



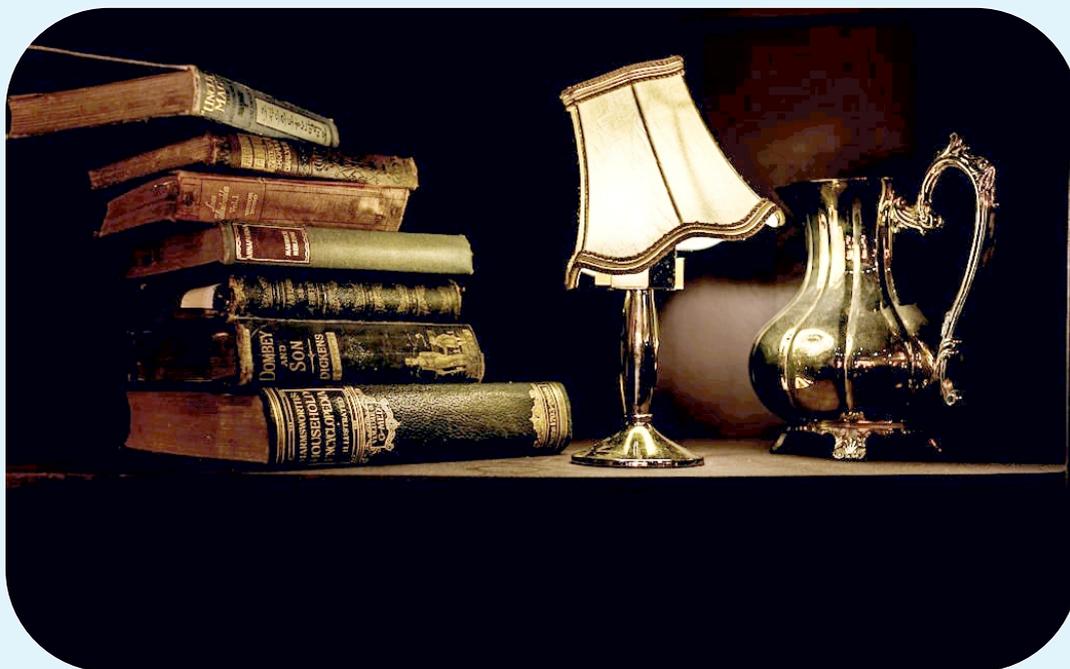
MATS
UNIVERSITY

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MATS CENTRE FOR DISTANCE & ONLINE EDUCATION

Essays and Short Stories

Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Semester - 3



SELF LEARNING MATERIAL



MATS UNIVERSITY
DISTANCE & ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM

Essays and Short Stories

B.A. Semester III

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Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

ODLBA DSC- 310

Essays and Short Stories

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July 2025

First Edition: 2025

ISBN: 978-93-47661-46-4

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Printed at: The Digital Press, Krishna Complex, Raipur-492001(Chhattisgarh)

Printed & published on behalf of MATS University, Village-Gullu, Aarang, Raipur by Mr. Meghanadhu Katabathuni, Facilities & Operations, MATS University, Raipur

(C.G.)

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

BLOCK I

Essays and Short Stories: Purpose, Characteristics, Elements

This course offers a foundational understanding of essays and short stories, the main purpose of writing short stories and essays. The learners will be able to study the different definitions, key elements and the different types of essays and short stories.

BLOCK II

Of Friendship- Francis Bacon

On Actors and Acting- William Hazlitt

Dream Children- Charles Lamb

The block introduces the three essayists Francis Bacon, William Hazlitt and Charles Lamb. The life and works of the essayist their narrative techniques and a detailed study about their selected works is covered.

BLOCK III

The South Sea House- Charles Lamb

The block is focused on Charles Lamb's *The South Sea House*. Here the learners will be able to study about Charles Lamb as an essayist and the various narrative techniques employed by him in *The South sea House*. It will also shed light on the social , historical and literary background of Lamb's time.

BLOCK IV

The Happy Prince- Oscar Wilde

Princess September and the Nightingale- William Somerset Maugham

The block four is focused on mainly two authors Oscar Wilde and William Somerset Maugham's selected works. The study is focused on the narrative techniques , thematic analysis of the selected works. The social , cultural and historical background is also covered.

BLOCK V

The Country of the Blind- H.G.Wells

How the Camel Got His Hump- Rudyard Kipling

The block five introduces the academic career and key position of the two authors H.G.Wells and Rudyard Kipling. The block covers the writing techniques , the selection of themes and the art of characterization of Rudyard Kipling and H.G.Wells.

Unit 1: Essay: Definition, Purpose of writing an essay



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

- 1.1 Objectives
- 1.2 Types of Essays
- 1.3 The Structure of an Essay

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the present unit is to let the learners come to know about types of essay writing, the purpose of writing an essay and also the characteristic elements of an essay. Its purpose is to enhance the critical thinking skills of the learners. By studying the structure, style and language used in essays and short stories one can learn to express their ideas more effectively. This includes developing your vocabulary, grammar and overall writing style. By studying the structure, style and language used in essays and short stories the learners will be able to express their ideas more effectively. Essays and Short stories often explore universal themes and human experiences such as love, loss, identity and social issues. Through reading these works one can gain a greater knowledge about their own choices and the world around them.

1.1 TYPES OF ESSAYS

1. **Expository Essays:** This type of essay always aims to explain or clarify a topic with full information. It always provides a balanced analysis by providing facts and evidence. It typically follows a clear structure with an introduction, body and a conclusion. This type of essays is written mainly to provide education to the reader.
2. **Descriptive Essays:** Descriptive essays use vivid language and carries minute details about the content. They focus on our sensory details, like taste, smell, touch and sound. The main motto of these essays is to arouse the emotions of the reader.



The essay writers use to write lucrative and catchy words to capture the mind of their readers.

3. **Narrative Essays:** In Narrative essays there is a clear beginning, middle and end. Its main purpose is to entertain the reader. It presents characters with a proper setting, plot and conflict. These types of essays include proper description, dialogue and personal opinions of the essayist in order to engage the reader.
4. **Persuasive Essays:** Persuasive essays present a particular viewpoint and tries to convince the reader to agree with it. The main motto of this type of essay is only to influence the reader's belief. These essays are based on a particular statement, arguments and a call to action.
5. **Argumentative Essays:** These essays present a debatable claim and support it with evidence. The main goal of argumentative essays is to convince the reader to accept the essayist's argument as valid. It uses expert opinions, statistics and expert opinions to build a strong case.

1.2 THE STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY

An essay typically follows a standard structure that carries:

- An introduction- This part of the essay introduces the topic, provides a detailed background and also talks about the main argument or point of essay.
- Body or the paragraphs and- The body of an essay develop and support the main statement. Each paragraph talks about the main idea or the main topic. The main idea is always supported by many evidences and examples.
- A conclusion- This part of the essay summarizes the main topic or in other words we can say that it also offers a final thought, call to action and the implication of the topic.

UNIT II: INTRODUCTION TO SHORT STORIES

2.1 Short story: Definition, Key elements

2.2 Types of short stories

2.3 Structure of Short Stories

2.4 Multiple Choice Questions

2.5 Long answer questions

2.6 Points to remember

2.7 Check your progress

2.8 References and suggested readings

2.9 Let's Sum up



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

2.1 SHORT STORY: DEFINITION, KEY ELEMENTS

A Short story is a fictional work written in a thousand or seven thousand words. It carries a single plot, theme or character. A short story starting is very clear, with a proper beginning and an end. Its main motto is to give a message to the society. Short story often uses imagery, dialogues and vivid description to bind its reader with a memorable experience.

