

STD VIII

UNIT 1 HUES AND VIEWS THE MYSTERIOUS PICTURE

1 Tyl was stopped at the entrance to the palace by the Captain. Prepare a conversation between them

Captain : Stop here ,Why do you enter the palace ?

Tyl :Sir please let me go.

Captain :what a shabby dress! You look like a loafer .you and your donkey are skeletons.

Tyl :But sir, it is not my fault. I have been hungry for days .Please allow me to meet the Archduke.

Captain : what do you want?

Tyl :Only to show Your Highness one of my paintings

Captain :Oh you are a painter! Where are you from?

Tyl :From Flanders.

Captain :A Flemish painter! Well ,you may go in.

Tyl :So kind of you sir.

2 Tyl thought about the threats of the courtiers and the command of the Archduke regarding the painting.He noted down his feelings in his diary.Prepare his diary entry.

Oh what a terrible situation! I came here to show my paintings and if possible to be the court painter.I thought it an easy one.But the Archduke's wish for a portrait is going to take my life .How can I escape? How foolishly I suggested to include all the courtiers in the portrait. How can I paint them as they demanded? If I don't do that they will kill me.If I modify their appearances the Archduke will not pardon me.What shall I do? Yes , I got an idea. I shall not paint it at all.

3 The courtiers could not see anything on the wall as they searched for the portrait by Tyl . But they praised him.What would be their thoughts?

A confusing situation indeed! Is there any painting on the wall? I see nothing. But why are the others praising him ? Can they see it? No chance. But if I say the truth, I will be viewed as having no noble blood in my veins..How can I bear it? They will make fun of me. No, I shall also praise him .What a cunning painter!

4 Imagine you were one of the courtiers present while Tyl invited them to have a look at the picture. What could be the likely conversation between Tyl and you

I : What a marvellous painting!

Tyl : Thank you sir

I : I haven't seen such a splendid painting in my life. It looks so natural too.

Tyl :How do you appear in the picture?

I : I have no words to explain. You have painted me exactly as I am! How graceful!

Tyl : It is your kindness sir.

I :Your Highness , The Archduke is portrayed as a king.What a royal look!You should be rewarded for it.

Tyl : I am so happy to hear it.

5 Character sketch of Tyl, the painter

Tyl says he is a Flemish painter who aspires to become the court painter at the palace of The Archduke .It is his poverty which leads him to the palace.Actually he is a trickster.He is confident in himself as he knows his talent.Tyl is very talkative ,at the same time he has a clear idea about presenting his thoughts before The Highness. His sense of humour also comes out when he demands a piece of gold cord from the captain. When threatened by the courtiers he faces it and does not try to escape.He is not a serious man. His cunning ways of putting off the show of the portrait is noteworthy.He is intelligent because no other way will help him to avoid death.Even when the jester announces the truth he is not afraid as he calmly walks away.He is a man who likes to enjoy life

UNIT:2

THE SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

1 Prepare the speech by Velasco

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to be in front of you. I never thought that I would be alive and be among my dear ones. It was a terrible experience at sea, . I don't know how I could manage all those situations. Even now, I feel terror enveloping my body. But it's all over. This difficult experience has taught me a lesson that we should not yield to any hardships in life. Anyway I'm very much grateful to my beloved ones for giving

me such a wonderful reception back home. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you. Let me conclude with these words, 'Face the challenges boldly and the ultimate success will be yours.'

Thank you. Have a nice day.

2. suppose one of Velasco's friend narrates the events .prepare the narrative

Once the ship in which our friend Velasco was going wrecked in the Caribbean sea. At first he couldn't understand anything. Soon, he began to hear shouts nearby. Soon he saw that his shipmates were also thrown into the sea. They were shouting to one another to stay afloat. Two life rafts appeared unexpectedly on the crest of the wave. Velasco swam for about three minutes and struggled to grab it. Finally he jumped aboard. Castillo, Caraballo and Luis Rengifo were trying to stay above the water and reach the raft. He grabbed the oars and tried to get closer to the men. At that time he saw the fourth of his mates, Ramon Herrera. Velasco began to paddle furiously. It was very heavy in that lurching sea, and he had to row against the wind. When he looked around he saw that Herrera had disappeared. Meanwhile a gigantic wave lifted the raft. After that he found that Caraballo had vanished with Castillo. Rengifo was still swimming calmly towards the raft. In an instant, Velasco was five meters away from Rengifo and had lost sight of him. Unfortunately he was not successful and Rengifo sank forever. Velasco was alone at sea without food and water. He sat on the side of the raft waiting to be rescued. Uncertain as to what to do he decided to make an inventory of his belongings. Since he had nothing else to do, he read the cards over and over to distract himself until he was rescued.

