

**CHRIST KING HR. SEC. SCHOOL KOHIMA**  
**CLASS - 11**  
**ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH**

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**Chapter-1**  
**The Letter 'A'**

**A. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**1. Why did the author remain unnamed for some time?**

Ans:- The author remained unnamed for some time as he could not be baptized until his mother was well enough to take him to church.

**2. What was the diagnosis of all the doctors who examined Christy?**

Ans:- The doctors diagnosed Christy as an imbecile and labelled him to be a hopeless case. They assured his mother that nothing could be done for him.

**2. How did Christy respond when his mother asked him whether he liked the bears and monkeys and all the lovely flowers?**

Ans:- When Christy's mother asked him whether he liked the bears and monkeys and all the lovely flowers, he could make no sign that he had understood her. He only responded by involuntarily reaching up his queer hand to grasp one of the dark curls that fell about his mother's neck.

**3. How does Christy describe the chalk that had caught his attention one cold December afternoon?**

Ans:- Christy had never seen anything like the chalk before. It was a long, slender stick of vivid yellow and it appeared so well against the black surface of the slate that he was fascinated by it as it was a stick of gold.

**4. What was Christy's key to the new world?**

Ans:- the letter „A' which Christy scrawled on the floor with a broken yellow chalk, gripped between his toes was his key to the new world. It would be his key to mental freedom.

**A Answer the following questions in detail.**

**8. The first letter that Christy ever learnt was the letter 'A'. At another level do you think that the letter was indicative of the start to a new life for Christy?**

Ans:- The letter 'A' that Christy ever learnt to scribble was indicative of the start to a new life for him. Christy's birth and life upto 5 years filled the family as well as his life with great miseries caused by cerebral palsy. All the doctors who examined him labelled him to be a hopeless case and assured that nothing could be done for him. People considered him mentally defective and that there was no chance of recovery from such a case. It was impossible for a cure and it was beyond saving or even beyond hope that he would survive. In spite of what everybody found in him, his mother had the conviction that his mind was normal. She refused to accept the truth that Christy was an imbecile and with no smallest shade of doubt she knew that he had a stable mind.

She also made untiring efforts to prove her faith. Finally, at the age of five when Christy scribbled the letter „A' a new world was opened to him with his key to mental freedom. The writing of the letter was the beginning of his success in life in spite of his disabilities. Without accepting his condition as his fate, he took it as a challenge and went on to become a famous writer, painter and poet.

**B. Though the Brown family were not sure about Christy's condition they were determined to rear him as a normal child. What impact does this have on him in his growing years?**

Ans:- When everybody, both the relatives and doctors wrote off Christy's recovery, his family alone, especially his mother stood by him investing all the efforts in him with the strongest conviction that his mind was not crippled as his body was. The momentous decision that his mother made of taking matters into her own hands and treat Christy at par with the other children had a great positive impact on his life. When he



3. **Dutiful:** Out of her love for her son, she developed a rigid sense of duty. When her friends and relatives observed that it would be a mistake if she considered by the boy as she would her other children, she decided to be on his side to help him fight the odds.
4. **Courageous:** She never lost hope in the boy when he showed no sign of response in spite of her repeated attempt to make him react to her persuasive queries. She opposed fiercely to the suggestion to put him in an institution.

## Chapter 2 The Luncheon

### A. Answer the following questions briefly.

2. **What was the author's condition like when the woman wrote to him for an appointment to be followed by lunch?**

Ans: 'the author was living in a tiny apartment in Paris and he was earning barely enough to support himself. Given the poor economic condition at that time, to visit an expensive restaurant Like Foyot's was far beyond his means because it would affect his monthly budget.

3. **What was the impression that the author had of the woman when they first met?** Ans:- the woman didn't appear as the author expected her to be. In fact, she was a woman of forty and appeared imposing rather than young and attractive. She had white, large and even teeth which were excess in number and she was talkative.

4. **What was the only drink that the woman had for lunch? Why?**

Ans:- I 'he only drink that the woman had for lunch was champagne. According to her because she was under the strict regulation of the doctor and he would not let her drink anything except champagne.

5. **Why was the author seized with panic while they were waiting for the asparagus to be cooked?**

Ans: While they were waiting for the asparagus to be cooked, the author was seized with panic because he was worried whether the money he had would be enough to pay the bill. It did not matter to him now that he should leave some amount for the rest of the month.

6. **Why was the author past caring when he ordered for coffee and ice cream?** Ans:- The author was past caring" when he ordered for coffee and ice cream because he already knew that the bill would amount to more than what he had. He had also made up his mind about how he would react if that happens. It was no point caring now about the money that he should save for the rest of the month.

### B. Answer the following questions in detail.

2. **Was the author flattered in some way that he agreed to meeting the woman at the expensive restaurant?**

Ans:- Yes, the author was flattered in some way that he agreed to meeting the woman at the expensive restaurant. As a young, inexperienced writer, he is the perfect victim for such a seasoned expert in flattery. As early as the beginning of the story, we know he is blindly and happily running into the trap.

He could not afford such a place as Foyot's but he also could not resist meeting someone who seems to like his work. At the same time, he was too young to have learned to say no to a woman. There seemed to exist a certain veil of mystery over (his woman. The author knows her only through her letters and has never seen her. he does not tell us her name or where she came from. All we know is that she wants a chat with him and a lunch at Foyot's iron the author. He in fact, becomes a victim of the woman's flattery. I us waning patience is not lost completely even when she keeps saying she never cats more than one thing for luncheon while relishing food items one after another, infringing the entire hospitality limit.

1. **How did the author try in subtle ways to dissuade the so woman from ordering more delicacies? What would you have done if you were in the author's place?**

Ans: There are several instances where the author timed in subtle ways to dissuade the woman from ordering more delicacies. When the woman chose to have caviar. a very expensive dish. The author chose to have mutton chop, the cheapest dish on the menu since he could not tell her that caviar is expensive. To subtly dissuade the woman, the narrator promptly replied that he does not drink anything for lunch when came

the question of drink. Just for the sake or a friendly gesture, without much gratitude, the author simply asked the woman what she would like to drink. As for him, he chose to drink water instead, casually expressing that his doctor forbade him to drink champagne. Another way of dissuading the woman from ordering more delicacies is when the waiter came again it the bill or fare. The author told the woman that he will only be eating one thing. Is heart sank a bit when his companion asked for asparagus, and when asked if he wasn't going to have any. he refused by saying that he never eat asparagus.

