the poverty and extreme religiosity of his time's Irish rural life in this poem.

This poem tells the story of Father Gilligan, an elderly priest. Half of his parishioners were either sick or had died as a result of an epidemic. Father Gilligan was in their service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and he was exhausted and weak. He was unable to attend one sick man's final moments because he fell asleep in his chairs. Recognizing that he had failed in his duty, Father Gilligan rode his horse to the man's house the next morning, overcome with grief. His wife informed the priest that her husband had died and asked why he had returned. Father deduced from her question that God had sent an angel to perform his duties while he was away. He knelt and cried in repentance and thanked God for His mercy.

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 countryside 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 Imagery**: We see the dusk and the dawn with the 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 Imagery**: we hear leaves shaking in the wind and sparrows chirping. Also, the cry of repentance from the priest calling "Mavrone", mavrone!"

The two lines, "**For half his flock were in their beds,/ Or under green sods lay**" are **metaphoric** with sick and death respectively, denoting that half of the villagers are either in sickbeds 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 the use of **Refrain** in the poem.

2. Respected teachers and my dear friends,

I've come to speak on this special occasion of Youth Day. As we all know, Youth Day is a holiday dedicated to a country's youth. It is observed on numerous dates throughout the year by 18 countries. The United Nations officially recognises International Youth Day on August 12. It falls on January 12 in our country. Swami Vivekananda's birthday is today. National Youth Day is celebrated in schools and colleges across India with processions, speeches, music, youth conventions, seminars, and other activities. Swami Vivekananda's lectures and writings, which were inspired by Indian spiritual tradition and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa's broad outlook. These were a source of inspiration and motivation for many young people. We should be devoted to goodness at any circumstances. Let me conclude here.

Thank you all

3.
 - a. A.J.Cronin
 - b. New York
 - c. The stranger was in his early 40s, rather short in build, with a fair complexion and clear blue eyes. His thin hair had begun to recede from his forehead. His dark suit, sober tie and rimless spectacles gave evidence of a serious and reserved disposition.
 - d. Diffidence
 - e. I wanted to rest, to avoid the tedium of casual and importunate ship-board contacts.
4. **A. was b. on c. in d. a e. are**

SAMPLE QUESTION 3

1.
 - a. American roommate must have throughout her life seen and heard different versions of this single story.
 - b. The professor told me that my characters were too much like him, an educated and middle-class man and hence not authentically African.
 - c. The professor was an educated, middle class man.
 - d. Adichie had a very happy childhood, full of laughter and love, in a very close-knit family.
 - e. The teacher was a singer and a dancer.
2.
 - a) Made up their mind
 - b) Came across
 - c) Make out
 - d) Set out
 - e) Put down
3. Mr. John is portrayed in the story as a middle-aged man in his early forties. He has a slim build, a fair complexion, and clear blue eyes. As his thin hair began to recede from his brow, he began to go bald. He has a reserved demeanour and a solemn appearance, especially in his dark suit and sober tie. He has been searching for Dr. A J Cronin for over a quarter-century. But when he comes across him unexpectedly on a ship journey, he is too shy to approach Dr Cronin. His wife convinces and encourages him to meet with and speak with Dr. Cronin. Mr. John is a respectful individual who values his life saviour. He tries to bring up the tragic incident that occurred about 25 years ago with Dr. Cronin. Mr. John had a bleak and unhappy past. In his youth he led a loose life and lost everything he possessed. He gambled, borrowed a lot of money, and spent it all. He also stole money from his workplace. After losing everything and becoming distressed and anguished, he decided to take his own life. From the suicide attempt he was saved by three kind-hearted people – Dr. A J 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 promised to devote the rest of his life to charity and social work. He and his wife have worked in social services for the past 15 years. Mr. John remembers the three people with gratitude and believes that he owes Dr. Cronin every breath he takes now.
4. Stereotypes are formed by a single story. The issue with stereotypes is not that they are false, but that they are insufficient. Chimamanda Adichie's experience as a student in the United States demonstrates the point. Her American roommate was surprised to hear Adichie speak English so well, and she enjoyed Mariah Carey's songs. The American roommate could never imagine that a girl from Nigeria would speak English or listen to singers like Mariah Carey. Many British, Canadians or Australians feel surprised when Indians speak fluent English because they think that Indians can't speak English well.

People are misinformed and misguided by single stories. Fide was the name of their servant. Her mother was always talking about Fide's poverty. Adichie once went to Fide's house and discovered that his brother was a skilled craftsman who could create intricately patterned baskets. But she was only aware of their poverty, not their artistic abilities. This is something that many of us experience. We only hear one thing about a person or a country. We don't hear much else about him or the country. As a result, our perception of the individual and the country remains skewed.

So, rather than hearing a single story about something, we should hear several stories about it. Otherwise, like the American roommate, we will remain prejudiced.

SAMPLE QUESTION 4

1. Adichie had become convinced that books by their very nature had to have foreigners in them and had to be about things with which she could not personally identify.
2. Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye
3. She realised that people like her, girls with skin the color of chocolate, whose kinky hair could not form ponytails, could also exist in literature.
4. There weren't many of them available, and they weren't quite as easy to find as the foreign books.
5. Vulnerable
6. a. about what
b. were
c. which
d. found
e. will
7. a. November 6, 2023
b. Mr. and Mrs. John S
c. to interact with the children to know more about their social backgrounds.
d. East London
e. Education Minister

8. **Adichie :** Good Morning friend. I am Adichie from Africa.

Roommate: Good Morning. I was waiting for you. Professor told me about my you today.

Adichie: Oh! So kind of you.

Roommate: You speak English like a native speaker. How?

Adichie: English is our official language.

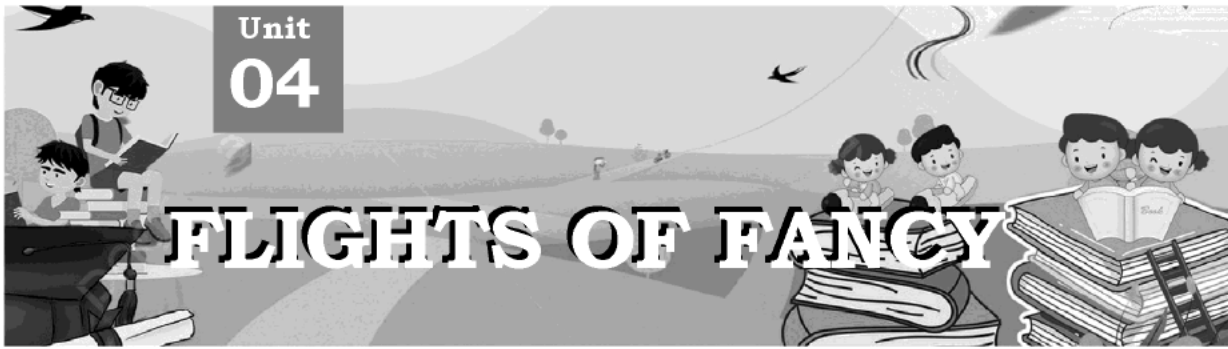
Roommate: It is quite interesting. Do you have a tribal music collection with you?