3 prepare a newspaper report of the escape

Four Colombian Sailors drowned

Colombia: 28 Nov: Caldas, a Colombian ship was wrecked in the Caribbean sea and four sailors were drowned last day. The ship was travelling from Mobile, Alabama to Colombia. Among the sailors Velasco was rescued while four of his shipmates, Castillo, Caraballo, Luis Rengifo and Ramon Herrera drowned. The Caribbean navy has started searching for the dead bodies. It is told that many rescue workers will join the team the next day.

4 prepare 10 questions to interview Velasco

1. When did you first sense the danger? 2. Were you prepared to face such a disaster? 3. What gave you the strength to remain afloat? 4. What were your feelings when you saw your shipmates drowning? 5. Why were your shipmates unable to survive? 6. How did it feel to be alone at sea? 7. What precautions do you think ships should take to avoid such disasters? 8. Did you feel like giving up at any point of time? 9. Has this incident left any lasting impression on you? 10. What are your future plans?

5 imagine you are going to deliver a speech congratulating Velasco. prepare the speech

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have gathered here to honor Mr. Velasco, the only survivor of the Colombian shipwreck. As we all know, his survival is quite miraculous and heroic. We really appreciate his bravery, His perseverance should be honored. He is a real hero by all means. He would be a role model for the coming generations. It's my privilege to congratulate Mr. Velasco on behalf of all of us. Let his bravery be an inspiration to us. With this note let me conclude my words.

Thank you. Have a nice day.

The Little Round Red House

The little boy always complained about his boredom. His mother asked the boy to engage himself by drawing pictures with his new crayons, reading new library books or playing with his toys. When the boy's mother was a child, his grandmother asked his mother to search for the strangest little house to overcome boredom. The mother asked the little boy to search for a little round red house with no windows and doors, a chimney on top and a star in the middle. The little boy was getting discouraged because in spite of his continuous search he could not find the house he was looking for. The little boy went to Mr. Fetzer's barn to ask him about the house. Mr. Fetzer advised the little boy to run up to his orchards and take a look around. He found the little round red house beneath one of the apple trees in Mr. Fetzer's orchard up the hill. The little boy saw a star holding five brown seeds in the middle of the apple.

UNIT 3

THE LIGHT ON THE HILLS

1 Character sketch of the boy

The boy in the story is an emerging artist. He is very talented, but a little nervous. Moreover he has no confidence in himself. He loves his sister very much and when he loses her unexpectedly he is shocked. It is her advice and support that instill confidence in him as he grows up. He is worried about the society's response to his paintings. Sorrow gives him power and he paints the much appreciated picture.

2 Diary of the boy

A memorable day in my life. Today I achieved it. But I miss my little sister. She gave me confidence. I wish she were alive. It was her desire that I should paint something great. I can imagine the happiness on her face. Now I have got the recognition of the people, but she is not with me. Let her soul rejoice in heaven seeing my success.

3. letter to the boy congratulating him.

Dear Bob,

How are you? Hope everything is fine. Let me congratulate you for your success. I read about your painting exhibition in the leading dailies. I feel proud of you my dear friend.

I know that the secret of your success is your little sister and her inspiration. My heartfelt condolence on her untimely death. I share your sorrow. But we are helpless. I am happy that the sorrow has filled confidence in you. one day you will become a renowned artist.

Wish you all the best for your work. Convey my regards to all

yours lovingly

Sam

3. Character sketch of the little girl

The little girl is an important character in this story. Her brother is a talented painter, but not confident in himself. It is this girl who supports him with encouragement. Though she is his sister, she is more mature. She has a positive outlook towards life. She believes that we should do everything with honesty and dedication. She has a strong character. She makes him realize that if we do for the happiness of others we can do our best. She loves her brother very much and continues to inspire him even after her death.

UNIT 4

THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE

1 Character sketch of the nightingale

The Nightingale is the symbol of love and sacrifice, she considers love as the highest quality in human being. When the student cries about the rose she empathizes with him. She takes his ambition as her own and starts searching for the rose. Her ardent quest for finding a red rose is really praise worthy. She could have stopped her search when realising that it was impossible, but she was ready to sacrifice herself to get a red rose. She is very compassionate. Nightingale is the model for selfless sacrifice. She is so brave to give her life blood to the red rose tree.

2 letter by the student

Dear Robin,

How are you? I hope everything is fine there. I wish I could come there for the Christmas holidays. I am writing this letter to share my sorrow. As you know I was in love with the professor's daughter. She wanted to get a red rose and promised to dance with me at the ball. So I searched everywhere but didn't get it. Seeing my desperate state a Nightingale felt pity for me. As it was winter she also didn't find a red rose. So she pressed herself against the Thorn of a Rose tree and bloomed a red rose.

