

Chapter -5

The Devoted Friends

I. Explain with reference to context.

1. He lived in a maids of France.

a. Who is the “he “ referred to here?

Ans: Here, the “he” is referred to Hans.

b. What was his most distinguishing quality?

Ans: Hans’ most distinguishing quality was his kind heartedness.

c. Who was supposedly his best friend?

Ans: Hugh, the Millar was supposed ly Hans’s best friend.

2. ‘Lots of people act well..... to cry into his tea.

a. Why was the Miller’s son ashamed of himself?

Ans: The Miller’s son was ashamed of himself on hearing his father say that it is finer to talk well rather than to act well. According to the Miller, only few people have the ability to do so. His son, on the other hand, believed that friendship is a give and take business and so the miller should help Hans in times of his trouble.

b. Was the Miller justified in making his son feel ashamed?

Ans: No, the Miller was not justified in making his son feel ashamed.

c. Do you agree with the miller that talking well is harder than acting well?

Ans: No, talking well is not harder than acting well. In fact, it is harder to put our words into action. Anyone can say and talk as one likes but it takes a great deal of strength, courage and a willing heart to put those words into an act.

II. Answer these questions briefly.

1. What did the neighbours think about the friendship between Han’s and the Miller?

Ans: The neighbours thought it strange that the Miller never gave little Hans anything though he was very rich and Hans very poor. Despite the Miller’s claim that he was Hans’ very dear friend he did not care about the well being of Hans.

2. How did Hans die? Was this just?

Ans: Hans died on his way back to the Miller’s place with the doctor whom the Miller asked him to call. He was drowned in the deep holes on the moor when he lost his way.

No, Hans’ death was not just at all.

III. Answer these questions.

1. Why was it difficult for Hans to say ‘no’ to the Miller? State your reasons.

Ans: Hans was a very innocent person who believed everything the Miller had told him, especially his sweet words on friendship. The Miller, with has words, would compel him to leave his works and help him every time he was asked for his help. Whenever, Hans thought of expressing to help the Miller, he would be told about the wheelbarrow which the Miller said he would offer him for his friendship. He would also be compelled by being told about loyalty in friendship.

2. Why are there two sets of characters? (bird-water) Explain.

Ans: There are two sides of character in the story; bird-water-rat-duck in one side and humans on the other to show that friendship is something that every creature needs. The narration of the story of the humans by the former indicates the resemblance i the characters.

IV. Going Beyond.

1. “Friendship is the.... learned anything”.

Ans: Friendship is one of the most precious gifts of life. A person who has true friends in life is lucky enough. Friendship makes life thrilling. It makes life sweet and a pleasant experience. Friendship is indeed, an asset in life. It can lead us to success or to doom. It all depends on how we choose our friends.

Friendship is both necessary and good. Man cannot live all alone. He is a social being. He needs someone to share his joys and sorrows. Generally, it is only the people of the same age, character and background, mentality etc. Who can understand him and understand his problems. Friends are needed for support and for sharing.

Lasting friendship is indeed, a blessing. Good friends are great pillars of life. They help us to stand tall and erect in life, friendship can make or break us. It can lead to good careers and proper living. It does not matter how often you meet your friends, but how much you care and fee for another in good times as well and in bad times.

2. Are stories with moral..... explaining your view.

Ans: Stories with morals may annoy a person when the characters in the story point out the qualities in the latter which are not encouraged in society. But on consideration of the moral values depicted in the story it serves a greater purpose. To me personally, stories with moral evoke, emotion and interests me. The triumph of the good convinces me and helps me to improve myself. These characteristics make stories with moral interesting.

CHAPTER -4 **THE SOUL’S PRAYER**

I. Explain with reference to context.

1. Child, I will hearken to thy.....rapture and despair.

a. Who is the speaker?

Ans: The Almighty God is the speaker here.

b. Why is the soul ‘unconquered’?

Ans: The soul is unconquered because it craves for experience and everything in life in a never ending measure. It is insatiated with joy and pain that God can make on it.

c. What does the speaker promise the child?

Ans: The speaker promises that her soul will know all passionate rapture and despair of life.

2. I, bending from my sevenfold height..... and death the shadow of my face.

a. What is the effect of ‘sevenfold height’?

Ans: ‘Sevenfold height’ indicates the incomparability of God to humans and his all knowing and almighty nature as the master of life and death.

b. What do you understand of life and death from these lines?

Ans: Life and death are what God grants and takes away. In fact, the entire existence of human is the grace of God.

c. How is life and death contrasted?

Ans: Life is associated with light whereas death is associated with darkness and shadow.

II. Answer the questions.

1. Rewrite the dialogue between the child and the Master in your own words.

Ans: Child: Oh! Reveal to me your inmost loves of life and death. I want to experience joy and pain which your hand can give. My soul is craving the experience. Do not spare any bliss and anger in my quest to learn the mystic knowledge.

Master: Child, I will answer to your prayer. Your soul will experience what it craves for. You will learn the bitter and sweet aspects f life. You will experience the fire in love, the cleansing flame of pain which will make your spirit plead for release. The harshness will teach you the lessons of life and you will understand the simple secret of my love and grace.

2. Describe the child.

Ans: The child is very impatient. She is craving for knowledge and wisdom from God and demands to be taught and shown everything about life. She does not realize her ignorance in her demand. This also shows how innocent the child is. She does not know that life is a very difficult journey filled with pain and suffering with its joys and sorrows. All these are important in life and are experienced for their purpose to make a person better. Her demand to feed her soul with all knowledge and wisdom shows her ignorance in understanding the mysterious grace of God.

3. Will the Master respect the child’s request? What will He teach her?

Ans: The master listens to the child and tells her that she will experience the harshness of life with its bliss in the right measure and at the right time. She will learn how harsh love could be and how pure pain is. She will be taught to remove the impurities from her soul and be allowed to understand His grace and love.

III. Going beyond.

1. Can you think of twoharm than good to people?

Ans: Blind prayers are very harmful. Many people are blinded with the idea of prayer and end up praying for things which are not logically or practically applicable. They make assumption that anything they wish for will be granted when they pray for it. This will make them irresponsible and lazy. The key to success is hard-work and determination but many people are misguided that prayers will help them to get whatever they want without putting any effort to accomplish it. As the saying goes “God helps those who help themselves”, this should be made clear to people that their prayers will be answered when they put into action what they want to achieve.

2. In a short paragraph, discuss the significance of ‘women’s day’.

Ans: Women’s day is celebrated throughout the globe on 8th March every year. Celebrating women’s day is an opportunity to appreciate the remarkable contribution of women to our society.

“A woman is a full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform”. Understanding a woman is a mystery and it needs lots of perseverance and knowledge. A woman is the epitome of love, sacrifice, care and ability to nurture life.

Women down the ages are not given their due respect yet they go on without complaints. Women since time immemorial had powers to bring a change. Women now are more empowered and aware of their rights and the society has accepted their stand. The society is changing and paving way of the growth of the women. The changes can be seen in the fields of education, healthcare equality and job opportunity. The new decade has seen a marked change in attitude towards women at large. Women have made strides in every field like politics, space exploration etc.