Adichie: Sorry I only have Mariah Carrey's music with me.

Roommate: I am shocked. I thought that you would need my help for everything.

Adichie: It may be due to the notion you have created due to the single story In your mind.

Roommate: Yes, I understand. Single stories are very dangerous. It leads to prejudices. From hither I would try not to generate any single stories.

**UNIT SUMMARY****The Scholarship Jacket-Martha Salinas**

The Scholarship Jacket is an inspiring story of a young girl Marta who persistently worked hard to achieve her dream of attaining the Scholarship Jacket.

The Never Never Nest-Cedric Mount

This play gives a second thought about the perils of instalment system. Jack and Jill leads a life of luxury by purchasing all sort of amenities on instalments. But Aunt Jane who is a thoughtful women advises them to stay away from false illusions of luxury.

Poetry- Pablo Neruda

Pablo Neruda's Poetry deals with the idea of poetic inspiration. It is about how the poet gets the inspiration to write poetry. The poem talks about the basic stimulus behind writing poetry.

EVENTS**The Scholarship Jacket**

- ❖ Texas school presents a scholarship jacket to the class valedictorian.
- ❖ Martha dreams of getting the jacket.
- ❖ She overhears an argument between Mr Schmidt and Mr Boone.
- ❖ The principal informs of the change in policy and demands Martha to pay fifteen dollars.
- ❖ She informs her grandfather and asks for the money.
- ❖ The grandfather disagrees with the change in policy and refuses to give the money.
- ❖ Martha informs Grandfather's decision to Principal.
- ❖ Principal changes his decision.
- ❖ Martha gets the scholarship jacket.

The Never Never Nest

- ❖ Jack and Jill, a young married couple who had a small baby.
- ❖ They are very much interested in buying things in instalments.

- ❖ When Aunt Jane visits the couple, she finds them leading a luxurious life.
- ❖ Aunt Jane understands that Jack and Jill had everything, but they owned nothing.
- ❖ Aunt Jane was shocked at the way Jack and Jill lived in debt.
- ❖ Aunt Jane was glad that the couple had everything, but she didn't like the idea of borrowing money to pay the instalments.
- ❖ Aunt Jane scolded them and gave them a cheque to make at least one thing completely their own.
- ❖ According to Jack and Jill, they had purchased their baby from Dr Martin.
- ❖ Finally, the couple become the complete owner of their baby.
- ❖ The play brings out the flaws of the buy-and-pay later marketing system.
- ❖ The play is a real satire mocking the life of contemporary society.

SUMMARY

The Scholarship Jacket

The narrator, Martha, is nearing the end of eighth grade at her Texas school. Every year at graduation, the school awards a beautiful jacket monogrammed with an "S" and the winner's name to the class valedictorian, the student with the highest grades over eight years. Martha's older sister Rosie won it years earlier. Martha is going to win it this year. She lives with her grandparents. Her parents couldn't afford to raise all their kids. Martha is very thin. She's not happy with her appearance but she's smart.

One day at the end of the school year, Martha has to go back to her classroom to get her shorts for gym class. Hearing raised voices inside, she stops outside the door. Two of her teachers are arguing about her. She's shocked and stands there listening. It was a conversation between Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Boone. Mr. Schmidt is saying he refuses to do something, that it doesn't matter who her father is, and that Martha is the clear winner. Mr. Boone says Joann's father is on the Board, owns the only store in town, and that they could make some excuse. She also hears mention of her Mexican background and a threat to resign. Mr. Schmidt storms out but doesn't notice Martha. She waits until she calms down and goes into the classroom to get her bag. She can't remember the rest of the day.

Martha cries quietly that night. The next day, she's called to the principal's office. He looks uncomfortable. He tells Martha the policy has changed this year—there will now be a charge for the scholarship jacket. If she can't pay, the next in line will get the jacket. She says she'll tell her grandfather and get back to him. She cries on the way home. Martha goes into the bean field to find her Grandpa. She explains the situation. He asks what the scholarship jacket means. She says it's given to the student who earns it. They both understand. Before she leaves he says if it's paid for it's not a scholarship jacket. She's angry but knows Grandpa is right.

Martha is sad the next day when she goes to see the principal. She tells him her grandfather won't pay. He asks why, because he has enough money. She explains the reason. She adds that they'll have to give the jacket to Joann. The principal stops her before she leaves. He says they'll make an exception and give her the jacket. Martha is very happy and thanks him. When she sees Mr. Schmidt later he acknowledges her accomplishment. She hugs him. Martha cries with happiness on the way home. She rushes to the field to tell her grandfather. She ends up working with him a few minutes first, then gives him the good news. He pats her on the shoulder and wipes the sweat off his forehead. He tells her to see if her grandmother needs help with supper. Martha smiles at him. She's not fooled. She runs happily to the house.

The Never Never Nest

This is a contemporary one act play by a modern dramatist called Cedric Mount. It depicts the lifestyle of an immature couple called Jack and Jill. The couple bought each and every extravagance of life on instalments and lived cheerfully without being conscious of the fact that they would be struggling under the burden of debt in the impending future. The title of the play – “The Never Never Nest” has two negatives in it. i.e., the word ‘never’ is repeated twice ensuring that the nest would be never built. The double negative emphasis the impossibility of realizing a dream home of theirs. The word ‘Nest’ in the title literally refers to the home of birds. In the natural world birds temporary homes. It can be temporary structure since birds live in them temporarily with respect to changing weather conditions. The nest lacks stability since they can be attacked by other animals. In the play, Jack and Jill conceive a home which is cosy and stable. But they are not able to realise their dream home as it is always on debt. They have not only purchased the ‘house’ on instalments but everything of the house- such as the furniture, piano, radiogram and the car. At the end of the play, we get to know that the couple had their baby on instalments. Since every lavishness of their life is based on buy-now-pay-later marketing system, they were not secure at all. The family's income is low as compared to the total instalments which is to be paid every week. This situation tells that if anytime they fail to pay their instalments, they may have to leave their house, which simply shows the insecurity of the couple's life. The title of the play is appropriate since it connotes the theme- the pathetic condition of the couple.

Poetry

The poet begins by saying that he does not know where poetry arrived from, but it came to him, searching for him. It was not a call or a song nor was it silence, but he was summoned. The use of winter, river and branches indicates that it is the nature that inspires him to write poetry. Before the arrival of poetry, the poet felt himself incomplete and the touch of the Poetry complemented him. Poetry gave him a uniqueness; it gave meaning to his life. When the poet was first struck with the inspiration, he was left dazed and the fire ignited with passion blinded him. It was as if something inside of him aroused. He then interpreted the force and summoned and began on his journey to write. He wrote whatever came to him, sense and nonsense and

when he wrote, it unfolded a new world for him, a world of endless possibilities and meanings, a galaxy of opportunities. He describes himself as a tiny being who is drunk with the starry void and immersed in mystery, he has now become a part of the abyss. The poet is revolving with the stars and his heart is finally free.