If I were in the author's place. I would never entertain her wish beyond a limit. Hospitality has its limit. It is not something to be left to eat one's heart out. I would ask her „Madam, would you mind if I say that your statement of never eating or drinking more than one thing is ridiculous? You have had more than what you claim”. I would have lost all my patience by her last words 'you are quite a humorist'.

**2. How did the author have his revenge in the end? Was it really a revenge?**

Ans:- The story „the Lunchcon“ relates incidents replete with humour and irony, involving the author and a lady in a restaurant twenty years ago. He narrates how he was tactfully suggested by a lady to meet her at Foyot's. an expensive restaurant and how at that point of time he could not turn down her request only to meet with embarrassing situation at the restaurant. In the name of the little luncheon, the lady started placing order after order for highly expensive items from the menu like salmon, caviar, champagne, asparagus, etc. without bothering about the bill. Unable to reveal his actual position, the author kept giving excuses for not ordering items for himself. Ultimately. He had to give away that ever money he had with him in paying the bill. The author was not a vindictive man so he did not say a word to her but chose to endure. It is in this context the author says on seeing the lady after twenty years that the embarrassment done to him in the restaurant by the lady was avenged in due course of time as the lady now weighs twenty-one stone. her love for food, especially eating at other's cost had taken its toll on her body. She seemed to have become squatty. This cannot be called revenge his is a sheer coincidence.

## Chapter -6

### The Slave's Dream

**A. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**6. How is the slave introduced to the reader in the first stanza?**

Ans:- In the first stanza. the slave is introduced as a reaper lying beside the „ungathered rice” with a sickle in his hand. His breast was bare and his “matted hair” was buried in the sand. In his shadow of sleep he dreams of his native land.

**7. In the second stanza, he is striding along at a normal pace. What does this indicate?** Ans:- It indicates that the slave was once a king and he dreams of himself striding majestically through the plain. beneath the palm trees.

**8. Why does the slave move at furious speed in the fourth stanza? Why does he feel this sense or urgency?**

Ans:- In the slave's dream, it is he who decides how fast he should ride and where he should stop because he is the king and so he moves at a “furious speed”. The slave feels a sense of urgency because he longs for freedom.

**9. What does he hear at night?**

Ans:- The slave hears the roar of the lion. The scream of the hyena and the march or the river-horse at night. Even nature seems to be shouting for liberty in his dream.

**10. Why is the lifeless body referred to as 'fetter'?**

Ans:- The lifeless body of the slave is referred to as 'fetter' because he at last achieves freedom through his that. The “warmouth” chain of slavery is broken and thrown away by his soul.

**B. Critically analyse the following lines and answer the questions with reference to the context.**

He saw once more his dark-eyed queen

Among her children stand:

They clasped his neck. they kissed his cheeks,  
They held him by the hand!

**What relation does the slave's share with the dark-eyed queen?**

Ans:- The dark-eyed queen is the wife of the slave.

**Who had surrounded the queen?**

Ans:- Their children had surrounded the queen.

**Why do the queen's children clasp his neck and kiss them?**

Ans:- The queen's children clasped his neck and kissed him to show their love for him. This shows the warmth and the intensity of love that the slave shares with his family.

1. Before him, like a blood-red flag. The  
bright flamingoes flew:

From morn till night he followed their flight, O'er  
plains where the tamarind grew,

Till he saw the roofs of Caffre huts,

**Why are the flamingoes referred to as „a blood-red flag“?**

Ans:- the poet uses a simile to describe that the flock of red flamingoes actually looks like red flags, they symbolize freedom.

**Over which areas did the flamingoes fly?**

Ans: The flamingoes flew from the plains where the tamarind grew till the ocean rose to view.

**What do the roofs of the Caffre huts indicate?**

Ans:- The roofs of the Caffre huts indicate the colony or settlements of the Caffre tribes. The poet dreams of the days when he enjoys freedom, chasing flamingoes from one part of his kingdom to the other end.

2. The forest. with their myriad tongues, Shouted  
of liberty:

And the Blast of the Desert cried aloud, With a  
voice so wild and free,

'that he started in his sleep and smiled At their  
tempestuous glee.

**A How did the forests shout out liberty?**

Ans:- The forests shout out liberty through their „myriad tongues“.

**B Did the desert actually cry out or was it representing the slave's sense of freedom?**

Ans:- The desert actually did not cry out but it represents the slave's sense of freedom.

**Why did he smile in his sleep?**

Ans:- The „wild and free“ voice of the li. „rests and the desert moved the slave so forcefully that he smiles because within his dreams he is free.

**C. Answer the following questions in detail.**

**A You get the impression that the slave's earlier life was glorious? Why?**

Ans:- Yes, we get the impression that the slave was once a king and that he had a glorious life in the past before he had been taken as a slave. We get to know about his past life through a series of dreams that he had as he lie beside the ungathered rice. He imagines himself to be a king. no more bound to the shackles of slavery, but free to do whatever he wishes. He strides majestically over the plains lined by palm tree. Once more a king he strode. He dreams of his native land where he is a beloved king. With loving life and children who clasped his neck. Kissed his cheeks, and held him by the hand.

As he lay dying. the king remembers his glorious past and the inexplicable joy brought by freedom. He thinks to when at a terrifying speed he used to ride his horse along the bank of river Niger. The bridle-reins were made of gold. His royal ride gave him the picture of a valiant warrior of superior courage. It was a great sight how he rode the horse with the steed scabbard clanking as the horse galloped.

**B Is this poem on anti-slavery? Give reasons.**

Ans:-The Slave's Dream' discusses the true nature of slavery and freedom through its content. It is an anti-slavery poem laid out in a series of dreams of a victim of slavery during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The poem is about an African King who was taken as a slave. This poem is a strong anguish against the terrible practice of slavery which puts man in chains with all his birth right taken away. The slaves at that time were every poorly treated and they were separated from their families, leisure and comfort and were made to work endlessly.

