



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic : **THE DEAR DEPARTED**

Worksheet No : 4

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____ Class & Division : _____ Roll Number : _____

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

1. ***"It would never do for them to find you in colours."*** **4**
- a) Identify the speaker and the listener.
Ans : The speaker is Mrs. Slater and the listener is her daughter Victoria.
- b) Who is referred to as 'them' in the above statement?
Ans : 'Them' refers to Mrs. and Mr. Jordan.
- c) Explain – 'in colours'.
Ans : Victoria is wearing colourful clothes, whereas she should be wearing a mourning dress.
- d) What is the context of the above remark?
Ans : Victoria's grandfather is supposed to be dead.
2. ***"No, my child, Grandpa gave it to your mother before he died."*** **4**
- a) Identify the speaker and the listener.
Ans : The speaker is Henry Slater and he is addressing his daughter.
- b) What does 'it' refer to?
Ans : 'It' refers to the 'bureau'
- c) What impression do you form of the speakers from the above statement?
Ans: Both the Slaters are greedy and great hypocrites.
- d) What do you think will be the impact of the above statement on the listener?
Ans : Victoria will end up losing respect for her parents.
3. ***"He is too honourable to have gone without paying his premium."*** **4**
- a) Who is the speaker and who is the listener?
Ans : Mrs. Jordan is the speaker and her sister is the listener.
- b) Who is "He" in the above statement?
Ans : 'He' is Abel Merryweather, Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Jordan's father.
- c) What is the speaker's relation with the person mentioned.
Ans : She is Abel's daughter.
- d) What is the speaker's conception of 'honour'?
Ans : 'Honour' refers here to 'paying one's insurance premium.'
4. ***"I like 'Never Forgotten'. It's refined."*** **4**
- a) Who is the speaker?
Ans : Mrs Jordan is the speaker.
- b) What is the context of the above remark?
Ans : The discussion is regarding the obituary to be put in the newspaper.
- c) For whom is 'Never forgotten' used?
Ans : For Abel Merryweather.

- d) Point out the irony inherent in the above remark.
Ans : It was only in words that he was not forgotten in its reality both the daughters had forgotten him already.

5. ***Mrs Jordan, "You know father, it's quite time you come to live with us again we'd make you very comfortable."*** 4

- a) What has brought about the above change in the speaker's attitude?
Ans : The father's new terms for the will has brought about this change.
- b) What about the above turn of events?
Ans : Abel has announced that his money will go to the daughter with whom he would be staying at the time of his death.
- c) Who is instrumental in this change and why?
Ans : The greedy nature of his daughters has brought this change.
- d) What does it reflect about Mrs Jordan's character?
Ans : Mrs. Jordan is very greedy and opportunistic.

6. ***"I felt I was bit of a burden to you, so I found someone who'd think it a pleasure to look after me."*** 4

- a) For whom is the speaker supposed to be a burden?
Ans : Abel is supposed to be a burden for his daughters.
- b) Who is the speaker and who are the listeners?
Ans : Abel is the speaker and both the daughters and their husbands are the listeners.
- c) Who has the speaker found to look after him?
Ans : Abel has found a widow, Mrs. Shorrocks, to look after him.
- d) How does the speaker's decision affect the listeners?
Ans : The daughters are denied all the rights to the property and money of their father.

7. ***I'll tell you what I've got to do. On Monday next I've got to do three things.*** 4

- a) Who is the speaker?
Ans : Abel Merryweather, the father.
- b) What has he decided to do?
Ans : He has decided to marry Mrs. Shorrocks, a widow, who runs a restaurant in the neighbourhood.
- c) Why did he take such a decision?
Ans : He took such a decision so that Mrs. Shorrocks would take care of him. His own daughters were very greedy and were not attached to him.
- d) Name the lesson and the author.
Ans: The Dear Departed by Stanley Houghton.

Short answer questions (30-40 words)

(a) How does Mrs. Slater plan to outshine the Jordans? What does it reveal about her character? 2

Mrs. Slater was not very happy with the mourning dresses that she and her family were wearing. In fact, she had ordered new dresses for everybody. However, she thought that her sister wouldn't have thought of mourning dresses and so she

would outshine them there. Mrs. Slater was a very artificial person. She was not concerned about the death in her family but was more bothered about her appearance and how to be better than her sister.

