



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic : PATOL BABU

Worksheet No. :14

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Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : _____

Roll Number : _____

- | S.No. | Read the following extracts and answer the questions. | Marks |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | <p><i>“Buying provisions in the market, Patol Babu mixed up his wife’s orders and bought red chillies instead of onion seeds and he quite forgot about aubergines. This was not surprising. At one time Patol Babu had a real passion for the stage.’</i></p> <p>(a) Why does Patol Babu mix up his wife’s order?
Ans: Patol Babu does so because his mind is pre-occupied with the thought of the offer of a film role to be made to him after a few hours.</p> <p>(b) Explain- ‘At one time Patol Babu had a real passion for the stage’
Ans: Long time ago Patol Babu was very passionate about acting in plays.</p> <p>(c) Why did Patol Babu stop acting on the stage?
Ans: Patol Babu did so because he had to make his both ends meet as he was jobless and thus he could not focus upon his acting.</p> <p>(d) What is the meaning of the word ‘provision’ in the given context?
Ans: Food items, here it refers to vegetables.</p> | 4 |
| 2. | <p><i>“I hope the part calls for some dialogue?” “Certainly. It’s a speaking part. You have acted before, haven’t you?”</i></p> <p>(a) Identify the two people exchanging the above dialogue.
Ans : This dialogue is between Naresh Dutt and Patol Babu.</p> <p>(b) What reservations are expressed by the first person? Why?
Ans :Patol Babu wishes to confirm if he has a speaking part.</p> <p>(c) Do you believe the information given by the second speaker is truthful?
Why/Why not?
Ans : No, Patol Babu did not have any dialogue to speak. He just has to utter one monosyllable ‘Oh!’</p> <p>(d) Explain the term ‘calls for’ in the above context.
Ans: It’s a phrasal verb that means demand.</p> | 4 |
| 3. | <p><i>“Patol Babu hadn’t expected such news at the start of the day. That an offer to act in film would come to a 52 years old nonentity like him was beyond his wildest dreams.”</i></p> <p>(a) Why didn’t Patol Babu expect such news?
Ans : He hadn’t got any acting offers for the last 52 years for a film.</p> <p>(b) Why did he consider himself a nonentity after acting in theatre?
Ans : He was extremely modest and there was a large gap of years between his theatre days and this offer.</p> <p>(c) What was his reaction?
Ans : He was thrilled and very pleasantly surprised.</p> <p>(d) What is the meaning of the word ‘nonentity’ in the given context?
Ans: unimportant.</p> | 4 |
| 4. | <p><i>“This is only the first step on the ladder, my dear better half! Yes.....the first</i></p> | 4 |

step that would.. God willing.....mark the rise to fame and fortune of your beloved husband."

(a) Identify the two people exchanging the above dialogue.

Ans : This dialogue is between Patol Babu and his wife.

(b) What does Patol Babu mean by 'first step on the ladder'?

Ans: He means that even though his film role is a small one but it will pave the way for his grand success.

(c) What do we come to know about him?

Ans: We come to know that he has the habit of counting his chickens even before the eggs are hatched.

(d) What is the contextual meaning of 'fame and fortune'?

Ans: Success as an actor.

5. ***"Counting your chickens again before they're hatched, are you? No wonder you could never make a go of it."*** 4

(a) Describe the context of the above statement.

Ans :Patol's wife believes that PatolBabu was too happy prematurely.

(b) Why does the speaker use the expression, "never make a go of it"?

Ans : His wife believes that PatolBabu could not be successful after so many years.

(c) Do you think that the prediction made above proved to be true ? Why/ Why not?

Ans : No, PatolBabu did perfectly the part he was given to play, even if it was a tiny role.

(d) What is the contextual meaning of 'never make a go of it'?

Ans: Never to be successful.

6. ***"Oh, oh, oh, oh.... Patol Babu began giving the exclamation a different inflection each time he uttered it. After doing it for a number of times he made an astonishing discovery."*** 4

(a) Why does Patol Babu repeat the word 'Oh', over and over again?

Ans: Patol Babu repeats the word so that he can give exact expression required for his scene.

(b) What does he discover after repeating the dialogue again and again?

Ans: Patol Babu discovers that the same word 'Oh' can be performed with different expressions carrying different meaning.

(c) What is the meaning of the word- 'inflection'?

Ans: Change in the tone or pitch of voice.

(d) What is the context of the above statement?

Ans: It was when Patol Babu was given a monosyllabic word dialogue to deliver. So after recollecting his mentor Mr. Gogon Pakrashi's words he tried to work with his dialogue.

7. ***"As an artist your aim should be to make the most of your opportunity and squeeze the last drop of meaning outof your lines."*** 4

(a) Who was supposed to have said these lines and to whom?

Ans : These lines were spoken by Gagon Pakrashi to Patol Babu.

(b) Discuss the relevance of the above statement in the given context?

Ans :Patol Babu is trying to derive inspiration from his mentor's advice.

(c) Do you think, the listener followed these instructions? How? To what extent?