SAMPLE QUESTION 1

English

Total Marks :20

Read the excerpt from the story “The Scholarship Jacket” and answer the questions that follow. (1 × 5 = 5 marks)

He still waited silently. I tried again. ‘Grandpa, this year the principal said the scholarship Jacket is not going to be free. It’s going to cost fifteen dollars, and I have to take the money in tomorrow, otherwise it’ll be given to someone else.’ The last words came out in an eager rush. Grandpa straightened up tiredly and leaned his chin on the hoe handle. He looked out over the field that was filled with the tiny green bean plants. I waited, desperately hoping he’d say I could have the money. He turned to me and asked quietly, ‘What does a scholarship Jacket mean?’

1. “He still waited silently.” Who is he mentioned here?
2. What did Martha tell her Grandfather about the Scholarship Jacket?
3. How much would the Scholarship Jacket cost?
4. What was the wise question asked by the Grandfather?
5. Pick out the word that means ‘eagerly’.
6. **Prepare a short profile of DH Lawrence using the hints given below.5**

Birth : September 11, 1885

Place of birth : East wood, Nottinghamshire

Nationality : British

Known as : Novelist, poet

Notable works : Son and Lovers, The Rainbow, Women in Love, John Thomas and lady Jane

Death : March 2, 1930

7. **Complete the following conversation. 4**

Aunt Jane: You look worried, ___(a)___?

Jill: Yes, Aunt Jane, I am really worried.

Aunt Jane : _____(b)_____?

Jill: We have not paid this month’s instalment for our car, furniture and house.

Aunt Jane: If you don’t pay the instalments, _____(c)_____.

Jill: Yes Aunt, but we don’t have the money to pay the instalments.

Aunt Jane: You had better _____ (d) _____.

Jill: Ok, Aunt Jane.

8. **Report the following:** **2**

Grandfather: What does a scholarship jacket mean?

Martha: It means you have earned it by having the highest grades for eight years.

9. **Fill in the blanks using suitable phrasal verbs from brackets.** **4**

[Make up one's mind, put up with, keep away, put on, make out]

Marta could not ___(a)___ her principal's behaviour. She became sad and ran home crying. At home she ___(b)___ from her grandmother. Grandmother could not ___(c)___ what had happened to Martha. Martha ___(d)___ to face the principal the next day.

SAMPLE QUESTION 2

English

Total Marks :20

1. **Read the following lines from the poem 'Poetry' and prepare a note of appreciation.** **5**

And it was at that age ... Poetry arrived
in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where
it came from, from winter or a river.
I don't know how or when,
no, they were not voices, they were not
words, nor silence,
but from a street I was summoned,
from the branches of night,
abruptly from the others,
among violent fires
or returning alone,
there I was without a face
and it touched me.

2. **Fill in the blanks using suitable words from brackets.** **4**

[With, for, and, to, in]

Martha walked back ___(a)___ the house and locked herself ___(b)___ the bathroom ___(c)___ a long time. She was angry ___(d)___ grandfather even though she knew he was right.

**Read the following paragraph and answer the question is that follow:
(1 × 5 = 5)**

Coffee is a plant and the name of the drink that is made from this plant. The coffee plant is a bush or tree that can grow up to ten meters (about 32 feet) high, but is usually cut shorter. Coffee plants originally grew in Ethiopia, and now also grow in South America, Central America and Southeast Asia. They are an important crop for the economies of many countries. Coffee contains a chemical called caffeine, a mild drug that keeps people awake.

To make a drink from coffee beans, the beans must first be specially prepared by drying the beans and then roasting. The beans are dried a short time after they are picked. This preserves them and makes them ready to be packed or roasted. Before the beans are made into a drink, they must be roasted or ground (crushed into tiny pieces in a coffee mill). When the ground coffee is placed into boiling water, the flavour and dark brown colour of the beans goes into the water. Making coffee is called brewing coffee. There are several different ways that coffee can be brewed.

Coffee contains a number of useful nutrients, including riboflavin, niacin, magnesium, potassium, and various phenolic compounds, or antioxidants.

3. Where can you find coffee plants?
4. What chemical does coffee contain?
5. How should the beans be treated before it is made to a drink?
6. What all nutrients do coffee contain?
7. Suggest a suitable title for this paragraph.
8. The English Club of your school decides to stage the play 'The Never Never Nest'. You are the secretary of the club. Prepare the likely **notice**. **6**

SAMPLE QUESTION 3

English

Total Marks :20

1. **Martha struggled so much to get the scholarship jacket. At last, she got it. She reached her friend's home and narrated the events to her friend. Prepare the likely narrative.** **5**

(**Hints:** Texas school-tradition-scholarship jacket-Principal calls Martha-change in policy-charge 15 dollars-grandfather disagrees-Martha tells the principal-changes policy-receives jacket-feels happy)

2. **Edit the following paragraph.** **4**

Martha was almost back at her classroom door she when heard (a) voices raised in anger as if in some sort of arguement(b). She stop(c)there. She didn't means(d) to eavesdrop.

ENGLISH

- 3. Read the following conversation and fill in the blanks.** **2**
- Jill: What do you think of my little house?
Aunt Jane: your house is really wonderful.
jill asked Aunt Jane _____ (a) _____.
Aunt Jane replied _____ (b) _____.
- 4. Jack and Jill were shocked to see their radiogram was missing. They decided to lodge a complaint to the nearest police station. Prepare the possible letter of complaint.** **5**
- 5. Prepare a brief writeup on the danger of instalment system.** **4**

SAMPLE QUESTION 4

English

Total Marks :20

Read the lines from the poem 'Poetry' and answer the following questions. **(1 × 5 = 5)**

And I, infinitesimal being,
Drunk with the great starry
Void,
Likeness, image of
Mystery,
Felt myself a pure part
Of the abyss,
I wheeled with the stars,
My heart broke loose on the wind.

1. What does the poet say about himself?
 2. How does the poet feel about himself?
 3. What happened to the poet after wheeling with the stars?
 4. Pick out the word which means 'a very deep wide space or hole that seems to have no bottom'.
 5. Pick out an instance of alliteration.
- 6. Complete the conversation.** **5**

Jill : Aunt Jane messaged me. She will come here.

Jack : _____ a _____?

Jill : She will reach in the evening.

Jack : You had better _____ b _____.

Jill: Sure. I am going to clean the room.

Jack: The earlier we start, _____ c _____.

Jill: Let us buy fruits, _____ d _____?

Jack: Sure. We shall buy. If we get fresh fruits, _____ e _____.

Jill: Good idea. She likes fruit salad.

