

Central Ideas

Prayers of the Woods

(Anonymous)

In this poem the poet underlines the importance of woods in our life. They provide us many things in day to day life. They give us wood, fruits and so many other things. In fact they are useful for us from our cradle to the grave. Therefore we should not harm them and should take good care of them.

On Friendship

(Khalil Gibran)

A true friend is one with whom we can share our joys and sorrows. He is one who can understand not only words but our silence too. We can express our innermost feelings, hopes and fears in front of him. He is sure to understand and sympathies with us. We need not declare aloud the peace we feel in his company. True friendship does not require publicity.

Echoing Green

(William Blake)

In this poem the poet expresses the mirth of keeping in mind the human cycle. The poet tells us in this poem about nature which is vibrant and dynamic. He also tells us about the human life cycle, illustrating the rising and setting of life.

Once Upon a Time

(Gabriel Okara)

The poet wants to say that in the modern times adults are generally hypocrites and selfish. They believe in different manner in different situations. On the other hand, childhood is portrayed as a time of honest laughter and innocent spontaneity.

Cheerfulness Taught by Reason

(Elizabeth Barret Browning)

In this poem the poet says that we should not be disappointed if we fail in our efforts. We should never give up hope. We may have to spend some days in loss and pain. But we must have faith in God. One day we will certainly be successful in our efforts.

Father returning Home

(DilipChitre)

This poem deals with the idea of modern man's isolation in this world. He feels himself totally alien in this complex world. Even his children do not like to share their secrets with him.

The Road not Taken

(Robert Frost)

In this poem the poet wants to say that the choice once made in life is made for ever. Our right choice can make our life while the wrong one can mar it. The poet also wants to say that the person who chooses an ordinary or simple way can never achieve anything extraordinary.

On His Blindness

(John Milton)

We should not lament on our handicaps. We should try to work honestly according to our capacity. It does not matter what work we do. Every work is a service to God.

Chapter 10 Ghadri babas in Kalapani Jail

Dr. Harish K. Puri

Ghadar Party was founded by Punjabi Immigrants in the USA and Canada. Their aim was to liberate India from the British with armed rebellion. Lala Hardyal, V.G.Pingley, Baba Wasakha Singh, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Nidhan Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha and Ras Behari Bose were key members of Ghadar Party.

The Cellular Jail, better known as Kalapani or Devil's Island was set up by British Govt. to teach these freedom fighters a lesson of their lives. It was opened in 1906. The first group of political prisoners was of Bengali prisoners. They were followed by others of Nasik conspiracy case as V.G.Sawarkar and his brother Ganesh sawarkar. The Ghadarites were the largest single group of political prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment in Kalapani.

The weather there was highly inclement. The area was infested with blood sucking leeches and mosquitoes. The revolutionaries were given hard work to do and offered bad and inadequate food. Some suffered from fever, dysentery and other ailments. They were forced to extract 30 pounds of coconut oil and pounding coconut husk to produce coir threads etc. If the quantity produced was less, filthy abuse and up to 30 lashes of a whip in public, loud cries and blood oozing from the skin were a part of the patently revolting experience.

The warders, petty officers and jamadars who were appointed out of the old hardcore criminals derived sadistic pleasures in torturing political prisoners. Barin Ghosh called them smaller Gods. Jailor David Berry, Superintendent Murray and the Chief Commissioner were all butchers and virtual progeny of the Satan.

On arrival there Ghadarites learnt about the sufferings, the hard struggles of resistance. Right in the beginning Ghadarites resolved not to suffer any indignity or abuse without the determined retaliation.

The two major incidents regarding this are retaliation of Parmanand Jhnasi hit jailor Berry and Chattar Singh slapped Superintendent Murray.

The determined collective resistance in the face of horrible suffering created legendary stories of their struggle. Singing vande Matram and patriotic songs, reciting Gurbani and taking the harshest physical sufferings in their stride, it was like making a new culture of the dignity of fighting brutal forces with soul-force.

Chapter 9 In Celebration of Being Alive

Dr. Christian Barnard

The business of living is the celebration of being alive. This lesson was taught to the author by two boys suffering from physical disability. One was totally blind and the other had one arm. It is not important what you have lost, the important thing is what you have left with. Pleasure and pain are parts of life. Light cannot be appreciated without darkness nor can we appreciate warmth without knowing cold. So happiness cannot be appreciated without knowing suffering. Those who have a braveheart and positive attitude in life move forward in spite of physical suffering.

Dr. Barnard and his wife met with an accident while crossing a road after a happy meal. They were admitted in the hospital. There he experienced not only agony and fear but anger. He could not understand why he and his wife had to suffer. He had 11 broken ribs and a perforated lung. His wife had a badly fractured shoulder. He had work to do. He had patients to operate upon. His wife had a little baby to take care of. He asked himself again and again why this had happened to him.

Dr. Barnard realized the suffering of children when he was a child. One day his father showed him a half-eaten mouldy biscuit with two tiny toothmarks on it. His father told him about his brother who died several years ago due to an abnormal heart because in those days there was no sophisticated heart surgery possible. That mouldy biscuit was the last biscuit eaten by his brother before death.

