



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic : The Bishop's
Candlesticks

Date of Worksheet : January 2018

Resource Person: Shobha Krishnan

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : IX

Roll Number : ____

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

1. *'Ah, thanks, thanks Monseigneur I-I (He sobs) Ah, I'm a fool, a child to cry, but somehow you have made me feel that-that it is just as if something had come into me as if I were a man again and not a wild beast.'* **4**

- (a) Who is speaking these lines and to whom?
- (b) Why is the speaker crying?
- (c) What change has come into the speaker?
- (d) What is the cause of the change?

2. *" Oh, mon Dieu! It is hopeless, hopeless. We shall have nothing left. His estate is sold, his savings have gone. His furniture, everything. Were it not for my little dot we should starve! And now my beautiful-beautiful (sob) salt-cellars. Ah, it is too much, too much."* **4**

- (a) Identify the speaker. Who is the speaker talking to?
The speaker of the above lines is Persome. She is talking to Marie, the maid .
- (b) Whose estate, savings and furniture are being referred to here?
The Bishop's (Persome's brother)
- (c) Why is the speaker angry with 'him'?
Persome is angry with her brother because she feels that he is too kind and helps people at the cost of his own life and possessions. It is because of his generous attitude that he has almost sold off everything that was with them.
- (d) What does 'mon Dieu' mean?
'mon Dieu' means 'My God'. It is an expression of astonishment.

Short Answer in 30-40 words.

II.

4. **Why were the salt-cellars sold? Why did it make Persome upset?** 2

Ans. Persome and the Bishop possessed silver salt cellars which had been with them for years. Persome is sad because the Bishop sold the salt cellars to Monseigneur Gervais, so that he could pay the rent of Mere Gringoire's home. Mere Gringoire was an old lady who lived at the top of the hill and was unable to pay the rent of her house and thus was being dragged out.

5. **The convict calls himself a beast. Who made the convict a wild beast and why?** 2

Ans. The convict was a man when he entered the prison but the treatment he got there made him a beast. His identity had reduced to a no- 15729. He was given filthy food to eat, was made to sleep on dirty boards and was beaten up like an animal. He says that it felt to him as if someone had taken out his soul and gave him a devil in return. He is referring to himself in the third person- as a wild beast- because he is unable to relate to the person he has become.

6. **What does 'free to starve' mean?** 2

Ans. The convict here says that even though he has escaped from the prison he has only got the freedom to starve. The reason behind this is that a convict can never get any work or any means of earning. The society never accepts him and he is forced into crime again to sustain his life. He says that he cannot even go to a town to beg.

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

In the end realization dawns upon the convict that he is a man again and not a wild beast. Who do you think is responsible for this change in the convict and what qualities would you associate with him? 8

The convict, who had been brutally treated in jail for ten long years, escaped, but only to starve. One night he entered the Bishop's room and demanded food at the point of knife. The Bishop was very kind, generous and loving towards him and gave him cold pie, bottle of wine, some bread and a bed to sleep. But the convict stole his candlesticks and ran away. He was arrested by the police and brought to Bishop's house. The Bishop pleasantly surprised the convict and the sergeant by saying that the convict was his very good friend. The Bishop told the sergeant that he had supped with him the previous night and he had given him the candlesticks. He called the convict his 'son'. So unlike the police and the rest of the society, the Bishop treated him gently and kindly. His affectionate words were not heard by the convict in his life. The kindest act that the Bishop did was to gift the prized silver candlesticks to him and suggested him a safe passage to Paris. Bishop's kindness, benevolence and love helped the convict to rediscover his innocence and goodness. In fact, he discovered his essential human self. Finally, he learnt from the Bishop that the body is the Temple of the Living God.

In this way, the Bishop reformed the convict.