Here is a brief example of short story

The Last Leaf

Johnsy, a young artist, falls ill due to pneumonia. As she watches the last leaf fall from a tree outside her window, she believes she will die when the last leaf falls. Her friend Sue tries to lift her spirits but Johnsy's health worsens. An old artist, Behrman, lives downstairs. He dreams of painting a masterpiece. On a stormy night, the last leaf falls. But the next morning, Johnsy sees a leaf still clinging to the branch. This gives her hope and she begins to recover.

Later, it was found that Behrman, on that stormy night has painted the leaf like a real one, and he caught pneumonia and died. His masterpiece was the painted leaf, which saved Johnsy's life. The



story shows the power of hope, sacrifice, and the impact and power of a painter's art.

2.2 TYPES OF SHORT STORIES

Now let's see a few examples of short stories or fictions with examples:

1. Realistic Fiction- Realistic fiction means the stories presenting the real characters of the real world.

Example 1

Train to Pakistan

It was written by Khushwant Singh. The story shows the partition of India in 1947. It also presents the struggle faced by Indian people after the partition, the communal violence, and the dark side of Global politics.

Example 2

A Suitable Boy

It was written by Vikram Seth. The story talks about the post-independence India, this novel shows the lives of four families and also explores the themes of family, love and societal changes.

2. Science Fiction- The stories based on science, modern technology, space exploration and future world is called as science fiction.

Example 1

The Martian Chronicles

It was written by Ray Bradbury. It is a bigger volume containing many short stories. All the stories depict colonization of Mars by human beings and the destruction of Martian civilization.

Example 2

Dune

It was written by Frank Herbert. The story is about distant future where interstellar travel is common. The

story presents a young man named Paul Atrides, whose family was caught in a desert planet with a lot of complex political and ecological struggle. They were all struggling in an unknown planet named Arrakis. The story displays the themes like politics, ecology, religion and the dangers of more power.



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

3. Fantasy – Stories that contain magic, mythical creatures and super natural elements are termed as fantasy novels.

Example 1

The Hobbit

It was written by J.R.R.Tolkien. It talks about the journey of Bilbo Baggin's with a group of dwarves, they were all in search of some treasure which they have to snatch from a dragon.

Example 2

Harry Potter

It was written by J.K.Rowling . It talks about the life of a wizard name Harry Potter. His life is covered in a boarding school of Witchcraft and shows the battles of dark wizard Lord Voldemort. It covers the themes like: Good vs evil, Friendship and loyalty, Love and sacrifice, coming of age and Prejudice and discrimination.

4. Mystery- The story that moves around solving a crime or an unravelling puzzle is termed as a mystery novel.

Example 1

The Adventure of the Speckled Band

It was written by Arthur Conan Doyle. In the story Sherlock Holmes was found investigating a mysterious death, in a locked room. The plot was a very complex one.

Example 2

And There Were None



It was written by Agatha Christie. The stories presents ten strangers in an isolated island and later on they were killed by someone and each death corresponding to am line from a nursery rhyme. The theme of suspense runs through out the story.

5. Horror – The stories which creates fear and suspense is called as horror stories.

Example 1

The Tell Tale Heart

The Tell Tail Heart was written by Edgar Allan Poe. The narrator is shown as a murderer of an old woman and because of this murder he was filled with guilt that consumes him.

Example 2

The Haunting of Hill House

It was written by Shirley Jackson and it a chilling horror story. A group of people was shown visiting a haunted house and a lot of disturbing events were included in the story. The story is known for its psychological horror effect which it has created on the readers.

6. Historical Fiction- All the stories set in the past comes under the category of historical fiction. It displays all the past events and figures of history.

Example 1

The Open Boat

It was written by Stephane Crane. The story talks about a voyage by a group of men. They were all shipwrecked and did struggle to survive in a small boat. The story displays their experiences and their struggle for survival.

Example 2

The Nightingale

It was written by Kristin Hannah. The story is set in France during World War II and it revolves around two

sisters, Isabella and Vianna. The novel displays the themes like sacrifice, survival and courage. It also presents the different challenges faced by the civilians during the wartime.



7. Adventure Fiction- An Adventure fiction is always focused on the dangerous and adventurous trips or expeditions made by man.

Example 1

The Most Dangerous

It was written by Richard Connel. The story tells us about a big game hunter who was himself caught in a deadly remote island.

Example 2

Treasure Island

It was written by Robert Louis. The story tells about a young man named Jim Hawkins, who starts a journey in search of some hidden treasure. The story is filled with hidden maps, unknown journey and pirates. The story is an excellent example of adventure, spirit of exploration and the thrill of the hunt.

8. Romance- Romance basically displays the themes like love, relationship and emotional connections.

Example 1

A Rose for Emily

It was written by William Faulkner. The story displays the life of a mysterious woman and whatever secrets she holds.

Example 2

The Notebook

It was written by Noah and Allie. Both of them fall in love with each other in 1932. Their carry different social background. The novel explores the themes like love, loss, and the power of connection. The novel is focused on the emotional journey of the two lovers Noah and Allie.



9. Satire- When an author uses humour, irony and exaggeration to create a story then that story comes under satire. Actually, Satire is also written in order to ridicule the oddities prevalent in society.

Example 1

Harrison Bergeron

The writer of Harrison Bergeron is Kurt Vonnegut. The story displays a dystopian future, where government tries to enforce complete equality by handicapping the talented persons. The whole story displays absurdity of such an act.

Example 2

Catch 22

It is a satirical novel by Joseph Heller. The story is set during World War II. The story speaks about an Airforce U.S Army person John Yossarian. The term Catch-22 highlights the absurdity of war, bureaucracy and the military.

10. Thriller- The stories designed to create suspense and excitement comes under thriller stories. It displays high stakes and danger.

Example 1

The Lady of the Tiger

This thriller story is written by Frank Stockton. The story displays mental trauma faced by prisoners where they must choose between two doors, one leading to a lady and the other to a tiger, and the reader never knows that which door the prisoner is going to select.

Example 2

The Guest List

The story is written by Lucy Fokley. The story was set in a remote island of Ireland, where a wedding is about to take place. Many characters are presented by the authors including guests, old family friends. Then suddenly a murder occurs. The novel displays the

themes of revenge, the dark side of human nature and betrayal.



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2.3 STRUCTURE OF THE STORY

Story structure is an important element of the any book. There are many notable parts in a good story like plot, setting, characters, themes, conflicts and resolution. If an author is able to a state very clear in the starting it becomes easy for the readers to understand the whole content. The structure of the story is actually the backbone of any book.

The structure of the story includes the following parts:

1. Exposition- It is the beginning of the story and here the author introduces his characters, and the final setting.
2. Rising Action- A series of events together makes the final story. With the inclusion of action, thrill and suspense an author develops the plot.
3. Climax- It is the turning point of the story, here the main conflict reaches its peak.
4. Falling Action- Falling action includes all the events that follow the climax and it leads to final end of the story.
5. Resolution- It is that part of the story where all the tensions and conflict end. The outcome of the story is also revealed here.

2.4 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is the key element of a short story?
 - a. A complex plot with multiple subplots
 - b. A long, detailed exploration of character backgrounds
 - c. A focused narrative with a limited number of characters
 - d. Extensive world building and elaborate settingsCorrect answer: A focused narrative with a limited number of characters.



2. What is the main term for the perspective from which a story is told?
- Setting
 - Theme
 - Point of view
 - Conflict

Correct answer: Point of view

3. What is the main purpose of the climax in the story?
- To introduce the characters
 - To provide background information
 - To resolve the conflict
 - To create the turning point of the story

Correct answer: To create the turning point of the story

4. Which of the following is a common literary device used in short stories to convey meaning beyond the literal?
- Exposition
 - Dialogue
 - Symbolism
 - Rising action

5. What does the “theme” refer to in the story?
- The time and the place where the story occur
 - The sequence of events in the story
 - The main idea underlying message of the story
 - The characters in the story.