You know, when I plucked it and gave it to her she rejected it and accepted the Jewel from another. How could she be blind to such a sacrifice! I cannot pardon myself for the death of The Nightingale. I feel sad. In future my life will be for these simple creatures of nature

3 diary of the student

What an unbearable life is this! Is love so worthless? She just rejected that red rose which bore the lifeblood of The Nightingale. How cruel is she! The darkest day in my life. I hate myself. Because of me the nightingale lost her life. What a noble sacrifice. A selfless deed... but in vain. She is such an ungrateful lady. and how foolishly I loved her. In future my whole life will be for the protection of nature.

3 conversation between the Rose tree and The Nightingale

Nightingale : Dear friend, can you help me?

Rose tree : Oh sweet Nightingale what shall I do for you?

Nightingale : I need a red rose now.

Rose tree : A red rose! what is it for?

Nightingale : I saw a young student today. He wants to present a red rose to his lover as a gift

.Then only she will dance with him.
 Rose tree : what a pity. I have no red rose. All my flowers are destroyed in the winter
 Nightingale :Oh god how sad he would be .Dear rose tree, can you make one rose for me ?!
 shall sing a beautiful song for you
 Rose tree : But you have to give your life blood for it.
 Nightingale : I am ready to sacrifice my life

4 character sketch of the student

The student is a passionate lover. He's an ardent pursuer of knowledge .He is very sensitive and emotional .His love for the professor's daughter is so intense that he cannot think of her leaving him. He is very intelligent and sentimental .He is sincere in his love. He feels depressed when she rejects him. He is always lonely and sad. He is blind with love and his studies do not make him wise.

5 character sketch of the professor's daughter

she is a rich lady whom the student loves. But she does not love him sincerely. she is very snobbish and likes to dance with wealthy men in parties. Her love depends on the gifts she received .She fails to understand the true love of the student. For her love is only materialistic.

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

1 Character sketch of Uncle Terenty

Uncle Terenty ,in Chekhov's story A Day In the Country is a tall and thin man with a pock marked face and very long legs.Though he has a grim face he is lovable towards children.He is ready to help them also.Terenty has a different view of Nature.He sees the good side of rain and thunder.So his cool attitude helps children to go fearless of rain and thunder.He is very optimistic as he hopes of the sun after the rainfall. He does not likes to disturb Nature even with a touch.Uncle Terenty knows the secrets of Nature and everything about plants and animals.

UNIT 5

School for sympathy

1character sketch of Miss Beam

Miss Beam is a middle aged kind and understanding woman .she is authoritative ,but her figure is comforting to a home sick child. she is running a school. she is very innovative in the method of schooling .she understands the need for character building .so she is keen in giving the students a chance to share and experience misfortune. She is friendly with children.

2 speciality of Miss Beam's School

Miss Beam runs a School which is unique in its teaching method They teach simple and useful things ,spelling ,adding ,subtracting ,multiplying ,writing etc. The rest is done by reading to them and giving them interesting tasks.The real aim of the school is to teach thoughtfulness ,humanity ,kindness and citizenship .she gives the students chances to experience and share misfortune by giving them blind day ,deaf day dump day lame day etc, Every child happily goes through these days and thereby realises the difficulties and finding pleasure in helping .Their will power also becomes strong by keeping silent on dump day without bandaging their mouth.

3 diary of E V Lucas

what an unforgettable day !My visit to Miss Beam's school has made me more thoughtful and humane. No word can describe the happiness I felt .At first I doubted that if the students were unhealthy blind deaf lame etc.oh I could never forget the divine calmness I saw on the blind girls face .These children are really lucky to study there.Miss Beam is moulding a better generation

4 Diary of a blind girl

Today was my blind day.Oh what an immense pleasure I feel now. After 8 days complete darkness light has fallen. I realize a great change in me. I can understand the value of life, the beauty of the world and the great love of God. How lucky I am. God has given me light in my eyes .I understand the misery of a blind girl. I will be devote my life to the service of such people.

5 News paper report of Miss Beam's school.

LIFE IN THE LAP OF EMPATHY.

NEW YORK : Miss Beam ,an innovative educator is getting the attention of the world.Miss Beam runs a School which is unique in its teaching method They teach simple and useful things ,spelling ,adding ,subtracting ,multiplying ,writing etc. The rest is done by reading to them and giving them interesting tasks.The real aim of the school is to teach thoughtfulness ,humanity ,kindness and citizenship .she gives the students chances to experience and share misfortune by giving them blind day ,deaf day dump day lame day etc, Every child happily goes through these days and thereby realises the difficulties and finding pleasure in helping .Their will power also becomes strong by keeping silent on dump day without bandaging their mouth. The Government has decided to award her for her dedication

Prepared by

Leena v H S A English GHSS Kodungallur Thrissur