



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic : THE LETTER

Worksheet No. :12

Resource Person: Sumitha Julius Netto

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : _____

Roll Number : _____

- | S.No. | Read the following extracts and answer the questions. | Marks |
|-------|--|-------|
| 1. | <p><i>"The old man, shivering at times but fixed of purpose, plodded on till he came out of the town-gate on to a straight road."</i></p> <p>(a) Identify the old man.
Ans: The old man is Miriam's father.</p> <p>(b) Explain — "fixed of purpose."
Ans: He was focused and single-mindedly determined.</p> <p>(c) Where was the old man going & why?
Ans: He used to go to the post office every day to check about his daughter Miriam's letter.</p> <p>(d) Name the lesson and the author?
Ans: The Letter by Dhumaketu.</p> | 4 |
| 2. | <p><i>"Beholding the wooden arch of this building, the old man was filled with the joy that the pilgrim feels when he first sees the goal of his journey."</i></p> <p>(a) What makes the old man feel joyful?
Ans: The sight of the post office of the town makes him feel joyful.</p> <p>(b) Why the old man is called a pilgrim?
Ans: The old man comes to the post office with the devotion and faith of a pilgrim heading for a worship place and in that respect he is called a pilgrim.</p> <p>(c) What is the meaning of the word- 'pilgrim'?
Ans: A person who makes a journey to a holy place.</p> <p>(d) Name the building, with the wooden arch?
Ans: The building was the post office.</p> | 4 |
| 3. | <p><i>But when the evening of his life was drawing in, he left his old ways and suddenly took a new turn.</i></p> <p>(a) Who is "he" in the above statement?
Ans: The old man Ali .</p> <p>(b) Explain — 'evening of life was drawing in'?"
Ans: He was old, sick and on the verge of dying.</p> <p>(c) What were the man's old ways?
Ans: He had been a famous shikari and had killed many animals.</p> <p>(d) What new turn did his life take? Why?
Ans: He gave up hunting due to separation from his only daughter Miriam.</p> | 4 |
| 4. | <p><i>"I know! I know! But do you think we've got your Miriam's name registered."</i></p> <p>(a) Identify the speaker.
Ans: The speaker is the postmaster.</p> <p>(b) Who is Miriam?
Ans: Miriam is old man Ali's only daughter.</p> <p>(c) Discuss the context of the above remark.
Ans: The postmaster is irritated because of Ali's daily visits for his</p> | 4 |

daughter's letter.

(d) What was the result of the above remark on the listener?

Ans: Ali felt very disheartened, miserable but did not lose hope.

5. *"Allah is there, and in his presence I am giving you this money. When it comes, you must forward my Miriam's letter to me".* 4

(a) Who is the speaker?

Ans: The old man Ali.

(b) Whom is the speaker addressing?

Ans: The old man is Ali and he is talking to Laxmi Das, a clerk.

(c) What is the reason for giving the money?

Ans: He wants him to deliver Miriam's letter even when he is dead.

(d) What is the speaker expecting from the listeners?

Ans: He expects Laxmi Das to put Miriam's letter on his grave.

6. *"For several days Ali had not come to the post office. There was no one with enough sympathy or understanding to guess the reason, but all were curious to know what had stopped the old man."* 4

(a) Why did Ali come to the post office?

Ans. Ali came to the post office to enquire about a letter from his daughter.

(b) Why had Ali stopped coming to the post office?

Ans. He had stopped coming to the post office because he was unwell.

(c) What was they curious to know?

Ans. They were curious to know why Ali had stopped coming to the post office.

(d) Name the lesson and the author?

Ans: The Letter by Dhumaketu.

Short answer questions (30-40 words)

- (a) Why did Ali give up hunting? 2

Ans: After the marriage of his only daughter Ali became alone. This loneliness made him realise the meaning of love and pain of separation. He understood that by hunting he was separating young animals and birds from their parents. So he decided to give up hunting.

- (b) Do you think the postmaster was justified in calling Ali 'a pest'? What was Ali's reaction to this accusation? 2

Ans : The postmaster out of irritation had called Ali 'a pest'. He had been fed up because of Ali's determination for his daughter's letter. The postmaster was justified since he had never felt the pangs of separation from a child. Ali was totally depressed, crestfallen, humiliated but still optimistic in receiving a letter from his daughter.

- (c) Why did Coachman Ali give up his favourite sport? 2

Ans : Coachman Ali had been a famous Shikari and a crack shot in his past. After his daughter, Miriam, got married and left him, Ali understood the real meaning of love and separation. So he gave up hunting, his favourite sport.

- (d) How did post master's attitude towards Ali eventually change? 2

Ans : Ali had become fixture at the post office. All the clerks as well as the Post-master were irritated with Ali's determination. The post master even insulted him and called him a pest. But now when he himself was worried for his daughter, he realised Ali's misery. He regretted his behaviour and went to lay Miriam's letter on Ali's grave.

(e) Draw a comparison between Ali and the postmaster as fathers. 2

Ans : Both the postmaster and Ali were fathers devoted to their daughters. Both of them felt the pangs of separation but the postmaster took lot of time to understand this. Ali's life had taken a turn due to his daughter, so had the postmaster's. Eventually they ended up feeling the same kind of emotions.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS(80-100 words)

i) It is essential to respect everyone's feelings. Bring out this message with reference to the story. 8

The value that one can derive from the story is that we should always respect the feelings of others irrespective of the status or the position of the individual and must not disrespect and disregard the sentiments of others. Life has its own ways and means and it returns to us whatever we offer to it. In the story the same idea is reflected. Coachman Ali's daughter gets married and leaves him. Now, he understands the meaning of love and separation. Since then he has been making visits to the post office with the expectation of getting a letter of his daughter. In place of helping him out and consoling him, the post office staff teases him. Even the Postmaster also behaves rudely with him and even terms him a pest. But when he suffers with the same trauma and agony, he realises his mistakes and regrets for his behaviour and wishes to help Ali. In this way, we come to realise that it is vital to respect everyone's feelings because one never knows when one will have to face the same situation.

ii) Imagine you are Miriam, the coachman's daughter. Write a diary page, expressing your grief on your father's demise and sharing your feelings of nostalgia. 8

Tuesday

3rd August 2017

7.30pm

I am in a state of utter shock and I rebuke myself thoroughly for my own conduct. How could I have been so thoughtless? How could I not have foreseen that a father's heart will never rest in peace till he hears of the welfare of his child. I became so preoccupied in my own routine life and adjustments to marital life that I forgot that my father is old and sick. I feel so depressed to realise the mental agony that my father underwent. A word from me could have saved him from his daily trek to the post office, the insulting remarks of all others. My father tolerated so much for me. To see the unread letter on his grave is a scene, I will never forget. I don't know now how to reach him, how to compensate for my behaviour. Oh God! I just pray for his soul to rest in peace.

Miriam