6. Which of the following is a key characteristic of a well-written essay?
- Use of the complex vocabulary throughout the essay
 - A clear, logical structure with a defined introduction, body and conclusion
 - Avoidance of any supporting evidence or example
 - Lengthy paragraphs with no clear topic sentences

Correct answer: A clear, logical structure with a defined introduction, body and conclusion.

7. What is the purpose of a conclusion in an essay?
- To introduce the topic
 - To summarize the main points and restate the main point.
 - To present new information

- d. To provide the background information

Correct answer: To summarize the main points and restate the main point.

- 8. Which of the following is the primary purpose of an essay's introduction?
 - a. To present the essay's conclusion
 - b. To provide background information and state the main point
 - c. To summarize the main points of the essay
 - d. To introduce all the supporting evidence

Correct answer: To provide background information and state the main point.

- 9. Which element of an essay typically presents the main argument or point?
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Body paragraphs
 - c. The main statement
 - d. Conclusion

Correct answer: The main statement

- 10. Which element of an essay should summarize the main points and restate the thesis in a new way?
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Body paragraphs
 - c. Conclusion
 - d. Supporting evidence

Correct answer: Conclusion



2.5 LONG ANSWER QUESTION

Q1. Discuss the main purpose of writing essay writing and why is essay writing considered a valuable skill?

Answer: The main purpose of writing an essay is to communicate, and explore. Essays serve to communicate by spreading ideas, perspectives and information related to the given topic. With the help of writing essays an essayist explores complex topics and different viewpoints. Essays serve as a powerful tool that helps the writers to



present their viewpoint with evidence and influence the reader's interest.

Different types of essays serve these purposes in its unique way. For example:

1. Expository Essays: This type of essay always aims to explain or clarify a topic with full information. It always provides a balanced analysis by providing facts and evidence. It typically follows a clear structure with an introduction, body and a conclusion. This type of essays is written mainly to provide education to the reader.
2. Descriptive Essays: Descriptive essays use vivid language and carries minute details about the content. They focus on our sensory details, like taste, smell, touch and sound. The main motto of these essays is to arouse the emotions of the reader. The essay writers use to write lucrative and catchy words to capture the mind of their readers.
3. Narrative Essays: In Narrative essays there is a clear beginning, middle and end. Its main purpose is to entertain the reader. It presents characters with a proper setting, plot and conflict. These types of essays include proper description, dialogue and personal opinions of the essayist in order to engage the reader.
4. Persuasive Essays: Persuasive essays present a particular viewpoint and tries to convince the reader to agree with it. The main motto of this type of essay is only to influence the reader's belief. These essays are based on a particular statement, arguments and a call to action.
5. Argumentative Essays: These essays present a debatable claim and support it with evidence. The main goal of argumentative essays is to convince the reader to accept the essayist's argument as valid. It uses expert opinions, statistics and expert opinions to build a strong case.

Q2. How does the essay writing contribute to the development of critical thinking skills?

Answer: For developing critical thinking essay writing is a good tool. Essay writing makes our views clear by removing the confusions. Essay writing involves various stages, first a writer has to understand the topic, then he has to do research for gathering information. Then

he needs to do an analysis. Different essay structures promote critical thinking in different ways, for example

Q3. Explain the structure of short story?

Answer: The structure of the story includes the following parts:

1. Exposition- It is the beginning of the story and here the author introduces his characters, and the final setting.
2. Rising Action- A series of events together makes the final story. With the inclusion of action, thrill and suspense an author develops the plot.
3. Climax- It is the turning point of the story, here the main conflict reaches its peak.
4. Falling Action- Falling action includes all the events that follow the climax and it leads to final end of the story.
5. Resolution- It is that part of the story where all the tensions and conflict ends. The outcome of the story is also revealed here.

Q4. What are the key elements of the short story?

Answer: Key elements of a short story:

1. Plot- The Plot carries a sequence of events that knit the story, it contains love, conflicts, action, climax and an happy ending.
2. Characters- The person around whom the story revolves is the main hero or the heroine and in literary terms we also call them Protagonist. Along with the main characters there are many other supporting characters who all directly or indirectly contributes to the main story, and they were called as the characters of the story. These characters carry their own traits, motivations and relationships influencing the plots.
3. Setting- The time and the place in which the story takes place, the setting always influence the plot, characters and overall mood of its readers.
4. Theme- Themes contains the main idea of the story and it is related to human nature, society and the world.



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5. Conflict- It is the main problem out of which the story moves forward. And a conflict is the main ingredient which attracts its readers by arousing their interest.

6. Symbolism- It the use objects, characters or events to represent writers' concepts or ideas.

2.6 POINTS TO REMEMBER

- For writing a good short story start with a strong hook
- Always develop compelling characters
- The setting should not be a backdrop but should also influence the story and characters
- Use of vivid language and imagery
- Revise and edit
- Types of essays-
 - Expository
 - Descriptive
 - Narrative
 - Argumentative
 - Comparative

2.7 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q1. Write the definition and types of essays-?

2.8 LET'S SUM UP

In the present block you have studied about different essays and short stories. The block sheds light on the purpose of essay writing and the characteristic and elements of good essays. The different types of essays are given in detail like:

Expository

Descriptive

Narrative

Argumentative

Comparative



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES



BLOCK -II

Of Friendship- Francis Bacon

On Actors and Acting – William Hazlit

Dream Children: A Reverie- Charles Lamb

UNIT 3 OF FRIENDSHIP- FRANCIS BACON

3.1 Objectives

3.2 Life and Works of Francis Bacon

3.3 Academic career and key position of Francis Bacon

3.4 Of Friendship: Detail Summary

3.5 Of Friendship: Reference to the Context and Explanation

3.6 Of Friendship: Summary

3.7 Of Friendship: Critical Analysis

3.8 Multiple Choice Questions

3.9 Long answer questions

3.10 Points to remember

3.1 OBJECTIVES

- To explore the writing styles of the essayists like Francis Bacon, William Hazlit and Charles Lamb
- To explore the writing style of the concerned essayists.
- To study the style, language, aphorism, structured arguments and to evaluate the techniques contributed in the essays.

3.2 LIFE AND WORKS OF FRANCIS BACON

The second son of a famous lawyer and statesman, Francis Bacon was born on 22nd January 1561. During his boyish days his wit

attracted the attention of the queen, who offer him a post of 'young lord keeper'. He was educated at Trinity College Cambridge, and afterwards he was sent to Paris. His father died in 1579, after this he accepted law as his profession.



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

List of some notable works of Francis Bacon:

- Essays (1597)
- The Advancement of Learning (1605)
- Novum Organum (1620)
- Historia naturalis experimentalis, adcondedam philosphiam (1622)
- Sylva Sylvarum (1626)

3.3 ACADEMIC CAREER AND KEY POSITION OF FRANCIS BACON

- Queens Counsel- 1589
- Orator in the House of Commons (1603)
- Attorney General (1613)
- Privy Councillor (1616)
- Lord Keeper(1617)
- Lord Chancellor (1618)
- Baren Varulam (1618)

3.4 OF FRIENDSHIP: AN INTRODUCTION

In his essay 'of Friendship 'Francis Bacon has highlighted the importance of friendship as essential for a fulfilling life, discussing its value alongside love. Bacon has given the advantages of friendship, including support, counsel and a space for sharing thoughts, especially during hard times. He wants to say through his essay that whenever a person is not in a good mood or he is tense he needs someone to share his feelings. When a person pours out his/her heart he feels lighter. In this essay Bacon has also shared with his readers the different types of friendship. Bacon differentiates between friendships based on utility, pleasure



and goodness, favouring those built on virtue and mutual respect. Bacon has also shared the qualities of a good friend. He emphasizes loyalty, trustworthiness and understanding as key qualities, stressing reciprocity in friendship. Then he has shared the challenges mostly faced during friendship. He addresses potential issues like jealousy, and over-dependence, warning against friendship with those of poor character. Then Bacon Reiterates the value of true friendship for strength, joy and personal growth.

