



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Subject : English

Topic : How I Taught My
Grandmother To Read

Date of Worksheet : April 2017

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Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : IX

Roll Number : ____

I **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:-** **Marks**

1. *"I felt so very dependent and helpless. We are well-off, but what use is money when I cannot be independent?"* **4**

- (a) Who is 'I' in these lines?
Krishtakka, the narrator's grandmother is the speaker.
- (b) Why did she feel very dependent and helpless?
She felt dependent and helpless as she was illiterate.
- (c) We are 'well off'. What does the phrase 'well off' mean here?
Well off means 'Prosperous'.
- (d) Name the author of this lesson.
The author of this lesson is Sudha Murty.

2. *'For a good cause if you are determined, you can overcome any obstacle. I will work harder than anybody but I will do it. For learning there is no age bar.'* **4**

- (a) Who speaks to whom?
Krishtakka (grandmother) speaks to the narrator Sudha Murty.
- (b) What does the 'good cause' refer to?
The 'good cause' refers to for being educated.
- (c) Explain: For learning there is no age bar.
It means one keeps on learning till the last moment of one's life.
- (d) Pick out the word from the extract that means the same as 'firm.'
Firm means 'determined'.

3. *'..Most Hindus believe that going to Kashi and worshipping Lord Vishweshwara is the ultimate punya. This old lady also believed in this, and her struggle to go there was described in the novel.'* **4**

- (a) Which novel is being talked about in the extract?
Kashi Yatre a novel by Triveni, mythology and pilgrimage.
- (b) Who is this old lady?
The old lady is the protagonist of the novel Kashi Yatre.
- (c) What does the 'struggle to go there' imply?
The struggle to go to Kashi implies that it was not a simple act as one needed a lot of money for the journey and it was a crowded place.
- (d) Why is going to Kashi considered important?
It is considered important as most Hindus believe that going to Kashi and worshipping Lord Vishweshwara is the ultimate punya.

II. **Short Answers in 30 -40 words:-**

1. What made Triveni a popular writer? 2

Ans: Triveni was a popular writer who wrote novels in the Kannada language. Her writing style was easy to read and very convincing. Her stories were inspired from real life and were very interesting. They usually dealt with complex psychological problems in the lives of ordinary people.

2. Why did the grandmother depend on her granddaughter to know the story? 2

Ans: Grandmother had never been to school. She got married very young. She remained illiterate up to the age of sixty two. So she had to depend on her granddaughter to know the stories as the latter would read out them to her.

3. The grandmother touched the feet of her granddaughter. How did she justify the gesture of hers? 2

Ans It is a part of our culture to touch the feet of elders and teachers as a mark of respect. But the grandmother touched the feet of her granddaughter. She justified the gesture by saying that she had not touched the feet of her little granddaughter but her teacher who had taught her so well that she could become literate and thus independent in life .

4. How do you know that the grandmother passed with flying colours? 2

Ans: Grandmother Krishtakka succeeded in accomplishing her desire to read. The narrator gave her tuitions. The grandmother did an astonishing amount of homework. She could

read, repeat, write and recite. Besides, the grandmother's determination and ardent desire too played a great role in fulfilling her desire to read.

5. 'In those days, a wedding was a great event.' Why does the narrator feel so? **2**
The narrator feels that in those days a wedding was a great event because being a child, she enjoyed herself thoroughly with other children at the wedding. They could eat and play endlessly, enjoying the freedom because all the elders were busy.

6. Why could the grandmother not pursue her education? **2**
The grandmother could not get proper education for various reasons. When she was a young girl, she lost her mother. There was nobody to look after and guide her. Her father was a busy man and got married again. In those days people never considered education essential for girls, so she was never sent to school. She got married very young and became very busy as she had children and later grandchildren.

III. **Answers to Long Answer Questions (Value Based)**

1. How does the story bring out the ideal relationship between a granddaughter and grandmother and the value of education? **8**

The story brings out the ideal relationship between a grandmother and a granddaughter. The grandmother's love for her granddaughter and her dependence upon her can be seen clearly. The granddaughter too loves her grandmother and takes it as her duty to read to her, and later teach her how to read, it is apparent from their conversation that the way the grandmother confides the story of her life in her granddaughter that the two were very close. The value of education is brought out by depicting the illiterate grandmother's helplessness and dependence upon others and how she resolves to learn how to read, thereby making herself independent.

2. "We are well off, but what use is money when I cannot be independent." Do you agree with the speaker? What is more important, money or knowledge? What gives more satisfaction, money or independence? Elaborate. **8**

Ans: "We are well off, but what use is money when I cannot be independent", says the grandmother. Grandmother had a passion for stories. She enjoyed listening stories from her granddaughter. She was illiterate and had to depend on her granddaughter for her joy of listening stories. Once her granddaughter was away and she could not enjoy the stories.

She felt helpless and realised the importance of independence. It is true that the joy of being independent is much more than the joy of being rich. Knowledge and independence are more important than wealth. The real power and happiness are in knowledge and independence. The grandmother wants to learn for joy and happiness.

Practice Questions

1. Why was the grandmother in tears when the granddaughter returned from the neighbouring village? **2**
2. Describe the novel 'Kashi Yatre' by Triveni. Why was the grandmother so much influenced by it? **2**
3. You are Krishtakka. Write your feelings in the form of a diary entry when you received the novel 'Kashi Yatre, from your granddaughter to read on your own. **8**

Assignment Questions

1. *"She gave me a gift of a frock material. Then she did something unusual."* **4**
 - (a) Who gave the gift and to whom?
 - (b) What was the occasion of the gift?
 - (c) How did grandmother express her love for the narrator?
 - (d) Pick out the word from the extract that means the same as 'not normal.'
2. *"We have always touched the feet of God, elders and teachers We consider that as a mark of respect. It is a great tradition but today the reverse has happened."* **4**
 - (a) To which traditional Indian custom is the speaker referring to?
 - (b) What does the speaker consider as a mark of respect in the context of the story?
 - (c) What has happened to this Indian tradition now?
 - (d) 'but today the reverse has happened'. What is the 'reverse' that had happened on that day?
3. *"My grandmother, Krishtakka never went to school, so she could not read. Every Wednesday the magazine would come and I would read the next episode to her."* **4**
 - (a) Which magazine is being referred to here?
 - (b) Who would read the story to the grandmother?
 - (c) Which story is referred to here?
 - (d) Why did Krishtakka take interest in the story?