It is an anti-slavery poem because it ends with the view that the slave is happier dead than enslaved, his escape at the attainment of freedom only in his death is heartrending. His actual situation is far from what he sees in the series of dreams that he had of his glorious past. Slavery had stripped him off all that is good in life. The poem describes the harsh realities of slavery because the slave does not live to realize his dream. The sight how he lies among the 'ungathered rice'. with the "woman-out fetter" broken away. With last break of freedom all convey the anti-slavery theme of this poem. Thus, the poem is a strong cry against the inhuman practice of slavery which forbids the rightful freedom of men and women who are made slaves.

**C. Freedom is the core theme of this poem. Do you agree?**

Ans:- Yes. The core theme of "The Slave's Dream" is freedom. The slave's deep-seated yearning for emancipation from slavery is seen all throughout the poem. His longing for freedom is manifested through the series of dreams that he had. Finding it impossible to achieve freedom and liberty physically, he takes refuge in dreams. The desert and the forests are personified, each conveying an exultant cry of freedom. The forest of his dream can boast of a "myriad tongues". On the other hand, the desert "blasts" a chain to uninhibited freedom. It moved the dreaming man so forcefully that he is started by the mere possibility of such wild and free voice. „That each gleefully, perhaps recklessly, suggests the potential for if without chains, without limitations. It suggests that the physical bondage of an individual does not necessarily dictate his subjectivity.

There is no direct path for freedom for the slave. Yet, the dreams of his freedom is one in which there is total and absolute freedom. The slave smiles knowing that within his dreams he is free. This freedom, this wild abandon, is what the slave most desires. The sound of the forest and the desert introduces the wildness and liberty that the slave has in his mind. The happiness that he achieves in his dream is the last point between his dream and death and it is only through death that he could achieve freedom at last.

## Chapter 7 Mending Wall

**A.** Answer the following questions briefly.

**3. what are the two things that causes gaps in the wall?**

Ans:- According to the poet, there is something in nature that doesn't love the wall. What causes the gaps in the wall is somewhat vague but it could be the work of nature and human beings.

**4. How do the two characters fix the wall?**

Ans:- the speaker and the neighbour would fix a day during spring when it is time to mend the wall they would fill the gap and replace the boulders that have fallen to each side with much difficulty because some are shaped like loaves or bread while others are formed like balls.

**5. Why do the neighbours have to use a spell? And what Purpose would the spell serve?**

Ans:- The neighbours have to use a spell to balance the boulders because some are perfectly formed like balls while some are like loaves. The neighbours have a difficult time putting back the rounded boulders into the wall. The spell would help the boulders to stay intact in their respective places as their hands get sore from handling the rocks.

**1. To what does the poet blame for his mischievous streak?**

Ans:- “the poet blames spring for his mischievous streaks and he wonders if he could put the notion into his neighbour’s head or why they would need a wall even when there are no cows.

**2. What does the poet mean by, ‘what I was walling in or walling out’?**

Ans:- The line „what I was walling in or walling out” means if the poet ever builds a wall, he „ill first ask himself why he is building the wall or what purpose the wall „will serve to him. Also, he will ask himself whether such a wall will offend anyone.

**3. Why does the neighbour appear as if he is moving in the dark?**

Ans:- The neighbour appears to be moving in the dark as he is an orthodox person who lives in ignorance and who is unwilling to examine the traditional views or his previous generation. For him, to build the wall is a necessity dedicated by tradition.

**B.** Critically analyse the following lines and answer the questions with reference to the context.

**1. something there is that doesn’t love a wall.**

That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it, And  
spills the upper boulders in the sun: And makes  
gaps even two can pass abreast.

**What could be the object that doesn’t love a wall?**

Ans:- The poet says that there is 'something' that does not love a wall. It could be a conscious force or entity in nature. It could be his belief that there should be no barrier in human relationship.

**What does it make the frozen ground do?**

Ans:- The force of nature makes the frozen ground swell under it.

**What does ‘it’ do to the wall?**

Ans:- „It” crumbles the boulders as a result of the natural action which causes havoc and wrecks the wall by creating gaps big enough for two people to pass.

**2. He is all pine and I am apple orchard. My apple trees will never get across**

And eat the cones under his pines. I tell him. lie only says, 'Good fences make good neighbours’.

**What distinction does the poet take in the first line or the excerpt?**

Ans:- in the first line or he excerpt the poet makes a distinction that while his neighbour has pine trees. he owns an apple orchard.

**1 What won’t this apple trees do?**

Ans:- The speaker's apple trees won't get across the boundary and eat the cones of the neighbour's pines.

**2 What is the element or humour in this excerpt?**

Ans:- That the speaker’s apple trees will never get across to eat the pine cones of the neighbour is the element of humour in this excerpt

A He moves in darkness as it seems to me, Not of  
woods only and the shade of trees. Lie will not  
go behind his father’s saying.

**1 Why does the neighbour appear to be moving in darkness?**

Ans:- the neighbour appears to be moving in darkness as he continues to embrace the traditional belief or maintaining a wall. It is not merely a physical darkness but emotional and psychological as well.

**2 From where is the darkness emanating?**

Ans:- The darkness is emanating from the neighbour’s orthodoxy and his belief in the tradition of maintaining a wall which no longer seems relevant.

### 3 Is the poet eluding the neighbour's adherence to his father's advice as the darkness?

Ans:- Yes. The poet is attending the neighbour's adherence to his father's advice as the darkness. The neighbour seems to go beyond his father's advice that "Good fences make good neighbours".

#### C. Answer the following questions in detail.

#### C. The poet seems to be contradicting himself. He states his obvious dislike of the idea of a wall yet he participates in it. Do you agree?

Ans:- The poem reflects Frost's utter dislike for boundaries and barriers that separate man from man and lead to emotional isolation and loneliness. He does not believe in old beliefs and traditions. He believes that in the land of freedom and discovery, such borders are not necessary to maintain relationships between people.