3.5 OF FRIENDSHIP: IMPORTANT REFERENCES AND EXPLANATION

1. “But little do men perceive what solitude is, and how far it extendeth. For a crowd is not company; and faces are but a gallery of pictures; and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love.”

Explanation: One must learn to differentiate between a crowd and kinship; between society and friendship. One can be lonely inside a multitude too. Faces of people may turn out to be fleeting pictures, if the persons are not engaged with. A conversation devoid of passion or feelings may be akin to the sounds of a tinkling cymbal – a barren monologue which hardly causes a ripple.

2. “A principal fruit of friendship, is the ease and discharge of the fulness and swellings of the heart, which passions of all kinds do cause and induce.”

Explanation: According to Bacon friendship must have feelings and passions as its main strands. It should be a bond between the hearts where one shares the emotions of his friend in full measure.

3. We know diseases of stoppings, and suffocations, are the most dangerous in the body; and it is not much otherwise in the mind; you may take sarza to open the liver, steel to open the spleen, flowers of sulphur for the lungs, castoreum for the brain; but no receipt openeth the heart,

but a true friend; to whom you may impart griefs, joys, fears, hopes, suspicions, counsels, and whatsoever lieth upon the heart to oppress it, in a kind of civil shrift or confession.

Explanation: We all know how debilitating and fatal heart ailments can be. Pleasant and intimate conversation with a friend brings back vigour to the heart. It elevates the mood, banishes depression and helps the heart patient to recover. There is no panacea for heart diseases which can match the curative value of the presence of good friends by the sick person's bedside. Through lively chat and friendly banter, they unburden the heart of the sick person and make him feel good again. However, there are medicines or devices to correct a malfunction of internal organs like saza for the liver, steel for the spleen, flowers of sulphur for the lungs, castoreum for the brain etc.



3. 6 OF FRIENDSHIP: CRITICAL SUMMARY

As a pragmatic and as an empirical thinker Bacon followed two fundamental Renaissance principles—*Scientia* or search for knowledge and *Eloquentia*, the art of rhetoric. This explains, to some extent, the impassioned presentation of his ideas and views and the aphoristic style of his writing. But the essay *Of Friendship* is stylistically somewhat different in that it contains passionate and flattering statements along with profuse analogies and examples in support of his arguments perhaps because this essay was occasioned by the request of his friend Toby Matthew.

Bacon begins the essay by invoking the classical authority of Aristotle on basic human nature. First, he refers to Aristotle's view in *Politics*: Whosoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god. According to Aristotle, a man by nature and behaviour may be degraded to such an extent that he may be called unfit for society. Again, he may be so self-sufficient that he may not need society. In the first case, he resembles a wild beast and in the second, he resembles gods. Here it should be pointed



out that Bacon is not ruling out the value of solitude; in fact, he is reserving solitude for higher kind of life, which is possible for a few great men like Epimenides, Numa, Empedocles, Apollonius and some Christian saints. Here too Bacon is following Aristotelian view on solitude as expressed in Ethics, where Aristotle prefers a contemplative life to an active life:

“It is the highest kind of life, it can be enjoyed uninterruptedly for the greatest length of time...”

Bacon’s logic is that those who live in society should enjoy the bliss of friendship for more than one reason. First of all, friendship is necessary for maintaining good mental health by controlling and regulating the passions of the mind. In other words, Bacon here speaks of the therapeutic use of friendship through which one can lighten the heart by revealing the pent-up feelings and emotions: sorrows, joys, fears, hopes, suspicions, advice and the like.

Then in order to justify the value of friendship, Bacon points out the practice of friendship on the highest social level. He informs us that the kings and princes, in order to make friends, would raise some persons who would be fit for friendship. Then Bacon tries to glorify friendship by translating the Roman term for friendship, *Participes curarum*, which means ‘sharers of their cares’. He gives instances of raising of men as friends from the Roman history: Sylla and Pompey the Great, Julius Caesar and Antonius, Augustus and Agrippa, Tiberius Caesar and Sejanus, Septimius Severus and Plautianus. Bacon also refers to what Comineus wrote of Duke Charles the Hardy’s deterioration of his mental faculty just because of his reserve and loneliness and extends his judgement to the case of Comineus’ second master, Louis XI. The point which Bacon strongly wants to assert is that friendship functions for a man in a double yet paradoxically contrary manner:

“...it redoubleth joys, and cutteth griefs in halves”.

The second fruit of friendship, according to Bacon, is beneficial for the clarity of understanding. If a man has got a faithful friend, he can be consulted to clarify the confusions of the mind. He calls

the counsel of a friend, citing Heraclitus, “drier and purer” than that a man gives himself out of self love, which clouds his judgement. Bacon then counsel of this sort into two kinds: “the one concerning manners and the other concerning business.” A friend’s constructive criticism of the other friend’s behaviour helps him more than a book of morality. In the matter of conducting practical business, Bacon thinks, a true friend’s advice can also be helpful in undertaking a venture or averting a danger.

Finally, Bacon speaks of the last fruit of friendship, which is manifold in the sense that there are so many things in life, which can be fulfilled only with the help of a friend. In fact, at a rare moment Bacon gets emotional and quotes classical maxim that “a friend is another self”. His point is that a man may have many a desire, which may not be realised in his life-time, but if he has got a true friend, his unfulfilled desire will be taken care of by his friend. Not only this, a friend, unlike the near and dear ones and enemies, can talk to him on equal terms whenever situation demands. Keeping all these things, Bacon concludes that if a man does not have a friend, he may well leave this world. That is to say, he is not fit for the human society to live in



3.7 OF FRIENDSHIPS: CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Bacon’s essays on miscellaneous subjects were for a long time seen as incidental frivolities. However, as time passed and the scientific worldview became more solidly embedded in intellectual life, his big works came to feel more and more dated, whereas his essays show the realities of daily life and that’s why became steadily more popular. If we compare Bacon’s essays to that of Cisero’s, his essays never promoted abstruse philosophy, but always contains practical advice for the good and wellbeing of human beings. His essays are wonderfully short many barely more than a page long – and contain entertaining and amusing formulations, some of which have gone on to become reasonably famous. He has written essays throughout his life: the first edition



of 1597 contains ten essays; the second edition of 1612 had thirty-eight essays and the third and final edition of 1625 got fifty-eight essays. The essay “Of Friendship”, is one of the longer essays covering eight pages, the rest of his essays only covers a single page. During the period of the late Renaissance there had been a good deal of the topic of friendship became of central importance to what became known as humanism, strongly influenced by the Dutch philosopher Erasmus.

All these qualities and the centrality of the concept to humanist’s notion help to explain why the friendship essay is one of Bacon’s longest, but even here he applies his style of being as focused and pithy as possible.

A crowd is not company; and faces are but a gallery of pictures; and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love.

In a great town friends are scattered; so that there is not that fellowship, for the most part, which is in less neighbourhoods.

True friends; without which the world is but a wilderness.

Whosoever in the frame of his nature and affections, is unfit for friendship, he taketh it of the beast, and not from humanity.

The essay addresses three ‘fruits of friendship’.

1. The first or principal fruit of friendship is to bring ‘peace in the affections’. It is the ease and discharge of the fulness and swellings of the heart, which passions of all kinds do cause and induce.

Friendship helps soften the violence of passions and emotions. It is psychologically beneficial:

No receipt [medicine] openeth the heart but a true friend to whom you may impart griefs, joys, fears, hopes, suspicions, counsels, and whatsoever lieth upon the heart to oppress it, in a kind of civil shrift or confession.

That ‘kind of’ is very typical. Bacons finds thoughtful analogies, which shed interesting light on everyday topics.

