



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject :English

Topic :Two Gentlemen of Verona

Worksheet .No : 1

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Date : _____

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S.No. Read the following extracts and answer the questions. Marks

1. "Gazing at the two little figures, with their brown skins, tangled hair and dark earnest eyes, we felt ourselves strangely attracted."
 (a) Why is the narrator so attracted by the boys?
 Ans:The narrator is attracted by the honesty and sincerity of the boys which he feels in their eyes.
 (b) How does he help these boys?
 Ans:He helps the boys by buying their biggest basket of wild straw berries.
 (c) What is the meaning of the word 'earnest'?
 Ans:Serious or sincere.
 (d) Name the lesson and the poet?
 Ans: Two Gentlemen of Verona, A.J. Cronin. **4**
2. "As we made the rounds, my interest was again provoked by their remarkable demeanour."
 (a) What is the narrator very curious to know about?
 Ans:The narrator is very curious to know about the reason of the boys' serious approach towards life at this tender age.
 (b) What does the narrator notice about the boys?
 Ans:The narrator notices the seriousness or sense of purpose in the boys.
 (c) What is the meaning of the word- demeanour?
 Ans: Way of behaviour/attitude
 (d) What is the context of the above statement?
 Ans: It was the second meeting of the narrator with the boys. **4**
3. "You must be saving up to emigrate to America, I suggested. He looked at me sideways, spoke with an effort."
 (a) Why does the narrator make this comment?
 Ans:The narrator makes this comment as he fails to reason out that why the boys work hard and try to save money.
 (b) How does Nicola react at this statement?
 Ans:Nicola doesn't find the remark very tasteful.
 (c) What is the meaning of the word- emigrate?
 Ans:To settle in another country
 (d) Why were the boys saving the money?
 Ans: The boys were saving the money for the treatment of their sister Lucia, who was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. **4**

4. *I had already told Luigi he might take the day off. However, I answered, "I'll drive you out myself."* 4
- (a) Who was Luigi?
Ans : He was the driver of the narrator.
- (b) Why did the speaker offer to drive himself?
Ans : Luigi had been granted a holiday and the narrator did not wish to call him and as a last gesture of good will he offered to drive himself.
- (c) Where did the boys wish to go?
Ans : The boys wished to go to Poleta, 30 km away.
- (d) Why did the boys wish to go to Poleta?
Ans: They usually went to Poleta to visit their sister Lucia, who was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine.
5. *"They couldn't do it better," I agreed.* 4
- (a) Who is 'I' and who are 'they'?
Ans : 'I' is the narrator, and 'they' refers to Nicola and Jacopo.
- (b) What great thing had the above mentioned people done?
Ans : The determination of the brothers to do so many jobs to provide treatment for their sister.
- (c) Do you think the speaker is earnest in his saying?
Ans : Yes, the speaker is sincere in his saying and filled with admiration for the boys.
- (d) What quality do you find in the boys?
Ans: Their selfless attitude to help their sister.
6. *'When the resistance movement began secretly to form they were among the first to join. When the war was over, and we had peace at last, they came back to their beloved sister.'* 4
- a) Who is the speaker and the listener of the above statement?
Ans: The nurse of the hospital is the speaker and the narrator is the listener.
- b) Who are the "they" referred to here?
Ans : Here 'they' refers to the two brothers, Nicola and Jacopo.
- c) Why did they join the resistance movement?
Ans : They joined the resistance movement because the war waged by Germany had killed their father, destroyed their house and had separated them from their sister.
- d) What had happened to their sister?
Ans : Their sister, Lucia, who wanted to be a singer, had contracted tuberculosis of the spine due to cold and starvation.

Short answer questions (30-40 words)

- (a) Why didn't Luigi, the driver approve of the two boys? 2
Ans : The author's driver was critical of the torn and dirty clothes of the two boys. Moreover, he felt that since the boys were selling wild berries, there was no need for the author to buy those, since better quality of strawberries could be procured from the market in Verona.

- (b) Why were the narrator and his companion impressed by the two boys? 2
 Ans : The narrator was impressed with their sincerity and a strange kind of attraction drew him to the boys. Moreover, the boys demonstrated lot of zest and willingness for undertaking all kinds of work.
- (c) Why was the author surprised to see Nicola and Jacopo working as shoeshine boys? 2
 Ans : The author had noticed the two boys selling wild strawberries earlier, so he was surprised to see the same boys polishing shoes, the next day.
- (d) How were the boys useful to the author? 2
 Ans : The boys were very eager and enthusiastic to provide all kinds of comfort to the author. Whether it was a pack of American cigarettes or name of a good restaurant or opera, they were always at the beck and call of the narrator.
- (e) The narrator asks the boys, "Must you work so hard? You both look rather tired." 2
 The boys reply, "We are not complaining, sir." What do you learn about the boys from their reply?
 The boys were very focused and committed. Their only motive was to pay for their sister's treatment. They did not care for their comfort but tirelessly worked hard to earn money.
- (f) What all odd jobs were the two boys ready to do in 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'? 2
 Jacopo and Nicola were very hard working boys. War has forced them to work day in day out. They shined shoes, sold fruits, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town and ran errands for the narrator.
- (g) What did the nurse tell the author about the boys? 2
 The nurse told the author that the boys had a cultured life in the past but they lost their home and father in the war. They suffered terribly from hunger and cold. Later they joined the resistance movement against the German occupants. After the war they found their sister suffering from tuberculosis of spine. Hence, they worked hard to meet the expenses of her treatment.
- Long answer questions (100-120 words)**
- 1) How does the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' promise hope for the society? 8
 Ans: The war had destroyed everything the boys had. They lost their home and their father was killed in the war as well. Until the war they led a cultured and comfortable life. The war had led them to the streets, exposed them to bitter cold and driven them to extreme starvation. However, it did not fill them with despair. They set to build what was left after the war. They found their sister suffering from tuberculosis of the spine, got her admitted to a hospital and worked very hard to pay for her treatment.
 The boy's sacrifice, their devotion and the maturity they displayed at such a young age promises a new hope for the society. The destruction caused by the war had not broken their spirit. Rather it filled them with a new energy to rebuild from what

was left after the war.

- 2) Appearances are deceptive. Discuss with reference to the two boys in 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'. 8

Appearances are deceptive. Nicola and Jacopo both were two little boys aged 13 and 12. They were shabbily dressed. When the narrator first met them, they were selling wild strawberries but after that they were seen shining shoes, arranging seats for opera, showing visitors through the town and so on. Nobody could, expect such hard work from two little boys of their age. They always wore shabby clothes and ate black bread and figs.

Looking at the amount of earning, they could have taken much better meal and clothes. No doubt, they earned quite a lot but had to make payments for the hospital bills of their sister so they never spent anything on themselves.

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS:

1. "Nicola, the way you and Jacopo work, you must earn quite a bit. You spend nothing on clothes. You eat little enough" 4
 - (a) Who said the above lines?
 - (b) Why did the speaker get the feeling that the boys were not spending any money?
 - (c) What do the above lines reflect about the two boys?
 - (d) Name the lesson and the author?

2. When the war was over, and we had peace at last, they come back to their beloved sister. And they found her 4
 - (a) Identify 'they'.
 - (b) Who is the beloved sister?
 - (c) In what condition did they find their sister?
 - (d) What did they do for their sister?

3. "Of course, everything is so difficult now, food so scarce and dear we could not keep going unless we charged a fee." 4
 - (a) Who is the speaker and who is the listener?
 - (b) Why was food so expensive?
 - (c) For what purpose does the speaker need to charge a fee?
 - (d) How were the boys managing the situation?