Ans : Yes, Patol Babu perfected the little role he was given after remembering his mentor's words.

(d) Name the lesson and the author.

Ans: Patol Babu, Film Star by Satyajit Ray.

Short answer questions (30-40 words)

- (a) What was the news that Nishikanto Ghosh gave Patol Babu ? 2
Ans. Nishikanto Ghosh informed Patol Babu that his brother-in-law Naresh Dutt was in film business and he was looking for someone like Patol Babu, to play a role in his film.
- (b) How does Patol Babu react at the prospect of a movie role? 2
Ans: When Nishikanto Ghosh informs him about the role he feels excited as he had always nurtured a passion for acting and theatre. So he was extremely thrilled at the prospect of playing a role in a film, after 52 years of deep longing.
- (c) Why had Patol Babu lost his first job in Calcutta? 2
Ans. Patol Babu was doing well in his job and he was also in the good books of his boss. But due to sudden retrenchment in his office because of war, he lost his nine year-old job.
- (d) What desperate efforts were made by Patol Babu to earn a decent living? 2
Ans: Initially Patol Babu had a job in a railway factory. In 1934, he was offered higher salary as a clerk in Hudson and Kimberly, a famous company and shifted to Calcutta. All was going well for 9 years but soon lost his job in 1943 due to war. He tried his hand at a variety store which only lasted for 5 years. He also worked in a Bengali firm, then as an insurance agent but nothing lasted.
- (e) How does Patol Babu reconcile to the dialogue given to him? 2
Ans: Patol Babu convinces himself for the role by remembering the inspiring words of his mentor Gogon Pakrashi who had told him not to measure the importance of the role on the basis of its length as no role was small or big. It was up to the actor to make it small or big.
- (f) "Patol Babu glanced at the paper... and found a sudden throbbing in his head. The heat was unbearable." Why did this happen? 2
Ans :Patol Babu found that he had to speak just one word, that too a monosyllable 'Oh!' He had been promised a proper speaking part and after a long wait and great expectation, he felt too depressed to see his small role. He felt cheated and quite demoralised.
- (g) What kind of practice did Patol Babu do? 2
Ans: Patol Babu practiced speaking 'Oh!' a thousand times. He tried to give it a different inflection, add all kinds of emotions and styles to this word. He practiced his body language, how he would act during collision with the hero, how he would fling his arms, how his body would crouch in pain and surprise.
- (h) What justification is rendered by Sasanko regarding Patol Babu's speaking role? 2
Ans :Sasanko was a very clever and tactful person. He told Patol Babu that he had a

regular speaking part and he was indeed very lucky to get such a part in Baren Mullick's film. Most of the people had only crowd scenes and even the lead actor had no lines to speak that day.

(i) Why did Patol Babu disappear before collecting his payment? 2

Ans: Patol Babu was happy at his performance because he felt that he had done his best. But he was sad at the indifferent behaviour of the film people. So he felt that no money could compensate for his great efforts and the hard work he had put in. Now the reward of twenty rupees looked too meagre and insufficient in front of his satisfaction so he left without collecting his payment.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS(80-100 words)

i) Through the character of Patol Babu, Satyajit Ray has portrayed that personal satisfaction is more important than financial rewards. Explain the statement with reference to the story. 8

Ans: Patol Babu gets the opportunity of acting after many years. The opportunity makes him feel both elated and nervous but once he makes up his mind to act, he moves ahead. When he comes to know about his dialogue, he initially feels disappointed but very soon he regains his spirit and gives more than 100% for his role. The performance gives him immense satisfaction and then he decides to move away from the place without getting his payment even though he suffers from immense financial crisis. This goes to show that for him personal satisfaction of performing his task with perfection and dedication is invaluable. We also need to understand that life means going beyond materialistic achievements. Money should be given importance but not at the cost of quality and no compromise should be made in this regard.

ii) Give a character sketch of Patol Babu giving evidence from the text. 8

Ans: 'Patol Babu, Film Star' by Satyajit Ray, is the story of a meek, humble, and modest man. He is a 52 year old man who gets an offer to play an insignificant role of a pedestrian in a film. He gets really very excited about his role. However, when he reaches the shooting scene for enacting his role, he is disappointed to know the irrelevance and shortness of his scene. He is assigned the role of a pedestrian who is to bump into the hero and just exclaim the word 'Oh!' He wants to get away from the scene. He does not want to play such a small role. However, he is a passionate actor who respects acting and stage. He remembers his mentor, Guru, Gogon Pakrashi's words. He had told him many years ago that he must never refuse any role, however small it might be. As an artist his aim should always be to make the most of the opportunity, and squeeze the last drop of meaning out of his lines. Remembering his Guru's words, Patol Babu resolves to give his best to the small role offered to him. He rehearses it many times, infusing different shades of emotions into the word 'oh'. This shows he is very meticulous. At last the scene is shot, and everyone appreciates his acting. Finally, he leaves the shooting scene modestly, without even receiving his payment as he gave more importance to personal satisfaction than monetary benefits, even though he was in need of money, this shows that he is not a practical man.