7. Write a review of The Never Never Nest.

5

Read, comprehend and answer the following questions: (1 × 5 = 5)

I was almost back at my classroom door when I heard voices raised in anger as if in some sort of argument. I argument stopped. I didn't mean to eavesdrop, I eavesdrop just hesitated, not knowing what to do. I needed those shorts and I was going to be late, but I didn't want to interrupt an argument between my teachers. I recognised the voices: Mr. Schmidt, my History teacher and Mr. Boone, my Math teacher. They seemed to be arguing about me. I couldn't believe it. I still remember the feeling of shock that rooted me flat against the wall as if I were trying to blend in with the graffiti written there.

- 8) What did Martha hear when she was back at her classroom door?
- 9) Who were arguing?
- 10)About whom was the argument?
- 11)Write the names of teachers who were talking in the classroom?
- 12) Write another word for 'writing on the wall'.

ANSWER KEY

SAMPLE QUESTION 1

1. Principal
2. The scholarship jacket was not going to be free. It will cost 15 dollars.
3. 15 dollars
4. What does the scholarship jacket mean?
5. desperately

6. **D.H.Lawrence**

The famous British poet and novelist DH Lawrence was born on September 11, 1885 at Eastwood in Nottinghamshire. His notable works include Son's and Lovers, The Rainbow Women in Love, John Thomas and lady Jain, Lady Chatterley's lover etc.. He passed away on March 2,1930.

7. (a) don't you?
(b) What happened to you?
(c) it will cause problems.
(d) pay the money as soon as possible.
8. (a) Grandfather asked what a scholarship jacket meant.
(b) Martha replied that it meant she had earned it by having the highest grades for eight years.

9. a) put up with
(b) kept away
(c) make out
(d) made up one's mind

SAMPLE QUESTION 2

1. Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basoalto, a Chilean poet, was also a diplomat and politician. Pablo Neruda was his pen name when he wrote. Pablo Neruda's poem 'Poetry' talks about poetry that came looking for him. He had no idea where it came from, how it got there, or when it happened. There were no voices speaking to him. He claims that he was drawn away by an invisible force, and that the poetry moved him. In simple terms, the poem's theme is the poet's ecstatic experience embraced by poetic creativity. He had ideas in his head that he couldn't express effectively before being blessed with that creativity.

Something like a fever broke out in his soul, and he went his own way, deciphering the "fire of poetry." He wrote his first feeble, faint, substance-free line, and then the heavens opened up and he could see everything in the universe, from planets to shadows, fire, arrows, and flowers. His imagination became limitless with the arrival of poetic inspiration.

Despite being an infinitesimal being, he was suddenly elevated to a world of ecstasy by the touch of poetry, felt himself to be a pure part of the abyss, and was set free to wheel with the stars. He describes the entire event as his "heart breaking free on the wind."

The poem's style is free verse, and the tone is passion or ecstasy. 'Poetry came in search of the poet and touched him,' says the poet. In the case of poetry as a person, the poetic device Personification is used very effectively here.

The words 'winter' and 'river' represent a 'frozen' but 'flowing' state that contrasts. Similarly, expressions such as "not voices," "not words," "not silence," "pure nonsense," and "pure wisdom" are examples of subtle applications of the literary device. Contrast. The poet does not use the end rhyme, but assonance in the line "I don't know how or when" (internal rhyme) adds 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,".

The poet's mind is opened to a world of ecstasy by the touch of poetry. Flowers, violent fires, night branches, the heavens, wings, planets, plantations, a part of the abyss, and other references create beautiful and perfect visual images of the universe in the minds of the readers.

2. a) to
(b) in
(c) for
(d) with

3. Coffee plants grow in Ethiopia, South America, Central America and Southeast Asia
4. Coffee contains a chemical called caffeine.
5. To make a drink from coffee beans, the beans must first be specially prepared by drying the beans and then roasting. The beans are dried a short time after they are picked. This preserves them and makes them ready to be packed or roasted. Before the beans are made into a drink, they must be roasted or ground.
6. Coffee contains a number of useful nutrients, including riboflavin, niacin, magnesium, potassium, and various phenolic compounds, or antioxidants.
7. Coffee
- 8.

NOTICE

THE NEVER NEVER NEST-DRAMA

10th January 2023

Thursday

Dear Friends,

We are glad to inform you that THE NEVER NEVER NEST is going to be staged on 12th January 2023 at our school auditorium. The famous drama artiste Shri. Jayan is inaugurating the function.

All are welcome.

SAMPLE QUESTION 3

1. **The Jacket of Hardwork**

Renu, I hope you know the importance of scholarship jacket. I am in Texas School. There is a tradition in Texas School—The Scholarship Jacket. Haven't you seen that on Rosie's dress? She is always proud of it. It was my dream from my first standard onwards.

I have been a straight A grade from my first standard onwards. One day I heard an argument between my Schmidt Sir and Boone Sir. Schmidt Sir's words amused me, made me more confident. But Boone Sir, the opportunist favoured for Joann. I was shocked when I heard his words "Martha is a Mexican ". The next day, principal called me to his office. He informed me of the new policy. They were going to charge 15 dollars for the scholarship jacket. Principal advised me to get 15 dollars from my grandfather.

I approached my grandfather. He asked me, " what does a scholarship jacket mean? "He added , "if we pay for the scholarship jacket, its not a scholarship jacket".

So, I informed my principal of the grandfather's attitude. At last, the principal might have changed his mind. They changed the policy. That is, scholarship jacket is earned, not to be bought. When I came out from his room happily, Schmidt Sr was blinking at me. I started to hug him with

gratitude. I know, he took a great part in recommending for me. I am the happiest person, Renu.

- 2) a) When she heard
b) argument
c) stopped
d) mean
- 3) a) Jill asked Aunt Jane what she thought of his little house.
b) Aunt Jane replied that his house was wonderful.

4) From

Jack

Jack Villa

ABC Lane

London

22nd March 2023

To

The Police Officer

ABC Town

London

Sir

Sub: Complaint about the missing radiogram

This is to inform you about the missing of our radiogram last night. It was a costly one, blue in colour. All facilities are accessible in the radiogram. Last night, we were not at home. Neighbours saw someone wandering near our home. So I humbly request you to enquire.

Hoping for a favourable action.

sd/-

Name

4)

A DEVIL IN THE GUISE OF AN ANGEL

Instalment system is the real devil. But it is always in the guise of an angel to attract everyone. It is a 'Buy now, Pay later' system. Common people are unaware of the 'pay later' part, while the company focusses on the 'buy now' part. The customers are forced into a trap of instalments. At first, the authority impresses customers with smiling face and pleasing words. Later when the customer is fed up with the burden of payment beyond his income, the authority makes the customer mad with angry words. Later the family seeks shelter in a suicide. So the danger of instalment system is beyond words.