The irony lies in the fact that he contradicts himself when he states his obvious dislike of the idea of a wall yet he participates in mending the wall. The speaker may scorn his neighbour's obstinate wall building. He may observe the activity of mending as a kind of "outdoor game". But he himself does not fail to join his neighbour at the time of mending the wall. Instead, it is to be initiated and let the neighbour know it is time that the wall should be mended, and that the day should be set.

"I let my neighbour know beyond the hill;  
And on a day we meet to walk the line  
And set the wall between us once again".

The speaker says there is no need for a wall, but his partaking in setting the wall implies that somehow he felt that there may be a need of a wall. It may also mean that perhaps the speaker derives something, some use, some satisfaction, out of the activity of wall-building. A fence is typically associated with separation and the establishment of boundaries but in this poem it is a motive for two neighbours to work together to accomplish a common goal, Building a relationship in the process.

#### 2. Contrast the characters or the two neighbours in the poem.

Ans:- The poem 'Mending wall' shows the contrasting views of the two characters, the poet and his neighbour. The neighbour is seen as an old-fashioned man who is tied to old beliefs and traditions and someone who moves in moral 'darkness'. He is described as "an old-stone savage" by the poet. He is in favour of having a wall between them simply because it is traditional. He firmly believes in the old adage that: "Good fences make good neighbours". In other words, in his view, the only thing in this world that makes a good neighbour is something separating from our neighbours, like a fence. Yet, the poet notes that the neighbour sees no real reason for having the wall between them except that it is traditional, which has been passed down from his father.

In contrast, the poet does not believe in the necessity of the wall between him and his neighbour. He begins by saying that there is something mysterious in nature which breaks down walls. Though he informs his neighbour and takes part in the mending of the wall. He questions its necessity. This activity is just another form of "outdoor game" for him. The poet also notes the uselessness of the wall by pointing out that the wall is only separating the pine trees from the apple orchard, and his apples aren't likely to cross over and eat his neighbour's pine cones. Moreover, there are no cows to trespass on to another's land and destroy the crops. He continues to say that if ever he builds a wall. He will first ask himself why he is building the wall or what purpose the wall will serve to him. Also, he will ask himself whether such a wall will offend anyone.

### 3. Why do good fences make good neighbours?

Ans:- A fence is a boundary in order to maintain privacy. The neighbour in the poem believes that strong banier between the individuals is crucial for maintaining a quality relationship between human beings. That is the reason why he continuously holds on to the belief that “Good fences make good neighbours”.

It presents the ideas of barriers between people, friendship, and communication as well as a sense of security ginned as result of maintaining “good fences” among neighbours. A harmonious relationship can be maintained if there are boundaries because neighbours won't end up fighting over property is whose. The fence will help eliminate excessive liberty and also potential conflict. Fences also help people maintain their individuality, Therefore, If these fences' are built strongly with love and understanding, the relationship among human beings will be stable and peaceful.

But, Like everything, these fences should not become restriction for people to communicate with each other. Barriers must he put in place sufficiently in order to ensure that privacy is not affected. Borders are not trespassed and there is a sanctity in various relationships at all times.

## Chapter — 3 After Bhopal

### A. Answer the following questions briefly.

#### 1. Describe the day that Sunil had just before the gas leaked.

Ans:- It was Sunday, and he had played all day long with his seven brothers and sisters. It was a joyous time for them since their eldest sister, who was married, had also come home to celebrate Diwali.

#### 5. How did Sunil lose his sister in the crowd?

Ans:- Sunil lost his sister in the crowd while he stopped for a moment to urinate. That was the time when his sister's hand was wrenched out from him.

6. Describe the scene that Sunil witnessed after he was discharged from the hospital? Ans:- When Sunil was discharged from the hospital he was taken back home to JP Nagar. The relief volunteers were distributing milk and food. All around people were weeping and he felt like he was returning to a graveyard.

#### 7. `Sunil suddenly found himself almost completely alone in the world'. Why?

Ans:- Sunil lost his parents and his five brothers and sisters in the tragedy. When he is just eleven years of age he now has to shoulder the responsibility of looking after his brother and sister. That is the reason why he found himself almost completely alone in the world.

#### 8. How did Muhammed Ali help out Sunil initially?

Ans:- Mohammad Ali, a young man of J.P. Colony initially helped Sunil secure his compensation that the government was giving out for each dead person. The next of kin were given Rs. 10,000 so Sunil received a total of Rs. 70,000 with Mohammad's help.

**9. What do you think could have been the cause of death of Sunil's father?**

Ans:- On the night of the gas leak, before running away, Sunil's father had locked the but without knowing that his son Santosh was inside. The next morning, when he opened the door he found his son's dead body. Perhaps Sunil's father died of a broken heart or of the gas.

**10. Why was Sunil chosen as the star witness?**

Ans:- Sunil was chosen as the star witness in New York courts because he was a child who had lost his parents and five brothers and sisters in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

**9. How was Sunil persuaded to join the Hindu communal organization?**

Ans:- Sunil's friends told him that he had a strong good body and that it would be good if he did something for his community. That was how he was persuaded to join the Hindu communal organization.

**10. 'He heard voices call out to him.' What kind of voices do you think Sunil heard calling out to him?**

Ans:- Sunil might have heard voices of hallucinatory objects which depressed him and took possession of his mind calling out to commit suicide. It was actually the voices created by his broken mind which lost its normalcy due to the unbearable pressure.

**C. Answer the following questions in detail.**

**1. At the start of the chapter, Sunil is very eager to go to school hut somewhere towards the middle he decides not to go to school. Why did he have to make this choice?**

Ans:- At the beginning of the story, Sunil is shown as an eager boy who loves to go to school and receive education but later in life, circumstances made him decide not to continue with his studies. Ills life changed completely after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy which happened in 1984. Barely eleven years old when the tragedy occurred, Sunil lost his parents and five siblings on the dreadful night. He found himself almost completely alone in the world after the incident, with no one else to look after them. He has to shoulder the responsibility of raising his infant brother Sanjay and his sister Mamata and so it was a challenging task for him. When his relatives improperly treated his sister, he decided that he will bring them up on his own without the help of his relatives. So, he decided not to go back to school, but instead devote his time entirely to bring up his family.