He expands this thought by considering how great kings and princes have been so driven by the need for friendship that they have often raised ordinary people to be their companions or ‘favourites’ ‘which many times sorteth to inconvenience.’ I love Bacon’s Jacobean English.

There follows a long passage of examples from the ancient and modern world, namely:

Sulla’s promotion of the boy wonders general, Pompey

Julius Caesar’s friendship with Decimus Brutus, who went on to lure him to his death

Augustus’s promotion of his loyal lieutenant Agrippa

Tiberius’s promotion of Sejanus which led the Senate to devote a temple to Friendship Septimius Severus and Plautianus

The point being that these rulers were among the most powerful the world has ever since but accounted their lives incomplete unless they had an intimate confidant to ‘supply the comfort of friendship’.

By contrast he briefly summarises the experiences of Commineus (Philippe de Commines, 1447 to 1511, writer and diplomat in the courts of Burgundy and France) under two rulers, Charles Duke of Burgundy and King Louis XIII, who did not confide their worries, were very secretive, thus impairing their judgement and giving themselves much torment. The gnawing worries which a man without friends subjects himself to can be summarised:

Those that want friends to open themselves unto are cannibals of their own hearts.

The second fruit of friendship is ‘support of the judgment’; that it has a comparable effect on the rational faculties of the mind as on the emotional, namely helping to steady and clarify our thoughts.





Sharing our thoughts with someone else helps us order and clarify them an hour's conversation with a friend helps us sort out our thoughts more effectively than a day's agonising by ourselves. The best kind of friend is one who gives you feedback and advice, but even without bonus, just the act of saying your thoughts out loud forces you to marshal your thoughts and, often, realise what you're trying to say.

The light that a man receive by counsel from another, is drier and purer, than that which cometh from his own understanding and judgment, which is ever infused, and drenched, in his affections and customs. It's a simple metaphor:

“Dry good, wet bad – but unusual and memorable.”

Our own thoughts tend to flatter ourselves, be kind and compliant, in a way a good friend won't. A man hath a body, and that body is confined to a place; but where friendship is, all offices of life are as it were granted to him, and his deputy. For he may exercise them by his friend. Bacon says that a man cannot promote himself and extol his merits without appearing to brag, but a friend can. More subtly, we are limited in many of our communications with significant others by our position or role in relationship to them, whereas a friend can speak more freely, communicate more freely with them what we want to convey, because he or she is not so constrained, a man cannot speak to his son but as a father; to his wife but as a husband; to his enemy but upon terms: whereas a friend may speak as the case requires, and not as it sorteth with the person. At which point the essay abruptly ends.

3.8 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is not a benefit of friendship, according to Bacon?
 - a. Counsel
 - b. Support
 - c. Financial gain

d. Solace in adversity

Correct answer: Financial gain

2. In “Of Friendship” Bacon suggests that the best friendships are based on :
- Utility
 - Pleasure
 - Virtue
 - Common interest

Correct answer: Virtue

3. What is the title of Bacon’s major work on scientific methodology?
- Essays
 - The Advancement of Learning
 - Novum Organum
 - Sylva Sylvarum

Correct answer: Novum Organum

4. Bacon believed that the purpose of knowledge was:
- To glorify God
 - To control nature for human
 - To indulge in intellectual pursuits
 - To escape the world

Correct answer: To control nature for human benefit

5. What was Bacon’s role in English politics?
- He was a military general
 - He was a member of Parliament and held high office
 - He was a religious leader
 - He was a playwright

Correct answer: He was a member of Parliament and held high office

6. Which of Bacon’s works is a collection of short, insightful essays on various topics?
- Novum Organum
 - The Advancement of Learning



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- c. Essays
 - d. Sylva Sylvarum
- Correct answer: Essays

7. Bacon's approach to science emphasized:
- a. Deductive reasoning
 - b. Empirical observation and experimentation
 - c. Reliance on ancient authorities
 - d. Speculation without evidence

Correct answer: Empirical observation and experimentation

8. What does Bacon warn against in his essay "Of Friendship"?
- a. Forming friendship with people of good character
 - b. Being too independent
 - c. Jealousy and over-dependence in friendships
 - d. Seeking counsel from friends

Correct answer: Jealousy and over-dependence in friendships

9. Which of the following best describes Bacon's view on the value of friendship?
- a. It is essential for a fulfilling life
 - b. It is a distraction from intellectual pursuits
 - c. It is only useful for gaining social status
 - d. It is a waste of time

Correct answer: It is essential for fulfilling life

10. Bacon served under which English monarch?
- a. Queen Elizabeth
 - b. King Henry VIII
 - c. King James I
 - d. Queen Victoria

Correct answer: King James I

3.9 LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. According to Francis Bacon what are fruits of friendship?

Answer: Bacon to some extent has presented his ideas and views in the aphoristic style, but the essay *Of Friendship* is stylistically somewhat different in that it contains passionate and flattering statements along with profuse analogies and examples in support of his arguments perhaps because this essay was occasioned by the request of his friend Toby Matthew.



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Bacon begins the essay by invoking the classical authority of Aristotle on basic human nature. First, he refers to Aristotle's view in *Politics*: Whosoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god. According to Aristotle, a man by nature and behaviour may be degraded to such an extent that he may be called unfit for society. Again, he may be so self-sufficient that he may not need society. In the first case, he resembles a wild beast and in the second, he resembles gods. Here it should be pointed out that Bacon is not ruling out the value of solitude; in fact, he is reserving solitude for higher kind of life, which is possible for a few great men like Epimenides, Numa, Empedocles, Apollonius and some Christian saints. Here too Bacon is following Aristotelian view on solitude as expressed in *Ethics*, where Aristotle prefers a contemplative life to an active life:

“It is the highest kind of life, it can be enjoyed uninterruptedly for the greatest length of time...”

Bacon's logic is that those who live in society should enjoy the bliss of friendship for more than one reason. First of all, friendship is necessary for maintaining good mental health by controlling and regulating the passions of the mind. In other words, Bacon here speaks of the therapeutic use of friendship through which one can lighten the heart by revealing the pent-up feelings and emotions: sorrows, joys, fears, hopes, suspicions, advice and the like.

Then in order to justify the value of friendship, Bacon points out the practice of friendship on the highest social level. He informs us that the kings and princes, in order to make friends, would raise some persons who would be fit for friendship. Then Bacon tries to glorify friendship by translating the Roman term for friendship, *Participes curarum*, which means 'sharers of their cares'. He gives instances of raising of men as friends from the Roman history: Sylla and Pompey the Great, Julius Caesar and Antonius, Augustus and Agrippa, Tiberius



Caesar and Sejanus, Septimius Severus and Plautianus. Bacon also refers to what Comineus wrote of Duke Charles the Hardy's deterioration of his mental faculty just because of his reserve and loneliness and extends his judgement to the case of Comineus' second master, Louis XI. The point which Bacon strongly wants to assert is that friendship functions for a man in a double yet paradoxically contrary manner: "...it redoubleth joys, and cutteth griefs in halves".

The second fruit of friendship, according to Bacon, is beneficial for the clarity of understanding. If a man has got a faithful friend, he can be consulted to clarify the confusions of the mind. He calls the counsel of a friend, citing Heraclitus, "drier and purer" than that a man gives himself out of self love, which clouds his judgement. Bacon then counsel of this sort into two kinds: "the one concerning manners and the other concerning business." A friend's constructive criticism of the other friend's behaviour helps him more than a book of morality. In the matter of conducting practical business, Bacon thinks, a true friend's advice can also be helpful in undertaking a venture or averting a danger.

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Q2. Write about the life and works of Francis Bacon?