SAMPLE QUESTION 4

1. Poet is an infinitesimal being.
2. pure part of abyss
3. Poet's heart broke loose on the wind.
4. abyss
5. Wheeled—with
6. a. What is the message?
b. Clean the room.
c. The sooner we reach.
d. Shall we?
e. We will make fruit salad.
7. Review—The Never Never Nest

The play 'The Never Never Nest' was written by Cedric Mount. It is a life related play. Jack, Jill and Aunt Jane are the three characters. The play The Never Never Nest depicts the life of a young couple Jack and Jill. They owned a costly villa by paying instalments. The play starts with the visit of Mrs. Aunt Jane at the villa. They purchased all luxuries through instalments caring little about the burden of instalments.

Aunt Jane became worried. She says that she wouldn't sit in the sofa as they owned only one leg of it. She refused to use their car as they owned only a part.

Aunt Jane was worried how they could pay 7pounds and 8 pence a week when their earning was 6 pence in a week. Even their baby didn't belong to them. Jill owned the baby by sending Aunt Jane's cheque to Dr. Martin.

The title emphasises the impossibility of making home by the double negative Never Never Nest. The word 'nest' denotes a bird's home. It suggests the instability of a home which is likely to fall in crisis by spending above the earnings. So Cedric Mount discourages the modern 'buy now Pay later' style. Such families lead luxurious but insecure life.

I like the play very much because it is a life-related one. We can see three actual human beings and their experiences in the play. The language is simple and readable. Moreover, I liked the character of Aunt Jane very much. The play is very interesting.

8. Martha heard voices raised in anger.
9. Martha's teachers were arguing.
10. They were arguing about Martha.
11. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Boone
12. graffiti



UNIT SUMMARY

Vanka

Vanka is a short story written by Anton Chekov. It is a story of a nine-year boy who was left to apprentice under a cruel shoemaker Alyakhin where he suffers many atrocities. He writes a letter to his grandfather expecting that his grandfather would come and rescue him from his current situation.

Mother to Son

A beautiful poem in free verse written by an American poet, Langston Hughes. The poem is an advice given by a suffering mother to her son. She urges her son not to stop his journey even though his circumstances make his like very difficult to move on.

The Castaway

It is a short story by Rabindranath Tagore which is a story of a destitute orphan named Nilkanta. He survived a boat accident and seeks refuge in the house of Sharat and Kiran. After a series of incidents Nilkanta leaves Kiran's home.

EVENTS

VANKA

- ❖ Vanka is a short story written by the Russian writer, Anton Chekhov.
- ❖ Vanka is the main character in the story.
- ❖ He was a nine-year-old boy.
- ❖ When his mother died, he was sent to Moscow.
- ❖ He was an apprentice in Alyakhin's house, who was a shoe maker.
- ❖ His master, mistress and the other apprentices treated him very rudely.
- ❖ So, he decided to write to his grandfather, Konstantin Makarich, in the village.
- ❖ He happily recalls his life in the village with his mother and grandfather.
- ❖ After finishing the letter, he posted the letter with an incomplete address.
- ❖ He dreams of his grandfather reading out his letter.

- ❖ The Castaway is a short story written by the famous Nobel Prize winner, Rabindranath Tagore.
- ❖ Nilkanta is the protagonist of the story.
- ❖ Sharat and his wife Kiran lived in a river side house in Chandernagore.
- ❖ Kiran wanted to go to her own home, which Sharat and his mother objected.
- ❖ Nilkanta survived a boat accident and reached Kiran's house.
- ❖ The boy's entry was a boon to everyone.
- ❖ Kiran and Nilkanta became good friends.
- ❖ Nilkanta was a naughty boy.
- ❖ Kiran supported Nilkanta by providing him with all amenities.
- ❖ Satish, Sharat's brother arrived and Kiran's attention was turned to Satish.
- ❖ Nilkanta envied at the friendship between Kiran and Satish.
- ❖ Once Satish found his inkpot missing.
- ❖ Everyone accused Nilkanta except Kiran.
- ❖ Later Kiran found it from his box.
- ❖ When Nilkanta realised it, he ran away from the house.

SUMMARY

Vanka

The story opens on a Christmas Eve when Vanka, who is a nine-year-old poor orphan, is writing a letter to his grandfather, Konstantin Makarich. His grandfather works as a night watchman in the estate of Zhivarev and resides in an unidentified village in Russia. Vanka has been transferred to new masters in Moscow to live with the family of Alyakhin the shoemaker. This lifestyle oppresses the little orphan, who grows frustrated with the situation and tries to contact his grandfather to ask for help.

As he writes the letter, Vanka recalls his jesting, lively grandfather and his life at the village before he was apprenticed to this new home. The young boy recollects the two dogs, Kashtanka and Eel, who follow his grandfather around the estate and sometimes partake of the grandfather's snuff. As he writes, Vanka also records some of the harsh treatment that he has received at the hands of Alyakhin, Alyakhin's wife, and the older apprentices. A lifestyle of beatings, scolding, mockery, and unsatisfactory food has driven Vanka to crave escape; he writes that, if he is rescued from Alyakhin, he will protect his grandfather and gladly perform odd jobs.

Vanka also describes some of the goods available in the Moscow shops. Yet his thoughts are dominated by memories of a Christmas at the Zhivarev household, when Vanka had accompanied his grandfather into a nearby forest to cut down a Christmas tree. Olga Ignatyevna, a lively young woman from the Zhivarev family, had decorated the tree; she is also dear to Vanka because

she taught him to read, write, count, and dance. However, after his mother's death, Vanka was sent out of Olga's company and then transferred to Alyakhin's premises. Overcome with emotion, Vanka returns to his letter, writing out a plea for his grandfather to take him away. He also, however, sends his regards to a few people from his former life in the village.

After the letter is finished, the little boy puts down the name of his grandfather, Konstantin Makarich. For the address, he writes down "the village." (He is not aware of the fact that letters, in order to be sent, need to be stamped.) In good hopes, Vanka rushes into the street, throws the letter into the nearest post-box, and then goes back to Alyakhin's to sleep, happily dreaming about his grandfather sitting by the stove and reading the letter to the cooks.

Mother to Son

The speaker of "Mother to Son" is a Black woman and a mother. She is talking directly to her "son," giving him advice drawn from her own life about how to survive and thrive in a racist society. She dwells on the obstacles and dangers that she's faced—comparing her life to a slow and painful climb up a dangerous, poorly maintained set of stairs. Her implication is clear: as Black people in a racist society, she and her son have to face challenges and obstacles that white people don't.

Despite the obstacles and dangers of racism—and its unfair double standard—the speaker believes that her son can succeed if he follows her advice and pushes on, regardless of the difficulties he faces. The speaker is thus a passionate critic of American racism and a strong advocate for Black self-empowerment: championing the capacity of Black people to succeed through perseverance and mutual support. Indeed, the poem is an example of such support, with the speaker offering her hard-won wisdom to her son to help him thrive.

The mother shares that her life has not been an easy ride with rainbows and sunshine, she has faced many challenges and the ride has been rough for her. Comparing her journey of life with stairs, she shares that they were not crystal ones but had rough patches and were torn apart at places, indicating the challenges.