- (b) Why does Mrs. Slater decide to shift the bureau from grandfather's room before the arrival of the Jordans? How does Henry react to the suggestion? 2
Mrs. Slater always liked grandfather's bureau. After his death, she decided to shift it to sitting room before her sister arrived, in case she laid a claim on it. Henry was shocked at the suggestion because he felt that the sisters should agreeably divide grandfather's things. He also felt that it was too heavy and moreover, he was worried about the arrival of the Jordans while they were shifting it.
- (c) What does Mrs. Jordan describe as 'a fatal mistake'? What is the irony in the comment she makes on Mrs. Slater's defense? 2
Mrs. Slater sends for Dr. Pringle as soon as she realises that grandfather is dead. However, Dr. Pringle could not come as he was out. It was this that Mrs. Jordan describes as a "fatal mistake". According to Mrs. Jordan grandfather could have been revived had Mrs. Slater sent for another doctor. It is this blunder on Mrs. Slater's part that Mrs. Jordan describes as fatal.
- (d) What change does grandfather make in his new will? What effect does it have on his daughters? 2
Grandfather decided that in his new will, he would leave all his money and things to the person he would be living with when he died. This led to another spat between the daughters. Since both of them were very keen to get his money and things, they wanted that he should stay with them.
- (e) What are the three things that grandfather plans to do on Monday next? 2
The grandfather plans to alter his will, pay his premium of the insurance policy and get married to John Shorrock's widow.
- (f) What do the Slaters and Jordans talk about the old man's insurance? 2
Mrs Slater informs the Jordans that grandfather went to pay his insurance after the breakfast. Ben supports his act as a 'good thing'. Mrs. Jordan considers her father "too honourable to have gone without paying the premium". But later on they doubt that he's not paid it. Ben calls him "the drunken old beggar". Mrs. Slater calls it "nothing short of swindling."

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS(100-120 words)

1. Discuss the significance of the title of the play. Bring out the irony inherent in it? 8
The title of the play 'Dear Departed' is ironical. In the beginning of the play, we come to know that grandfather Mr. Abel has departed from this world. He is not dear to his own daughters though they pretend that he is dear to both of them. They are eager to divide his belongings between them. Even Mrs. Slater with whom he has been living fetches his clock and bureau from his room where he is lying 'dead'. Even they can't wait for the last rites of his burial. Even their husbands Ben and Henry do not love grandfather. So, no one is grieved at his departure. In this

way, we can say that the title of this play 'Dear Departed' is an ironical statement of dying love and absence of family obligations.

2. How is the hypocrisy of the two sisters brought out in the play, "The Dear Departed"? 8

The two sisters lived by double standards. Each of them tried to outshine the other. Amelia tried to pinch the bureau before Elizabeth's arrival whereas Elizabeth was late because she wanted to reach there in new mourning dress. She was in no hurry to reach her father's house even after hearing the news of his death. Both laid more stress on getting materialistic gains from Abel's death as Amelia wanted to steal the clock whereas Elizabeth wanted grandfather's watch. Their hypocrisy reached height when at tea, they discussed about the newspaper announcement even before confirming his death. But when Abel came down, both were shocked. Further they got a terrible blow when their father announced his marriage to Mrs. Shorrocks and the change of his will.

Assignment:

1. "Elizabeth's that sharp she'll see I'm after it and she'll drive a hard bargain over it. Eli, what it is to have a low money grubbing spirit?" 4
- What is Elizabeth's relation with the speaker?
 - What bargain is being discussed here?
 - Explain – low money grubbing spirit.
 - What do the above remarks reflect about the speaker's attitude and nature?
2. "He's done it on purpose, just to annoy us." 4
- Identify 'He' and 'us'.
 - Mention the context of the above remark.
 - What mistake has the person mentioned made?
 - Do you think the speakers and the others like them deserve that kind of treatment?
3. "Drat me if that isn't my clock too. What the devil's been going on in the house?" 4
- What is the confusion regarding the clock?
 - What exactly has been going on in the house?
 - Who is the speaker and whom is he addressing?
 - What do the above remarks reflect about the listeners?