Answer: Francis Bacon was an English Renaissance statesman, philosopher, and scientist who is considered the father of modern science for his emphasis on the scientific method. He was born on

January 22, 1561, in London, England. Bacon was son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, a prominent government official, and Anne Cooke, a well-educated and religious woman who instilled a strong belief in education. Francis Bacon Studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, and Gray's Inn. His work promoted empiricism and inductive reasoning, and he held prominent political offices, including Lord Chancellor, before his political career ended amid corruption charges. Scientific Method: Bacon is celebrated for advocating for a new, empirical approach to science, based on observation, experimentation, and inductive reasoning. His main works include:

- **Novum Organum Novum Organum (New Method):** His most important philosophical work which was published in 1620, proposed a new system for scientific inquiry that would replace traditional Aristotelian logic.
- **The New Atlantis-** It was Bacon's utopian work that imagined a scientific institution, which is seen as a precursor to modern scientific societies like the Royal Society.
- **Essays-**It is a collection of short, insightful pieces on a wide range of subjects that helped establish the essay as a literary genre.
- **Advancement of Learning:** It is a work that surveyed the state of knowledge and argued for the advancement of learning through a new, systematic approach. He also advocated Empiricism that is why he is considered the father of empiricism, which holds that all knowledge is derived from sensory experience.

Bacon switched many jobs and he rose through the ranks of government serving as:

Solicitor General (1607)

Attorney General (1613),

Lord Chancellor (1618) under King James I.

Bacon's political career ended in disgrace due to charges of corruption, though he maintained his integrity. He died on April 9, 1626 in Highgate Middlesex, England.



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3.10 POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Bacon's writing style is characterized by its aphoristic quality and use of vivid imagery.
- His essays cover a wide range of topics, from love and friendship to ambition and death.
- Bacon's work reflects a Renaissance humanist perspective, emphasizing reason and death.
- His essays offer timeless advice and continue to be relevant to readers to modern age.
- Bacon saw friendship as essential for happiness and a source of support.
- He distinguished between different types of friends including those for utility, pleasure and virtue.
- Bacon has given value to true friendship, based on virtue and mutual respect.
- He believed friendship offered comfort and a deeper understanding of one's self.
- Bacon acknowledges that maintaining friendship required effort, trust and understanding.

UNIT 4 LIFE AND WORKS OF WILLIAM HAZLIT



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

- 4.1 Academic career and key position of William Hazlit
- 4.2 On Actors and Acting: An Introduction
- 4.3 On Actors and Acting: Reference to the context and explanation
- 4.4 On Actors and Acting: Summary
- 4.5 On Actors and Acting: Critical Analysis
- 4.6 Multiple Choice Questions
- 4.7 Long answer questions
- 4.8 Points to remember

William Hazlitt was born in Maidstone, Kent in 1778. In the realm of English literature, he was remembered as a major English Romantic essayist, critic, and philosopher, known for his work in literary and art criticism, political commentary, and his distinct style of the "familiar essay". He was a radical political liberal and a major literary figure he has covered a wide range of topics, including psychology and the philosophy of mind. His most famous works include "*Characters of Shakespeare's Plays*" "*Political Essays*" and "*The Spirit of the Age*".

Hazlitt's family shifted to America before returning to England and settling in Shropshire. He joined the Unitarian college with the intention of joining his father into the ministry but later he switched his interest towards writing. He was also interested in painting, for gaining perfection in painting he went to Paris. Along with painting he also worked as a journalist and essayist. His essays reflect the political and social condition of his time. His married life was not a happy one and, in his life, he has faced financial hardships also. In the present time also, his essays are highly appreciated for its abstract ideas, directness, Vigor and clarity. He wrote his essays to filter the societies mistakes, his social and political tensions. He wrote his essays on subjects like egotism and reason. He was a prominent literary and art critic of his time. He has added many valuable works in the stock of English literature. Some of his prominent works include:

- Characters of Shakespeare's Plays



- **A View of the English Stage:**
Besides being an author, he also took interest in the political proceedings and he used to release his political commentaries also. In his dramatic pieces also, he uses to add some dramatic criticism. During the time of the French Revolution, he took active part and he was a great supporter of the French Revolution. He wrote many tracts on politics and shed light on the conservative trends of his time. Besides performing all these duties, he did his philosopher's task also he had written an essay on the Principles of Human Action, and he had set a ground for his later writings on the Human condition. His writings got popular due to his thoughtful tone, use of crisp language, metaphors, antithesis and aphorism.

4.1 ACADEMIC CAREER AND KEY POSITION OF WILLIAM HAZLIT

William Hazlitt did not pursue a conventional academic career or hold a formal position within a university, he started his journey as a journalist, literary critic, essayist and a public lecturer. He was one of the most read prose writers of the Romantic period. His educational background is quite a strong one including philosophy and literature, and exposed him to radical political ideas. After the completion of two years he left the college without completing his studies.

Hazlitt's career was marked by many ups and downs due to his intellectual curiosity and need for a steady income. He considered himself a philosopher. His first major work, *An Essay on the Principles of Human Action*, was a philosophical treatise arguing for the "natural disinterestedness of the human mind". This work, was ignored at that time but remained central to his thinking and has received academic attention in modern studies. Besides this Hazlitt was also a good painter, he has learned painting from Paris. His painting exhibited at the Royal academy in 1802. Painting is just a hobby of Hazlitt the main source of his primary source of income is the work of critic and journalist.

Hazlitt's key positions:

1. Parliamentary Reporter for The Morning Chronicle (1812).

Drama Critic for The Morning Chronicle.

He has also contributed many essays and criticism to periodicals like The Examiner, The Champion, and the prestigious The Edinburgh Review. He has delivered several successful series of lectures on literature and philosophy, which helped him gain public recognition. His public lectures include-

Lectures on "the British philosophers" (1812).

Lectures on "the English Poets" (1818).

Lectures on "the English Comic Writers" (1819).

Lectures on the "Dramatic Literature of the Age of Elizabeth" (1820).

Characters of Shakespear's Plays (1817)

Table-Talk (1821-2) and

and The Spirit of the Age (1825).



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

4.2 ON ACTORS AND ACTING: AN INTRODUCTION

William Hazlitt's essay "*On Actors and Acting*" argues that actors are "honest hypocrites" who mirror humanity and challenge public prejudice by living a hand-to-mouth existence, transitioning between poverty and luxury. He suggests their often-condemned extravagance is a result of uncertain futures and that the stage, a "bettered likeness of the world," is a valuable form of social reflection. The essay defends the profession and portrays actors sympathetically, attributing their perceived flaws to societal misunderstanding.

Actors as "honest hypocrites": Hazlitt famously describes actors as "the only honest hypocrites," who live a "voluntary dream" and hold up a mirror to humanity. They are "motley representatives of human



nature" who show us ourselves, "all that we are, all that we wish to be, and all that we dread to be".

Defending their extravagance: Hazlitt challenges the common criticism that actors are "extravagant and dissipated". He argues this behaviour stems from their precarious, hand-to-mouth existence and the need to enjoy present success due to an uncertain future. Since they cannot make money "breed," they spend it when they have it.

The stage as a reflection of life: The essay suggests the stage is a valuable, albeit idealized, reflection of the world, with the dull parts left out. It also points out that we often imitate actors, with many fine gentlemen and romantic lovers on and off the stage being products of theatrical imitation.

Challenging societal prejudice: Hazlitt believes that if actors are not respected, it is because the profession itself is not respected, and society bears the blame for its own prejudices against them. He paints a sympathetic portrait, showing them to be "more sinned against than sinful".

The thrill of contrast: The essay highlights the intoxicating feeling of "hurried from fierce extremes," where the contrast between their public performance and private life gives zest to their existence. It is the rags and poverty that give splendor to their stage roles, and the applause is a powerful reward

4.3 ON ACTORS AND ACTING: IMPORTANT QUOTATIONS

"A man of genius is not a machine. The neglected actor may be excused if he drinks oblivion of his disappointments; the successful one if he quaffs the applause of the world in draughts of nectar." This quote emphasizes the need for strong emotions, impulses, and a sense of pleasure for an actor to be able to imitate passions effectively.