**2. The initial compensation given to the next of kin was Rs.10,000. Does this prove that the government took the calamitous tragedy a little lightly?**

Ans:- The initial compensation of '10,000 which was given for each dead person, to the next of kin of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy shows that the government took the calamitous tragedy a little lightly. It is a fact that nothing or no amount is enough to compensate for the loss of thousands of lives as money cannot bring back what they have lost and suffered. But, in order to have a life of dignity and good health, they could have compensated them with a higher amount. Moreover, in spite of the efforts of the government to rebuild livelihoods of the survivors, it ended as a failure as only few could benefit from it. Nevertheless, their effort in providing relief and livelihood is highly commendable.

**4. The way Sunil carried himself as the tragedy unfolded, despite just being eleven years of age speaks a lot about his character and resolve. Do you agree?**

Ans:- Yes, despite being just eleven years of age, the way Sunil carried himself and how he handled the tragedy speaks a lot about his character and personality. In spite of his young age he had a sense of responsibility and always put his family first and made sure their needs were taken care of. On the night

of 2nd December 1984, when people started running helter-skelter for safety, Sunil tightly held the hand of his younger sister Mamata as he ran desperately. His father and mother having died in the tragedy, he resolved to bring up his brother and sister without the help of other relatives. He abandoned his studies to devote himself entirely to their needs. He placed the compensation money in a bank to secure their future. Even in the most pressuring moments he left the deposit untouched because for him it was a trust for the future of his brother and sister. He lives and supports his family on the interest earned from the money in the bank, refusing to touch the principal. He also refused to consider marriage for himself in order to ensure a good future for his brother and sister. All these shows how concerned Sunil was as a brother towards his siblings and how strongly he could manage to handle the tragedy in spite of the circumstances.

**5. Why did Sunil not believe in the propaganda against the Muslim community? Do you think the gestures of Muhammad Ali had to some effect shaped this point of view?** Ans:- In his worst situations there was none of his relatives to extend a sincere helping hand to him. In fact, they tried to fish in the troubled water by using his sister Mamata as a servant in their homes. It was a Muslim man, Mohammad Ali, who took him under his care and went with him to various government officials to help him secure his various compensations. It was Mohammad Ali who assisted to secure his full claims from the maze of Bhopal settlement courts. On the other hand, his communal friends were pressurizing him to spend the compensation money he got. This must be the reason why Sunil did not believe in the propaganda against the Muslim community that the Hindu communal organization was spreading. Yes, the gestures of Mohammad Ali somehow had some effect in shaping Sunil's point of view.

**6. What is the most admirable thing about Sunil that comes through all through the text?**

Ans:- The most admirable thing about Sunil that comes all through the text is his love and devotion not just towards his siblings but even towards the other victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. His love and devotion came from his determination and courage which led to his sublime sacrifice. No one else could have done what he did. There were many occasions when Sunil would have easily fallen a victim to communal inclinations and temptations. Yet, he never went astray to leave his brother and sister in the lurch. As one of the survivors himself, he was largely active fighting for justice for the victims. He was the star witness for Indian government for the compensation case on Union Carbide in the New York district court. He was the symbol of both the magnitude of the tragedy and the survivor's long battle to retain a life of dignity. Sunil was a wonderful individual and a source of inspiration for all. He even participated actively in a group called Children against Carbide after he returned to India and worked with the activists.

**9. What do you think would have helped Sunil overcome his loneliness?**

Ans:- Sunil's loneliness stemmed from the fact that his brother and sister could not be around him as he had to send them off to a hostel or to the settlement established by the SOS villages of India. He had no near or dear ones to care him except a few friends like Mohammad Ali. Had he been able to live with his brother and sister, he would have somehow felt complete. The company of his brother and sister would have thus helped him to overcome his loneliness.

**10. Do you think that the depression Sunil went through when j he reached adulthood was a result of a delayed reaction to the pain that he went through as an eleven year old?**

Ans:- At such a young age, when Sunil was barely eleven years old, he had to handle too much of situations that came along with the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. He had shouldered the responsibility of looking after his brother and sister as a parent and as a brother. From their basic needs to securing their future, Sunil had to struggle and sacrifice his own needs. He was a burning candle giving light to others while burning off his own self all these years of pain, struggling and suffering got accumulated in his soul. Years of hardening isolation, the callous approach of communal forces of which he had been a member and the humiliating rumors spread against him by the estranged organization also compelled Sunil to withdraw into his own shell and fostered his adulthood depression. Thus we can say that his adulthood depression was a partial result of a delayed reaction to the pain that he went through as an eleven year old.

## **Chapter — 4**

### **Dream Children: A Reverie**

**A. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**5. What kind of stories do children like listening to?**

Ans:- Children like listening to stories about their elders which stretch their imagination to the conception of a traditionary great-uncle or grand-mother, whom they never saw.

**7. What kind of a woman was Mrs Field?**

Ans:- Mrs. Field was a good and religious woman who was beloved and greatly respected by everybody. She was such a good and religious woman that she knew all the Psalms by heart and a great part of the testament too. She was also tall, upright and very graceful. Even the cruel disease which bowed her down with pain could never bend her good spirits, but they remained upright.

**8. How did the author spend time at his grandmother's place?**

Ans :- During holidays, the author spend hours gazing upon the old busts of the Twelve Caesars or the Emperors of Rome till the marble heads seem to become alive again or he be turned to marble. He never got tired roaming about the huge mansion and sometimes in the spacious old-fashioned gardens which he had almost to himself He took pleasure in strolling about amongst the old melancholy-looking yew tress, or the firs, and picking up the red berries, and the fir apples. He would spent his time lying about upon the fresh grass with all the fine garden smells around him or bask in the orangery till he could fancy himself ripening too. He also loved watching the dace going to and fro in the fish pond. He finds more pleasure in these busy-idle diversions than the common baits of other children.

**9. Who was John L \_\_\_\_\_? Why did Mrs. Field love him in an 'especial manner'?**

Ans:- John L was the author's elder brother.