The mechanic was 7 years old. One day his mother and father were drunk. His mother threw a lantern on his father. Missed the aim it blasted over the head and shoulder of mechanic. He suffered many burns and lost both his eyes in the incident.

Chapter 8 Two Gentlemen of Verona

A.J.Cronin

Nicola, 13 and Jacopo, 12 were two orphan children. They had brown skins, tangled hairs and earnest eyes. They had a shabby appearance. They were motherless. Their father was died during the war. A bomb destroyed their house and made them homeless. Later on they discovered that their sister Lucia, who aspired to be a singer, was suffering from the tuberculosis of spine. They visited their sister in Poleta every week and paid the dues of hospital in time.

They worked very hard in spite of begging. They shined shoes, sold fruits, hawked the newspapers, showed the visitors around the city of Verona and ran errands. They worked hard and did not spend much on food and clothes. They helped the narrator in arranging American chocolates, booking opera seats and suggesting the name of a good restaurant. They were childish enough and in some ways quite artless. Jacopo was lively as a squirrel and Nicola was quite serious.

Their selfless service of their sister gave a promise of greater hope for human society and a new nobility to human life. They give a message of love, devotion and selflessness.

We should face the misfortune of life boldly. We should lose heart in the face of adversity. War, itself a word is horrifying but it had not broken their spirits.

Chapter7 The Story of my Life

Helen Keller

Helen Keller was made blind and deaf through the fever at the age of 19 months. There was great movement in Helen's house as someone was expected to come. She was waiting while sitting on the steps. She was anxious and tense. She was like a great ship shut in a thick fog.

Anne Mansfield Sullivan was Helen's teacher. Anne Mansfield Sullivan gave her a doll made by blind students at Perkins Institution and Laura Bergman had dressed that doll. The narrator learned to spell the words by imitating her teacher and making the letters correctly with her fingers. She learnt words like hat, pin, cup and verbs like sit, stand, walk and later on doll, mug and water. She had a tussle over the words doll and then on mug and water. On that day at well house she learnt that everything had a name. The mystery of language was revealed to her, when Anne Sullivan put her hand under the flowing water.

Chapter 6 On Saying Please

A.G.Gardiner

The first requirement of civility is to acknowledge a service. Thank you and Please are the small change with which we pave our way as social being. These little courtesies keep the machine of life oiled and running sweetly.

The passenger entering the lift said Top, but the liftman demanded TOP Please. And this concession being refused, he not only denied to comply with the instruction but also hurled the passenger out of the lift. It was a question of Please.

Conductor episode: when the narrator boarded a bus and discovered that he had no money in his pocket. He thought that the conductor would insult him and asked him to get off the bus. But to his surprise, the conductor handed him the ticket to the last destination of bus. He was jovial, kind hearted, never lose his temper, full of patience, good natured. He was like a son to the older people and like a father to the children. He cracked jokes with them. The writer was full of all praise for his decent behavior. With his good behavior the conductor spread the joy all around.

Discourtesy is not a legal offence. But law cannot become the guardian of our manners. It is the social practice that require us to be civil.

Chapter 5 On Giving Advice

Joseph Addison

No one is willing to accept /take an advice from others. We look it upon as an insult to our understanding or conduct and take it as direct criticism. It arouses in us a feeling of inferiority complex.

People are eager to advice others because they consider themselves to be superior. They think that other are defective either in conduct or understanding.

Nothing is as difficult as the art of making advice agreeable. It should be given in a pleasing and implicit way. There are so many ways to give counsel. Some writers convey their instructions in the best chosen words, others do it in the most harmonious way/numbers. Some use short proverbs but the most pleasing method is of Fable, because it is the least shocking. On reading fable we are made to believe that we advise ourselves. We consider the precepts our own rather than of the other.

The Vizir of Sultan Mahmud pretended to understand the language of the birds. The conversation of the owls as interpreted by Vizir to Sultan made him realize how tyrannical he was as an emperor. He was greatly touched with the fable. He rebuilt the towns and villages destroyed by him and from that time onwards he always worked for the welfare of the people.

Chapter 4 Robots and People

Issac Asimov

Dangerous jobs – working in the mines, building construction, working with dangerous chemicals/explosives, working under different weather conditions.

Simple jobs- filling cards, typing routine letters, tightening bolts, carrying something from one place to other.

The introduction of robots fear causes fear of unemployment. But it is not so. The dull and dangerous jobs be left for robots. There are some other jobs which robots are not able to do. They have no imagination. They can't make intelligent guesses just human beings can do. The human beings should improve the working abilities of robots and computers. There are two kinds of intelligences, one is computer/robot intelligence and the other is human intelligence.

Human brain has imagination. It can suppose/wonder and make intelligent guesses. It is creative and can think up new things. Computer/robots are far away from being intelligent like man. A man cannot program a computer to write a book for him.

The two kinds of intelligences are different. Each one will work in a different way and if each one will cooperate with other they will be able to do much better. Computers can solve mathematical problems faster than humans. But they cannot function their own. They have to be programmed by Human beings. Together the two intelligences will be able to do much more than either could alone so that someday human beings will wonder how they ever got along without robots.