"Actors are the only honest hypocrites. Their life is a voluntary dream; and the height of their ambition is to be beside themselves." This famous line suggests that actors, through their art, are honest in a

way that others are not, as they live and breathe a different reality on stage.



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

4.4 ON ACTORS AND ACTING: SUMMARY

William Hazlitt's "On Actors and Acting"

defends actors against societal prejudices, arguing they are not inherently "extravagant and dissipated" but live hand-to-mouth, spending money as it comes due to the profession's uncertainty. He portrays actors as "honest hypocrites" who are a reflection of humanity, noting that the stage is a "bettered likeness of the world" and that their performance offers insights into ourselves that can inspire audiences to imitate them.

Defending the profession- Hazlitt challenges the common view that actors are disreputable, particularly women actors who were often judged harshly. He argues that their perceived extravagance is a result of their precarious financial situation; they spend earnings because they have no other way to "make money breed" in a profession where success is uncertain.

Actors as reflections of humanity- He describes actors as "abstracts and brief chronicles of the time" who provide a mirror for humanity. By showing us the "follies and the wisdom of mankind," their performances give us an "epitome" of life, allowing us to see ourselves and our potential in them.

The power of contrast- Hazlitt suggests that the contrast between an actor's day-to-day poverty and their on-stage splendor heightens their performance and makes the applause more intoxicating. The contrast between the "rags and a flock-bed" and the "plume of feathers and a throne" is what gives the spectacle its power.

The impact on the audience- He notes that audiences often imitate the actors, and as a result, the stage influences society, inspiring the way people dress, love, and behave.



4.5 ON ACTORS AND ACTING: CRITICAL ANALYSIS

William Hazlitt's "*On Actors and Acting*" is a sympathetic and critical analysis that defends actors against societal prejudice, viewing them as representatives of human nature. The essay argues that their perceived extravagance is a product of their uncertain, hand-to-mouth profession, and that their ability to portray diverse emotions provides moral and imaginative lessons for the audience. Hazlitt emphasizes that the contrast between actors' real-life struggles and their on-stage triumphs is a source of their "zest" and that their profession deserves greater respect for reflecting and refining the human condition. Hazlitt argues that the social prejudice against actors is based on a misunderstanding of their profession. He links their reputation for extravagance and dissipation to their unpredictable lifestyle, where a life of poverty is immediately followed by luxury, and where there is no certainty of accumulating wealth.

He suggests that their "live for the moment" mentality is a rational response to an unstable career, where they are "uncertain of the future, they make sure of the present moment".

He also said about the actors that actors are moral and imaginative educators. Hazlitt sees actors as vital representatives of human nature, portraying a wide range of emotions and experiences. He believes that watching plays can teach audiences about morality by exposing them to both virtuous and depraved characters. By embodying different roles, actors help audiences to better understand the human psyche and emotions. Some critics view Hazlitt as a "moral historian" rather than a pure moral philosopher, which aligns with his approach to analysing actors and their profession as a reflection of societal and human realities.

His analysis is part of his broader work which includes essays on topics like reason, imagination, and a love for the physical and tangible world

4.6 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

1. Which literary movement is William Hazlit most closely associated with?

- a. Romantiocism
- b. Victorianism
- c. Modernism
- d. Realism

Correct answer: Romanticism

2. Which of the following is a common theme in Hazlitt's essays?

- a. Political Satire
- b. Social commentary
- c. Literary criticism
- d. All of the above

Correct answer: All of the above.

3. What is the title of one of Hazlitt's most famous collections of essays?

- a. The Spectator
- b. Characters of Shakespeare's plays
- c. Table-talk
- d. The Rambler

Correct answer: Table-talk

4. Hazlitt's essays are known for their:

- a. Formal and academic tone
- b. Personal and conversational style
- c. Complex and abstract arguments
- d. Use of obscure vocabulary



Correct answer: Personal and conversational style

4. Which of the following best describes Hazlitt's attitude towards the common person?
- He was dismissive of the common person
 - He believed in the importance of individual experience and the common person's perspectives
 - He was indifferent to the common person
 - He believed the common person was in capable of understanding art and literature

Correct answer: He believed in the importance of individual experience and the common person's perspectives.

5. What is the main subject of William Hazlitt's essays "On Actors and Acting" ?
- The history of theatre
 - The art of acting and the qualities of a good actor
 - The lives of famous playwrights
 - The audience's role in the play

Correct answer: The art of acting and the qualities of a good actor.

6. According to Hazlitt, what is the most important quality for an actor?
- Physical appearance
 - Ability to memorize lines
 - Fame and popularity
 - Emotional identification and expression

Correct answer: Emotional identification and expression.

7. What does Hazlitt say about the relationship between actors and their audience?
- Actors should ignore the audience's reaction
 - The audience is passive and has no impact on their performance.
 - Actors and the audience engage in a mutual exchange of feelings

d. Actors are superior to the audience in terms of intellect

Correct answer: Actor's and the audience engage in a mutual exchange of feelings.

8. Which of the following is not a characteristic of Hazlitt's writing style?
- Personal anecdotes
 - Direct and conversational tone
 - Complex philosophical arguments
 - Detailed descriptions

Correct answer: Complex philosophical arguments

9. What is Hazlitt's overall perspective on the art of acting?
- He believes acting is a superficial and unimportant profession
 - He views acting as a high art form that requires great skill and emotional depth.
 - He is critical of all actors and their performances
 - He believes that acting is solely about entertainment and has no artistic merit.

Correct answer: He views acting as a high art form that requires great skill and emotional depth.



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4.7 LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. Write about the life and works of William Hazlitt?

Answer: William Hazlitt (1778–1830) was an English essayist, philosopher, and literary and art critic, best known for his humanistic essays and powerful prose. A major figure of the Romantic period, his life was marked by a passionate but often turbulent career as a writer, critic, and painter, influenced by his political radicalism and lifelong appreciation for freedom. His key works include *Characters of Shakespeare's Plays* and the famous essay, "The Fight," and his writing is celebrated for its sharp intellect and colloquial style.

Early life and education- Born in Kent, England, he was the son of a Unitarian minister. His family moved to America for a short time, but



returned to England, where he eventually studied at a seminary, though he ultimately rejected the ministry to pursue other interests.

Art and philosophy- Hazlitt initially intended to become a painter and spent time in Paris at the Louvre, though he eventually concluded he couldn't excel in the field. He later focused on writing, with his early work being philosophical before he became a prolific essayist and critic.

Literary and political career- He became a prominent literary critic and journalist, contributing to various publications throughout his life. He was a passionate defender of the French Revolution and expressed his liberal, political views in his writing.

Personal struggles- Hazlitt's life was often marked by personal hardships, including financial struggles and an unhappy marriage. He was known to be a difficult and sometimes quarrelsome person, and many friendships frayed over time. He continued to write prolifically until his death in 1830 in London.

Famous works of Hazlitt - He is best known for his essays, which cover a wide range of topics, including literature, art, politics, and travel. His style is often praised for being brilliant, humanistic, and colloquial.

Literary criticism: He wrote significant literary criticism, including *Characters of Shakespeare's Plays* (1817) and essays on other playwrights. Other Notable works include his biography of his hero, Napoleon Bonaparte, and the famous essay "The Fight". Hazlitt is considered one of the greatest essayists in the English language, and his work is valued for its courage, honesty, and sensitivity. He is seen as a master of the familiar essay and a peerless prose stylist.

Q2. Write the critical analysis of *On actors and acting*?