Mrs. Field loved him in an 'especial manner', because he was smarter than her other children. He was a very brave, handsome and spirited youth and a king to his family.

**10. How did the author court the fair Alice?**

Ans:- The author courted the fair Alice for seven long years, sometimes in hope and sometimes in despair yet, never gave up.

**C. Answer the following questions in detail.**

**1. Why is the story sub-titled 'A reverie'?**

Ans:- The story is sub-titled 'A reverie' because Lamb never married and so he never had children. He created an imaginary picture of a happy conjugal life — a picture which finally dissolves into nothing as he comes back to reality. Charles Lamb is shown as a recliner lost in a beautiful reverie, reliving some of his fond memories of his days with his grandmother, Mrs. Field. In his sweet reverie he tells the story of his great grandmother to the children. He answers to their queries and eventually they disappear as he wakes from his dream. In fact, the subtitle 'A reverie' which literally means a daydream or a fantasy — is a preparation for the readers for the pathos of the return to reality although the essay begins on a deceptively realistic note.

**What kind of a relationship did the author and John share?**

Ans:- As far as the author was concerned, John L \_\_\_\_\_ was a kingly person. He admired him for his bravery and great personality. John L \_\_\_\_\_ had a special affection for the author. He used to carry the author upon his back. When he was a lame-footed boy, many a mile when he could not walk for pain. In fact he was fearful of John

L \_\_\_\_\_ when he showed impatience or when in pain. He never knew how much he loved his brother until he died and he missed him all day long, missed his kindness and his crossness and wished that his brother was alive again.

**3. `...such a distance there is betwixt life and death ...'-Explain the significance of the line in light of the context.**

Ans:- The immediate absence of his brother John L created by his death forced Lamb to feel the gulf, the difference between life and death. Even though his brother had not been dead an hour, it seemed as if he had died a great while ago. That is how distant life and death are. He understood that death created a permanent absence as the dead cannot be restored to life. Lamb loved his brother so much but it seemed to him that death had created such an immeasurable vacuum in his life that it made impossible for him to comprehend the significance of the difference between the two.

**4. How does the author manage to bring out the individuality of the two children? Cite examples.**

Ans:- The author could very skillfully bring out the individuality of the two children in the process of narrating the story even though he did not give a description of the two children. While listening to Lamb's personal tale, Alice reacts first by spreading her hands when Lamb says how good, religious and graceful woman Mrs Field had been. Alice reacts to it either in great astonishment or putting up some pious gesture. She also cries out when Lamb talks about his elder brother's pain and death. At the information of the great house being stripped off its ornaments, John smiled, which suggested the foolishness of the work. He was trying to look brave and impress upon his father that he would not have been afraid of the ghost like his father. At the end of the story, when Lamb was talking of his elder brother's pain and death, John like Alice, began to cry.

**5. Critically analyse the line, 'We are only what might have been, and must wait upon the tedious shores of Lethe millions of ages before we have existence.'**

Ans:- The philosophical observation of Charles Lamb about life is revealed through this line. His outlook that life is a dream is portrayed through his dream relieving his memories with which he tells stories of his dead ones. He does not see any difference between the modes of life in the past and present.

The dream shows that it will take millions of years before man can target anything altogether. It will be there after we will have existence and a name. The twist comes towards the end of the essay. As it turns out, the speaker's children John and Alice, are figments of his imagination. He imagines his dream child, Alice, explaining to him:

"We are only what might have been, and must wait upon....". The essay is particularly successful because this realization that it has all been a daydream doesn't happen until the end. The reader gets lost in the speaker's tale, thinking it is real. The twist ending reveals it has all been a dream.

## **Chapter 5 The Fly**

**A. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**3. What did the wife and his daughters imagine Mr. Woodifield to be doing on his day to the City?**

Ans:- Mr. Woodifield's wife and his daughters imagined that he must be causing inconvenience to his friends on his day to the city.

**4. Why did the boss enjoy being admired by Mr Woodifield?**

Ans:- The boss enjoys being admired by Mr. Woodifield because it gives him a feeling of deep, solid satisfaction to be planted there in full view of Mr. Woodifield. He is a boastful person and takes pride in his possessions.

**5. Why did Mr Woodifield's daughter visit Belgium? What does Mr Woodifield tell the boss about the place?**

Ans:- Mr. Woodifield's daughters visited Belgium to have a look at their brother Reggie's grave. Mr. Woodifield told the boss that the place is well kept and beautifully looked after. It is kept as neat as a garden, flowers growing on all the graves with nice broad paths.

**6. What came upon the boss as a terrible shock?**

Ans:- The remark made by Mr. Woodifield about the boy's grave came upon as a terrible shock to the boss.

**7. How does the boss get momentarily distracted by the fly?**

Ans:- The boss got momentarily distracted by a fly which had fallen into his broad inkpot. It was trying feebly but desperately to climb out again and it seemed like its struggling legs were calling for help. He pulls out the fly and puts it on a blotting-paper, where he proceeds to torture it, placing one drop of ink on it at a time and repeating the operation every time the fly seems to have extricated itself and gained hope.

**11. Why does the boss say that the fly is plucky?**

Ans:- The boss said that the fly is plucky because no matter how much he tried to bring it down, it never gives up. He felt a real admiration for the fly's courage, and that was the right spirit, the right way to tackle things.

## **12. Did Mr Woodfield share a differential relationship with the boss?**

Ans:- Mr. Woodfield shares a differential relationship with the boss. He is a smoker and drinker. He is a flatterer. He is henpecked and is somewhat niggardly. The boss is very interested in flaunting. He loves luxury and likes to be admired and flattered. He finds pleasure in treating others and gets easily upset. He tries his best to ward off unpleasant memories.