Transition period is a time between present, when so many people are still in their old jobs, and the future, when everyone will be doing a new job. We have to be patient and intelligent so that we can get through the transition period with as little trouble and unhappiness as possible.

Chapter 3 Thinking Out of the Box

Adapted from an article from Internet

A farmer in an Indian village owed a large sum of money to a village moneylender. The money lender, old and ugly, fancied the beautiful daughter of the farmer and wanted to marry her. He proposed the farmer that he would forego his debt if his daughter would marry him.. But when the farmer was not ready for this he gave a new proposal that he would place two pebbles in a bag, if the girl would pick out the white pebble she need not marry the moneylender and the debt will be written off. If the girl would pick up the black pebble she had to marry the moneylender and the debt would be written off. He cunningly placed two black pebbles in the bag. The girl saw him doing this. She just picked one pebble

and without looking at it she dropped the pebble onto the pebble strewn path. Since the remaining pebble was black, the girl intelligently won and changed an impossible situation into an extremely advantageous one.

Thomas was the one of the wealthiest men of America. He wanted to leave his new Ferrari in a safe custody while going abroad. He borrowed \$ 5000 as a loan from bank and left his Ferrari as a security in the bank garage. He returned after two weeks and paid loan and an interest of \$15 and got his car in top condition without finding any safe parking place for his car.

Kerry Packer introduced day/night matches, colorful balls, and clothing. Recently Australia experimented with two different captains for one day and test matches. Nowadays T20 matches become rage.

Lateral thinking means creative thinking. It is thinking differently or thinking out of the box or doing something in a novel way. It is unconventional in nature. It helps us solving the problems by using our imagination. With imagination we can find novel ways of looking at the problem. According to Edward de Bono who propagated the notion, intelligence is a potential that all of us have and thinking is a skill to use that potential well. It channels our intelligence appropriately. One may be a good thinker without being an intellectual and vice-versa.

Chapter 2 The March King

Katherine Little Bakeless

John Philip Sousa is main character in this story. His father Mr. Sousa worked in the brass section of the United States. A young boy, he wanted to become a musician. He liked all his studies. He loved to play violin. It was not very long before that he excelled in playing that instrument because he was both talented and eager to learn. He also loved to play baseball.

When he was 11 years old he was chosen to play violin solo. Owing to his foolish act of going for a game of baseball, he could not give a good performance. His music teacher was annoyed with him. So he decided not to take music lessons. He then wanted to become a baker. But he failed there also. He did not like this. Then again he went to his music teacher. He developed his skill in music. Then he thought of joining a circus. His father got him recruited as a trainee in the marine band. He rose to be the leader of the marine band. He composed many marches. He became the March King. He became very famous by composing 'The Washington Post March'.

The theme of the chapter is that in order to succeed, one should devote his energies to one aim only. It also tells us that the dream which we see need much hard work to fulfill it. This idea was developed with the help of character Philip Sousa. The writer wants to point out that one should work regularly for excellence in a profession.

Chapter 1 Hassan's Attendance Problem

Sudha Murthy

Hasan :- Physical characteristic - Tall, Handsome, plump, bald head.

Bright, sharp memory, belongs to an affluent family, Only son in the family.

Not regular, short of attendance, Poor opinion of class mates who work hard call them NERDS.

Lazy, guess the probable questions and skip the chapters, not punctual, could not get a good job.

Sudha Murthy :- Computer Science teacher.

Popular. Kind hearted.

Forgave hasan and grant him attendance everytime.

Sympathetic. Positive thinking.

Felt pity for Hasan.

Motivate Hasan at the end.

She consider her students as her own children.

E-mails

1. Write an e-mail to your friend regarding invitation.

To : rajivjain@gmail.com

Add CC/BCC :

Subject: Invitation to 5th anniversary celebrations.

Hi Rajiv,

I hope you remember meeting me in Chennai earlier this year when you conducted two days workshop for Apple employees.

My company will be celebrating its 5th anniversary by holding a dinner at the Taj Hotel on Wednesday It would be great if you join us at our special celebration. Please let me know as soon as possible so that I can add your name to our VIP list.

Best Wishes

Aman Aggarwal

2. Write an e-mail to your friend about the inauguration of the company.

To : john@yahoo.com

Add CC/BCC : ram.123@gmail.com

Subject: Inauguration of new company

Dear Sham,

We are going to launch our new company Dreamz World on (date) .The launching ceremony will be held at 10.30 am at 22, Old Sabzi Market, There will be lunch after the ceremony. You along with your family members are cordially invited to grace the occasion.

With regards,

Ashwani.

3. Write an e-mail to your class teacher asking her about the extension of leave.

To : john@yahoo.com

Add CC/BCC : ram.123@gmail.com

Subject: Request for extension of leave

Respected Sir/Madam

I am a student of +2 in your school. I was sick and already requested for 3 days leave. I have to join school on (date). But as I am not very well so Please grant me leave for 3 days more.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Your's sincerely,

Rohan.

Roll No. 32