The mother never let any challenge defeat her or hinder her journey, she kept moving forward regardless of the obstacles. At times life got very difficult for her and took her to dark and gloomy places but she kept fighting and then she was able to achieve her goals. She tells her son to not give up or leave when the going gets tough.

The son should not get sad and discouraged and give up. Just because a phase is hard does not mean that his entire life will be hard. She encourages him by saying that she is still climbing and still hurdling challenges even now.

The Castaway

The story opens with the details of a cloudy atmosphere. In a closed room at Chandranagore are sitting Sharat, the husband; and Kiran, the wife. The husband urges the wife to stay a few days more so that she may recover completely.

What had happened a few days ago was that Kiran had fallen ill. This made all the friends and relatives of Kiran very anxious, and despite the pinching remarks by the wisecracks of the village to which they have taken a thinking that the life of their darling was more important for them, they decided to take Kiran to Chandranagore so that she may recover completely. Kiran was fond of 'society' (company) and the loneliness of the riverside village did not suit her at all. She also hated to be busy the whole day with medicine and dieting. Suddenly Sharat heard a loud shouting and opening the door learnt that a boat had been upset in the storm and one of the occupants of the boat had succeeded in swimming ashore the garden. The name of the Brahman boy, who had been able to swim across the garden, was Nilkanta. He belonged to a theatrical troupe. Kiran took warm interest in him. Sharat thought that the boy's appearance at this moment was a good thing as it would give his wife something to amuse her and she might be persuaded to stay on for a longer period of time. Nilkanta was also delighted at his double escape from his master and the other world. But in a short while Sharat and his mother changed their opinion and longed for Nilkanta's departure. The boy was spoiled because of the generous attitude of Kiran towards him. She made the boy a dandy. Sharat often warned her but she would not listen to him. After her midday meal, Kiran would sit on the bedstead and ask Nilkanta to recite pieces from his repertory with appropriate gesture and song. Nilkanta often got beatings from Sharat, and Nilkanta, in return, had come to believe that as the earth consisted of land and water similarly the human life was made up of eatings and beatings.

After the advent of Nilkanta, Sharat's younger brother, Satish had come to spend his vacation with them. Kiran found a huge pleasure at finding a fresh occupant. Satish and Kiran were of the same age, and the time passed pleasantly in games and quarrels, laughter and even tears. Meanwhile Nilkanta suddenly filled with a bitterness, which he must avenge on somebody or something. He kicked his pet mongrel and thrashed his devoted band of boy followers for no fault. Nilkanta had his meal in the presence of Kiran. After the arrival of Satish, she had much less spare time, and was seldom present when Nilkanta's meals were served. In the absence of Kiran, nothing tasted right to him. He would get up without eating much and say in a choking voice "I am not hungry". He would, then, put out the lamp in his room and throw himself on his bed in the darkness burying his head in the pillow until the mother Sleep soothed his wounded heart with her soft caresses.

Nilkanta had the unshakable conviction that Satish was poisoning Kiran's mind against him. He, therefore, longed to be Satish in the next rebirth. At last the time came for their return to their native place. Everybody was busy packing up, but to Nilkanta nobody said a word. Kiran had proposed

to take him along with them but Sharat and his mother had objected to it so strenuously that she let the matter drop. A couple of days before they were to start, he sent for the boy and advised him to go back to his home town. Both Kiran and Nilkanta became emotional and burst into tears. Sharat and Satish, however, said that the tears of the boy were “Crocodile tears” only.

Then the day before they were to start, the inkstand was missing. Satish and Sharad were of the view that Nilkanta had stolen it but Kiran strongly protested. She did not even accept the idea of Satish that his room and box must be searched.

Kiran got two new suits of clothes and a pair of shoes, and with these and a banknote she quietly went into Nilkanta’s room in the evening. She opened the box, and to her surprise she found amongst other things the missing inkstand also. In the meantime, Nilkanta entered the room without Kiran being aware of it. He wanted to say to Kiran that he had not committed the theft but everything was done out of malice. Kiran with a deep sigh replaced the inkstand in the box and also placed all her gifts at the top. Next day, the boy left them. Now Sharat wanted that his box must be searched but Kiran did not allow this. She took the box in her room, took out the inkstand and threw it into the river and the family went home. Only Nikanta’s mongrel remained prowling along the river bank.

SAMPLE QUESTION 1**English****Total Marks :20**

Read the excerpt from the story ‘Vanka’ and answer the questions that follow. **(1 × 5 = 5)**

Grandfather would drag the tree to the big house, and they would start decorating it... Miss Olga Ignatyevna, Vanka’s favourite, was the busiest of all. While Pelageya, Vanka’s mother, was alive and in service at the big house, Olga Ignatyevna used to give Vanka sweets, and amuse herself by teaching him to read, write and count to a hundred, and even to dance the quadrille. But when Pelageya died, the orphaned Vanka was sent down to the back kitchen to his grandfather, and from there to Moscow, to Alyakhin the shoemaker....

1. What would Grandfather do with the big tree?
2. Who was Vanka’s favourite?
3. What did Olga Ignatyevna do when Pelageya was alive?
4. What happened when Pelageya died?
5. Find the Noun Phrase.

The orphaned Vanka was sent to the back kitchen.

Read the following lines from 'Mother to Son' and answer the questions that follow. (1 × 5 = 5)

Well, son I'll tell you:
 Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
 It's had tacks in it
 And splinters.
 And board torn up,
 And places with no carpet on the floor—
 Bare.
 But all the time
 I'se been a-climbin' on,
 And reachin' landin's,
 And turnin' corners.
 And sometimes goin' in the dark
 Where there ain't been no light.
 So, boy, don't you turn back.
 Don't you set down on the steps.
 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
 Don't you fall now—
 For I'se still goin' honey,
 I'se still climbin',
 And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

6. Who is the speaker of the poem?
7. How is the life described in the second line of the poem by the mother?
8. How does the mother describe the stair of life?
9. What does the line 'And sometimes goin' in the dark' indicate?
10. Give an instance of visual image from the poem.
11. Vanka suffers a lot in his workplace. He is optimistic and hopes that one day his grandfather will come and save him. Prepare a **character sketch** of Vanka. 4

12. Supply the missing words in the following passage. 6

His last hope __a__ proving him not a thief hit the dust. Actually he took the inkstand as a revenge to throw it ___b___ the river. Now there is no way of convincing his mistress. He somehow managed ___c___ leave the room without Kiran noticing him. Kiran, ___d___ a deep sigh, placed them back -----__e___-----the box well, the gift ___f___ top of all and closed the box.