### **C. Answer the following questions in detail.**

#### **1. What does the incident about the fly tell you about the boss's state of mind?**

Ans:- The boss's initial desire to torture the fly, followed swiftly by an equally intense desire to support it and relieve it of its misery could be a result of his duality in accepting his son's death. The incident of the fly suffering in ink reflects the suffering that his son had undergone in the murky trenches while fighting in the war. The son had died, so the fly should also die. Following such a line of logic, the desire to save the fly may be seen as an urgency in the Boss to control at least one destiny. His words transform into a feverish chanting. "that was the way to tackle things....never say die". On the other hand, his ingrained feeling of superiority made him unwilling to allow the fly any privilege that was denied to his son. What appears as cruelty on his part could have been a result of his failure to stabilize his mind about suffering, destiny and death.

#### **2. Do you think the fly represents the boss who is struggling with his own battles?**

Ans:- The fly represents the boss who is struggling with his own battles, the death of his son. Being the protagonist of the story, he is motivated by it only. His decision to torment a helpless fly in the latter part of the story is because he sees the struggle the fly undergoes when it falls in his inkpot, and in turn feels the need to test the fly's strength. In seeing the fly's struggle and its ability to overcome it, the boss sees himself. He subconsciously wonders if he will be able to overcome the struggle he has with his feelings concerning the death of his son. In comparing his struggle to the fly's he feels the need to test the fly to its limits. When he exclaimed, "Come on, look sharp!" he sounds almost as if he is talking to himself. The author uses the metaphor of the fly to bring out the memories and struggle of the boss.

By comparing the struggles of the fly to the struggles of the boss and the death of the fly to the death of the boss's memories, the reader can more clearly understand how the death of his son in the war has affected the boss.

#### **4. Can the boss come to terms with the inevitability of life and death?**

Ans:- The boss never experiences the realism of the death of his son. And because he has never fully accepted the finality of his son's death, he is quite disturbed when his former employee, Mr. Woodfield visits and tells him about his daughter's trip to Belgium. Visibly shaken by the reality of his son's death, the boss sits motionless. He lived for his son to take over his business. Although over six years had passed away, the boss never thought of the boy except as lying unchanged, unblemished in his uniform, asleep forever. In the past, he was so overcome by the grief that nothing short of a violent fit of weeping could relieve him. Back then, to him time could make no difference. Other men perhaps might recover, might live their loss down, but not he. The tragedy of the boss's life is of course a generalization of human existence. It gives an extra dimension to his character i.e., his realization of the futility and fragility of human Endeavour. He has been endeavoring for the last six years to forget the memory of his dead son. But a casual remark by Woodfield brings him back to reality. What he has been successful so far has been destroyed by the whims of a moment. The final impression of his character that emerges at the end of the story is that of insignificance, helplessness and denial of life. He finally surrenders to the inevitability of human fate, i.e., of life and death.

## Chapter — 8

### Money Madness

#### **B. Answer the following questions briefly.**

##### **1. Why does the poet state that money is our collective madness?**

Ans:- The poet states that money is our "collective madness" as he deals with a topic of universal importance regarding the money madness of man. This madness is not on small or individualistic level but it is the madness of the multitude.

##### **2. Why do we grovel before money?**

Ans:- We grovel before money as it has become the controlling power of our lives. It makes us kneel in front of itself. It makes us fearful and a sense of apprehension and stress grips us. It has an exaggerating power to influence our life.

##### **3. What does the poet mean by, 'I shall have to eat dirt'?**

Ans:- The poet says that if he has no money, the world would give him "little bread" to eat, in the name of humanity. But even this small offering does not come for free.

He has to suffer through pains unheard and criticisms unparalleled. This is what the poet means when he says "I shall have to eat dirt".

##### **4. What is the poet afraid of?**

Ans:- The poet is afraid of the inhumane and pitiful situation of eating dirt if one has no money. He fears that such madness for money might result in the world going completely insane.

##### **5. Do you agree with the poet that our basic needs should be free?**

Ans:- Yes, our basic needs such as bread, shelter and fire should be free to people all around the world. It is the cost of these basic needs that make man rush for money and once these needs are made free, man would regain his sanity about money.

#### **B. Critically analyze the following lines and answer the questions with reference to the context.**

##### **1. Money is our madness, our vast collective madness. And of course, if the multitude is mad The individual carries his own grain of insanity around with him.**

###### **a. Why is money referred to as our collective madness?**

Ans:- Money is referred to as our collective madness as this madness is not on small or individualistic levels but it is the madness of the multitude, in numbers unimaginable and at levels incredible. And since the multitude as a whole is mad, so every person in this world carries his share of "insanity" with him.

###### **b. Is it the craving for money by each individual that goes on to make up this collective madness?**

Ans:- Yes, it is the craving for money by each individual that goes on to make up this "collective madness".

###### **2. It is that I am afraid of.**

And that fear can become a delirium.

It is fear of my money mad fellow-man. We must have some money

To save us from eating dirt

###### **a. What is the poet afraid of?**

Ans:- The poet is afraid of the inhumane and pitiful situation of eating "dirt" if one has no money. He fears that such madness for money might result in the world going completely insane.

b. **What would money save us from?**

Ans:- Money would save us from the inhumane and pitiful situation of eating "dirt".

c. **What is the dirt that the poet is referring to?**

Ans:- The untold sufferings, pains unheard and criticisms unparalleled that one has to go through when he has no money, is the "dirt" that the poet is referring to.

**D. Answer the following questions in detail.**

**1. How does money have a cruel power over men?**

Ans:- The poem "Money Madness" by D.H. Lawrence is a critical evaluation of the rush for money that is visible all around us in the modern times. Money has become a powerful player in today's societies and they hold more importance than anything else in the lives of people. The poet, through his poem, has tried to exemplify this situation and present the social and moral degeneration that such madness for a thing so materialistic renders. Wealth and money is such a seductive force that we are not in control of it, but rather it is in control of us. Thus, the poet speaks on the condition of how wealth inverts control, "It has got us down, we grovel before it in strange terror". The poet doubts if there exists a human in this world who hands out a one pound note to someone without feeling a pang at heart. No matter how noble he may feel while giving away that note, his heart always wishes if only he could do all good without having to take out a note from his pocket. And when it turns to a ten-pound note, we experience real tremor within us. The larger the amount, the more painful it becomes to give it away. Often, society judges a man by his riches. If he is poor, then society says: "Let him eat dirt and go cold". Thus, money have a cruel power over men because it makes us kneel in front of itself and also because it has an exaggerating power to influence our lives.

**2. How does the poet make a distinction between money and money-madness?**

Ans:- The poet says that wherever we look, there is madness for money. Infact money can be termed as a metaphor for the word "madness". This madness is not on a small or individualistic levels but the madness of the "multitude". In the broader sense, the poet states that it is not money that we are terrified of but the madness that mankind shows for money. He made the distinction between money and money-madness in the poem through the lines, "But it is not money we are terrified of, it is the collective money-madness of mankind". It is not money that should be blamed for mankind's insanity rather, it is the madness for it which degrades the moral values of man. Madness has overcome the human race through the craze for money. Anguished by it, the poet opines that it is not "money" but "money madness" that we should cure ourselves of and unless we "regain our sanity" about money, man will become no better than animals. We will start killing one another for the sake of money.

**6. How do you think people can overcome 'money-madness'?**

Ans:- People can overcome "money-madness" if bread, shelter and fire are made free to all and anybody, all over the world. This is because we all struggle to earn our livelihoods and so it is the cost of these basic needs which make man crave for more money. It is the price of such things which make man poor. Once the basic needs are made free, man would regain his sanity about money. The abolition for materialistic goods with price as their contending factor would help people overcome 'money madness'.

## Chapter 9

### She Walks in Beauty

#### A. Answer the following questions briefly.

**4. Why is the woman presented against the backdrop of night?**

Ans:- The woman is presented against the backdrop of a clear night lit brightly by stars, to suggest that her beauty is not just personal but of a celestial and almost spiritual quality. Her beauty is "all that's best of dark and bright".

**5. Do you think the poet is trying to bring out the softness of the woman's beauty by stating that daylight is gaudy?**

Ans:- Yes, the poet is trying to bring out the softness of the woman's beauty by stating that daylight is "gaudy". He brings in a contrasting image.

**6. How do the waves of her hair enhance her beauty?**

Ans:- The waves of her hair enhance her beauty by giving her grace and softly lightening her face.

**7. Where do the serene thoughts dwell?**

Ans:- The serene thoughts of the lady's mind dwell in her head which is pure and dear.

**8. What is the story behind the winsome smile?**

Ans:- The winsome smile of the lady reflects all the time that she has spent in doing good deeds. It shows that she is kind and good, as a result her mind is "at peace with all below".

#### C. Read the following lines and critically analyse them with reference to the context.

**1. She walks in beauty, like the night of cloudless climes and starry skies; And all that's best of dark and bright Meet in her aspect and her eyes;**

**a. What effect does the poet manage to conjure by the phrase 'walks in beauty'?**

Ans:- The phrase 'walks in beauty' evokes a feeling that the poet is praising the woman's beauty. It suggests a kind of higher dimension into which the poet's love has entered. It seems as though even her movement makes her beautiful.

**b. Is the word 'cloudless' an allusion to her beauty?**

Ans:- Yes, the word 'cloudless' is an allusion to the woman's beauty. Her beauty is compared to a night in a place where there are no clouds and the sky is starry.

**c. What meets in her aspect and eyes?**

Ans:- All that is "best of dark and bright" meets in her aspect and eyes. Her striking eyes create a kind of harmony between the dark and the bright.

**2. One shade the more, one ray the less, Had half impaired the nameless grace Which waves in every raven tress, Or softly lightens o'er her face;**

**a. What does the first line indicate about the woman's beauty?**

Ans:- The first line, 'One shade the more, one ray the less' indicates that the woman had a perfect kind of beauty with the proper amount of "shade" and "ray". It was so well balanced that if fiddled, her beauty would be impaired.

**b. Why doesn't the poet name the beauty?**

Ans:- The poet doesn't name the beauty because it is not just a reference to a particular woman but women in general.

**c. Is her beauty so hard to define that she remains nameless?**

Ans:- The woman's beauty is so hard to define that no words could describe it. Therefore she remains nameless.

**D. Answer the following questions in detail.**

**1. While listing the woman's physical attributes the poem also focuses on inner beauty. Is this the poet's way of stating that complete beauty in both within and without?**

Ans:- In Lord Byron's poem, 'She walks in Beauty', the poet praises the woman's beauty. Yet, the poet not only focuses on the external appearance of the woman but extends his glorification onto the internal aspect, making her more divine and praiseworthy. He lays the emphasis on how the duality of loveliness meets in her person. In each stanza, there is the comparison of physical characterization with the moral depiction.

The woman walks the night of starry skies. The poet employs light and dark imagery to bring out the dual comparison.

The "eyes" are an apt feature to illustrate both physical and inner beauty as they are the feature that best reveals the heart of a person. Her inner being like "nameless grace" is apparent in her "raven tress" which also softly lightens her face. Moreover the serene and sweet thoughts expressed by the woman's mind tells us how pure and dear her head must be. The poet also expresses the idea that the purity and beauty of the woman's reason emanate from within and that is the reason why her winsome smile reflects that she spent her days in doing good deeds. Her kindness and goodness results in peace of mind and a heart with innocent love. Indeed throughout the poem the, physical and inner beauty of the woman is appreciated, and her inner beauty even lends beauty to her physical features. Thus; complete beauty is both within and without.

**4. Though the poet uses a lot of generalities, it is lacking in specific details. Is that because the poem is not just a reference to a particular woman but women in general?**

Ans:- Byron presents us with an amazingly detailed and beautiful picture of beauty itself, as characterized by the woman in the poem. The poem is dedicated to an unnamed woman whose beauty is described by using imagery inspired by nature. The theme of the poem is the woman's exceptional beauty, both internal and external. This woman in the poem is not just a particular woman that the poet is speaking about but she represents woman in general, exposing the universality of his theme. The fact that the woman remains unnamed is now clear to us because she could be any other woman. Also, the woman doesn't ever get to speak for herself. Instead, she is totally objectified by the poet which implies that she is no particular woman. There is also no mention of specific details in the poem but only generalizations. Thus, the poet explores the theme of woman and femininity through this poem.

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