(into ,on, of, in, to, with)

SAMPLE QUESTION 2

English

Total Marks :20

Read the excerpt from the story 'The Castaway' and answer the questions that follow. (1 × 5 = 5)

It was hard to tell his age from his face and his acts. His hairless innocent face said he was about fourteen but the smoke and words gushed out from his mouth suggested he was beyond seventeen. But everyone treated him as a small boy. He showed the first signs of adulthood when he hesitated to be a lady companion to Kiran and to play the earlier feminine roles he had played. But his role as an acolyte to Kiran defied anything that came against him in the house. He had nothing to think about other than entertaining Kiran with his diverse performances.

1. "It was hard to tell his age from his face and his acts." Who is the 'he' referred to here?
2. How old was Nilkanta?
3. How did Nilkanta show the first signs of adulthood?
4. How did Nilkanta's role as an acolyte to Kiran help him?
5. Pick out the word which means 'an assistant'.

Read the news headlines given below and answer the following questions: (1 × 5 = 5)

- ❖ Six reasons to get excited about fashion in 2023
- ❖ Golden Globe Awards: *RRR* Wins Best Original Song
- ❖ Best Seasonal foods to manage hypertension in Winter
- ❖ Investors sceptical as Risks rise for India stocks ahead of budget
- ❖ Samsung Galaxy S23 to OnePlus 11: The most anticipated phone launches of February 2023
- ❖ Intense exercise may damage heart, stick to moderate limits says study

6. Which headlines mentions about the foods?
7. Mention the film headlines.
8. Which headline tells about the Stock market?
9. Mention the headline regarding fashion
10. Find out the headline related to health.
11. Vanka suffered a lot in the house of Alyakhin, the shoemaker. Vanka met a friend on the way when he was going to post the letter and narrates the events to his friend. Prepare the likely **narrative.5**

(Hints: Vanka's mother died- sent to the back kitchen-brought to Moscow-apprentice to Alyakhin-master takes by the hair-stirrup strap-mistress asks to gut a herring-apprentices makes fun-steal master's cucumbers-no tea or cabbage soup)

12. Complete the following passage choosing from the phrasal verbs given in the brackets. (1 × 5 = 5)

Vanka could not **tolerate(a)** the attitude of Alyakin . He **decided(b)** to write a letter to his grandfather. Vanka **shared(c)** his thoughts in the letter. Later he **started (d)** to post the letter. On the way he **met(e)** a man and asked him about the post box.

(put across, set out, put up with, come across, make up one's mind)

SAMPLE QUESTION 3

English

Total Marks :20

Read the excerpt from the story 'The Castaway' and answer the questions that follow. (1 × 5 = 5)

Kiran's heart overflowed with pity on the homeless lad. She got two new suits of clothes, a pair of shoes and a bank note and wanted to place them into his box as a surprise gift. When she unlocked the box, the lid suddenly sprang up with all those petty things jumbling. The gift would not go in. She started pulling out everything to place them in order. There at the bottom came a layer of linen and under it emerged the missing inkstand, goose and all. Kiran stood helplessly with the inkstand, puzzled.

1. What did Kiran buy for Nilkanta?
2. Why did Kiran decide to place the things into his box?
3. What happened when she unlocked the box?
4. Why did Kiran start to pull out everything?
5. What did she find under the linen?
6. Kiran finds the inkpot in Nilkanta's box. She feels very sad about the matter. She writes a diary sharing her emotions. What would be the likely **diary entry**. 5
7. A news reporter comes to know about the sufferings of Vanka. He drafts a news to be published on the newspaper next day. Prepare the likely **news report**. 5
8. **There are certain errors in the passage given below. They are underlined. Edit them. (1x5=5)**

The next day the boy **were(a)** nowhere to be found. Even the **polices(b)** couldn't find him. Sharat urged **to(c)** searching in his box to know **about more(d)** him but Kiran's **refusel(e)** forced him to withdraw. She took the missing things and threw them in the river.

SAMPLE QUESTION 4

English

Total Marks :20

1. Read the following lines from the poem 'Mother to Son' and prepare a note of appreciation. 5

Well, son I'll tell you:
 Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
 It's had tacks in it
 And splinters.
 And board torn up,
 And places with no carpet on the floor—
 Bare.
 But all the time
 I've been a-climbin' on,
 And reachin' landin's,
 And turnin' corners.
 And sometimes goin' in the dark
 Where there ain't been no light.
 So, boy, don't you turn back.
 Don't you set down on the steps.
 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
 Don't you fall now—
 For I've still goin' honey,
 I've still climbin',
 And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

2. Satish found that his inkstand was missing. He decides to lodge a complaint to the nearest police station. Prepare the likely **letter**. 4
3. The English Club of your school decides to stage Tagore's 'The Cast away'. You are the secretary of the club. Prepare the likely **notice**. 5
4. Complete the following passage choosing the right words given in brackets: 4

Nilkanta turned out boon ___a___ everyone in the house. Kiran had a warm interest in him ___b___ he had escaped from the clutches of death. Sharat ___c___ his mother were also happy. Nilkanta felt delighted as he had become part of ___d___ wealthy family.

(and, for, of, as, a, was)

5. Identify the noun phrase and head noun in the given sentences. 2

1. The sad mongrel wandered in search of Nilkanta.
2. The senior apprentices in Alyakhin's house compelled Vanka to steal the cucumbers.

ANSWER KEY**SAMPLE QUESTION 1**

1. Grandfather would drag the tree to the big house.
2. Miss Olga Ignatyevna was Vanka's favourite.
3. When Vanka's mother was alive, Olga Ignatyevna used to give him sweets and amuse herself by teaching him to read, write and count to a hundred, and even to dance the quadrille.
4. When Pelageya died, the orphaned Vanka was sent down to the back kitchen to his grandfather, and from there to Moscow, to Alyakhin the shoemaker.
5. The orphaned Vanka
6. The Mother is the speaker of the poem.
7. Life is described not as a crystal stair.
8. The stair is full of tacks and splinters. The boards are torn up.
9. The line 'And sometimes goin' in the dark' indicates the darker side of the life where the son will have to face many difficulties.
10. And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.

11. Character sketch of Vanka

Vanka is the central character of the story **Vanka** by Anton Chekhov. He is a nine year old orphan. He was living in a village with his mother and grandfather. After his mother's death, he was sent to Moscow to apprentice under a shoe-maker named Alyakhin. At a very young age he became a child labourer. He was deprived of all his rights as a child. He did not get his primary education other than what he learned from Olga Ignatyevna.

Vanka has to suffer a lot at the Alyakhin's house. It has been only three months since he reached Moscow. But his sufferings are so severe and beyond description that made him write a letter pleading his grandpa to come and save him as quickly as possible. Vanka is very much afraid of his master, mistress and other senior apprentices. We see him being very careful while writing the letter. He is very nostalgic about his village life, especially of the Christmas time he used to spend with his mother Pelageya, grandpa Konstantin Makarich and Olga Ignatyevna. Vanka's child-like innocence is very much visible in his letter. Eventhough he was writing about his miserable life, which was worse than that of a dog, he did not forget to write about the wonderful sights of the big town of Moscow. Vanka was surprised by the sights of Moscow. The boy is very innocent and he does not know

even to write the address properly in the letter. He posted the letter and he spends days in the dreams of his grandpa's arrival who is his sole liberator!

12. a. of b. into c. to d. with e. in f. on

SAMPLE QUESTION 2

1. Nilkanta
2. His hairless innocent face said he was about fourteen.
3. Nilkanta showed the first signs of adulthood when he hesitated to be a lady companion to Kiran and to play the earlier feminine roles he had played.
4. Nilakanta's role as an acolyte to Kiran defended anything that came against him in the house.
5. Acolyte
6. Best Seasonal foods to manage hypertension in Winter
7. Golden Globe Awards: *RRR* Wins Best Original Song
8. Investors sceptical as Risks rise for India stocks ahead of budget
9. Six reasons to get excited about fashion in 2023
10. Intense exercise may damage heart, stick to moderate limits says study
11. Vanka was scripted by the famous Russian short story writer, Anton Chekhov. The story unfurls a miserable life of a nine year old boy, Vanka Zhukov. The child was thrown into the hands of a brutal shoemaker Alyakhin from where he had to face many atrocities. He was physically and mentally tortured by his cruel master, mistress and other apprentices. The story begins when Vanka writes a letter to his grandfather Konstantin Makarich who is still in the village where Vanka was living. Konstantin Makarich was a sixty five year old man who guarded the estate of Zhivarev. When Vanka's mother Pelageya was alive Olga used to take care of him and teach him arithematic, reading and writing. She used to dance with him. But when Pelageya died Vanka was thrown to the back kitchen. As Vanka was getting older, his grandfather finds it hard to take care of him and sends to Alyakhin the cruel shoe maker. Vanka was subjected to all kinds of humiliation and harassment. His master beat him with the stirrup-straps and dragged him by his hair. At night he had to rock therir baby to sleep and would punish him if it cries. He was not given even a proper place to sleep. Most of the days he was deprived of sleep and food. He was given a menial meal. Moreover, the senior apprentices made him to steal cucumbers and go to tavern. If he denied they would put them to further troubles. Vanka is hoping for an escape from the cruel shoemaker and urges his grandfather to come and rescue him from the current situation. The tragedy becomes more intense when Vanka did not write the proper address of his grandfather. The thought of Vanka haunts the reader.
12. a. Put up with b. made up his mind c. put across d. set out e. came across

SAMPLE QUESTION 3

1. Kiran bought two new suits of clothes, a pair of shoes.
2. Kiran decided to place the things into his box as she wanted to give a surprise to Nilkanta.
3. When she unlocked the box, the lid suddenly sprang up with all those petty things jumbling.
4. Kiran started pulling out everything to place them in order.
5. At the bottom came a layer of linen she found the missing inkstand, goose and all.

6. **Diary writing**

21st May 2021

Thursday

Oh! What a pathetic day. I cannot imagine my Nilkanta has told me a lie. I asked him again and again about Satish's inkstand. But he repeated the lie. He pleaded before me and I believed him blindly. I felt sorry for him and bought him some surprize gifts. I decided to keep it in his box. But when I opened his box, I was shocked to see the missing inkstand inside the box. Oh God! I couldn't believe my eyes. Later I threw them into the river to avoid further problems in the house. Still I love my dear brother Nilkanta!

7. **A Miserable Boy**

Moscow: On the Second Avenue of the Moscow street, an orphan boy Vanka is being illtreated by his master and mistress and other apprentices. It is noticed that the boy has a grandfather Konstantin Makarich in the village. It seems that the grandfather has left him in the cruel hands of the shoemaker, Alyakhin and his wife. The neighbours informed that Vanka is serverly beaten into blue by stirrup strap and last and the cry could be heard miles away.

This has been brought to the notice of the Child helpline and the minister showed his concern on this unfortunate incidents. It is told that the State ministry has made arrangements to transport Vanka to the child home for giving him further education and support.

8. a. Was b. police c. for d. more about e. refusal

SAMPLE QUESTION 4

1. Mother to son shares the universal concept of suffering and discrimination. It was written by Afro American writer cum social activist Langston Hughes. The poem is a dramatic monologue, where a black mother advises her son not to give up hopes. The black mother shares her difficulties and hardships with her son. Life was hard for her with a greater portion of troubles and obstacles. She tells her son that her life wasn't a crystal stair. Her life wasn't as glamorous and enviable . She was never able to see the brighter side of life. She was hurt by the splinters and tacks of the stairs whose boards were torn up. The splinters and tacks symbolise her hurdles in life.

To make matters worse, the boards sometimes were torn up. She bravely fought against the odds of life. She couldn't even afford a carpet which is the symbol of comfort. Neither was she blessed with many supporters to help her. Her life was bare. But the lady withstood all her trials with much courage. She has been climbing up and there were times where she felt that life was too hard. But still, she urges her son not to give up easily and sustain his endurance like her. There were dark places where she lost all her faith to go ahead. The poet wanted to instil in them the spirit of perseverance. The stairs stand for the progressive journey of life and no matter how hard life may seem, everyone has to get the show on the road. Mother prefers her son to pursue the journey of his life without self-doubt. She wanted to make him aware that, at the end, life is worth all the risks. The listener, her son is passive. Most probably he might have asked her the meaning of life at a very desperate time. Or else, the boy would stand for the young generation, who no longer wants to endure troubles or would never wish to face the reality since they are bitter. The mother with a long history of sufferings and struggles had become wiser and therefore wished to impart the same to her son. Even while climbing the toughest steps, she didn't lose courage. Sitting down on the steps to quit was never her option. The poem Mother to son, leaves everyone spellbound. The theme is well executed and the lines are rich in meanings.

2. Letter of Complaint

From

Satish

ABC House

10th street

Kolkata.

20th May 1983

To

The Circle Inspector

Kolkata.

Sub: Complaint about the missing of Inkstand.

Respected Sir,

I wish to draw your kind attention towards the rising incident of theft in our locality, 10th street. It is a comparatively populated colony far away from the police station. Yesterday my expensive inkstand was stolen by someone. It appears that some thief has done it. Similar incidents were reported in the neighbouring places too.

I request you to take immediate steps to nab the culprits so that I would get my inkstand back as soon as possible. I hope you will take the needed action.

Yours faithfully

Satish.

3.

NOTICE

ABC SCHOOL

10th February 2023**DRAMA: THE CAST AWAY**

All the students are hereby informed that the English Club of our school has planned to stage a play on the Cast Away penned by the great writer Shri. Rabindranath Tagore on February 18th. We invite all the students to watch this spectacular drama.

Venue: School auditorium, ABC School.

Sd/-

Secretary

English Club

ABC School

4. a) for b) as c) and d) a

5. A. Noun Phrase: The sad mongrel

Head noun : Mongrel

B. Noun Phrase : The senior apprentices in Alyakhin's house

Head Noun : apprentices