Answer: William Hazlitt's "On Actors and Acting" critically analyzes the profession, arguing that societal prejudice leads to the lack of respect for actors, despite their necessary role in bringing stories to life and reflecting human experience. He explores the actor's unique life, balancing societal contempt with the intoxicating highs of performance, and claims that an actor's enjoyment of life is intensified

by their exposure to contrasting experiences. Hazlitt argues that the disrespect actors face is not inherent to their profession but is a result of societal prejudice, which is a great injustice. About actors he says that they live a life of extreme contrasts, experiencing the contempt of the world during the day and the applause of the audience at night.

He believes actors must possess a strong capacity for enjoyment and a wide range of emotions to be effective. Hazlitt suggests that the unlooked-for success in a smaller, less pretentious setting might even be more powerful for a truly sensitive actor. The essay reflects Hazlitt's deep appreciation for the theatrical arts, viewing acting as a respected and necessary profession that deserves more social regard.



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Analysis of acting by William Hazlitt

Acting is a craft- Beyond Hazlitt's romantic view, modern critical analysis recognizes acting as a specialized craft requiring a combination of skills, such as emotional authenticity, character depth, and vocal and physical expressiveness.

Role in society-Acting serves a vital social function by bringing history, human experiences, and complex stories to life for audiences in ways that books and lectures cannot.

Emotional truth-A key element of modern acting theory is the ability to channel genuine emotion and to "behave truthfully under imaginary circumstances". This requires a deep understanding of human behaviour and the ability to tap into one's own experiences to create a believable performance

Q3. Write about the main themes of the essay On Actors and Acting?

Answer: The main themes of William Hazlitt's "On Actors and Acting" are the sympathetic portrayal of actors' struggles and the value of acting as a representation of human nature. Hazlitt argues that actors' perceived extravagance stems from their precarious profession, not inherent vice, and that their ability to portray a wide range of human emotions makes them valuable figures for understanding life and morality. He defends actors against societal prejudice, asserting



that the profession's low standing is a societal failing. There are many themes related to acting given by Hazlitt a few of them are:

1. **Sympathetic portrayal of actors-** Hazlitt counters the common view that actors are inherently extravagant and dissipated. He argues their "hand-to-mouth" lifestyle and uncertainty of the future force them to spend impulsively, a consequence of their profession's instability rather than their character. He suggests that society's prejudices and lack of respect for the acting profession contribute to the actors' struggles and negative public image.
2. **Acting as a representation of human nature-** Hazlitt believes actors serve as vital representatives of human nature by embodying diverse emotions and roles. He argues that observing actors can be a moral and educational experience for the audience, showing the consequences of both virtuous and depraved actions.

William Hazlitt's essay suggests that the acting profession, by its nature, forces actors to engage with a wide spectrum of human experience, which can be both a source of excitement and a drain on their sensibility

4.8 POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Hazlitt says that great acting is all about conveying the true emotions.
- Regarding acting Hazlitt says that acting is a skill, a craft and it is the way to express the feelings truly.
- Hazlitt explores that how the actor's create the illusion of reality.
- Hazlitt sees acting as a unique art form.
- Hazlitt values the ability of the actors to fully copy a character and how nicely they disappear in the given role.

UNIT 5 LIFE AND WORKS OF CHARLES LAMB



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

- 5.1 Academic career and key positions of Charles Lamb
- 5.2 Dream Children: A Reverie: An Introduction
- 5.3 Dream Children: A Reverie- Reference to the context and explanation
- 5.4 Dream Children: A Reverie- Summary
- 5.5 Dream Children: A Reverie- Critical Analysis
- 5.6 Multiple choice questions
- 5.7 Long answer questions
- 5.8 Points to remember
- 5.9 Chek your progress
- 5.9 References and Suggested readings
- 5.10 Let's sum up

Charles Lamb was an English essayist, poet, and critic known for his influential works, including the *Essays of Elia* and the children's book *Tales from Shakespeare*, which he co-authored with his sister Mary Lamb. His life was marked by tragedy, as he became his sister Mary's lifelong caregiver after she killed their mother during a psychotic episode in 1796. Despite these challenges, Lamb is celebrated for his wit, humour, and imaginative prose, which explored themes of memory, imagination, and daily life. He was born in London in 1775, Lamb attended Christ's Hospital, where he met a student Samuel Taylor Coleridge and both of them became good friends. After this he started working as a clerk at the East India Company. His family life was a disturbed one due to his sister as she was mentally ill and she use to create many problems in the family. She fatally stabbed their mother. Lamb was attached to his sister and he use become a care taker for the rest of the life and both of them visited asylum together when her sister's illness becomes worse.

As a literary critic throughout his life Lamb was a central figure in a prominent literary circle, with close friends including Coleridge and William Wordsworth. He died in 1834.

Charles Lamb's famous works include:



1. **Essays of Elia-** A collection of personal and nostalgic essays written under the pseudonym "Elia" that appeared in the London Magazine between 1820 and 1825. These essays are known for their blend of humour, pathos, and a unique, intimate style that explores topics like memory and childhood.
2. **Tales from Shakespeare-** A collection of retellings of Shakespeare's plays for children, which he co-wrote with his sister Mary.
3. **Specimens of English Dramatic Poets-** A collection of critical commentary on Elizabethan and Jacobean playwrights, which helped revive interest in their work.
4. **Poetry-** His poems, such as "*The Old Familiar Faces*" often reflect his personal struggles with loneliness and loss.

5.1 DREAM CHILDREN: A REVERIE: AN INTRODUCTION

Dream Children: A Reverie, is a famous personal essay by Charles Lamb, first published in 1823, that uses a dream-like narrative to explore themes of memory, loss, and longing. The narrator, Elia, tells stories to imaginary children about his past, including his grandmother, his brother John, and his unrequited love, Alice. As the dream progresses, the children fade away, revealing that they are not real, but only a representation of what might have been, and the narrator wakes up alone.

The essay is written as a "reverie," or daydream, blending autobiographical elements with fiction. The narrator is the essay's pseudonym, James Elia. Lamb tells stories about his real-life family, including his grandmother, Mrs. Field, and his brother, John Lamb. He also recounts his youthful love for Ann Simmons, whom he fictionalizes as Alice .

The essay deals with nostalgia, the pain of loss (both of loved ones and of unfulfilled desires), and the nature of reality versus

imagination. The dream sequence is built around the narrator telling stories to his two children, John and Alice. The children gradually disappear as the narrator becomes more emotional, eventually becoming "nothing; less than nothing, and dreams". This vanishing signifies the unattainable nature of his desires, particularly the desire to have children and a lost family. The narrator awakens to find himself alone in his armchair, with his invalid sister, Bridget, by his side, a reminder of the harsh reality that stands in contrast to the beautiful, but ultimately unreal, world of his dream.



5.3 DREAM CHILDREN: A REVERIE MAIN REFERENCES WITH EXPLANATION

1. Certain it is that.....type it.

Explanation-In these lines, culled (selected) from Charles Lamb's *Reverie; Dream Children*, there is a reference to Mrs. Field, the great grandmother of the children. She lived in a great house in Norfolk. It was believed that this great house is hundred times bigger than that in which they lived and had been the scene of the tragic incidents with which they had become familiar from the ballad of the children in the Wood. This ballad, this dance-song known as 'The Babes in the Wood' is the tragic tale of two little orphans whose uncle got them murdered. The children were ill-treated by their cruel uncle. Their grief ended in death. They died in one another's arm. They did not receive the burial of any man. But birds called Robin Redbreast rest piously covered there with leaves. The whole story of the unfortunate babes could be seen fairly carved out in wood upon the chimney-piece of the great hall. But a foolish rich person purchased the great house. Lamb in his fantasy, records the reactions of Alice, the daughter of his fancy, to the reference to the tragic story of children in the woods. Alice was deeply moved by the ballad. She was deeply saddened by the tragic-death of the children cruelly treated by their uncle.



2. *Then I told how she was yet I never saw the infants.*

Explanation-These lines occur in Charles Lamb's romantic personal essay, 'Dream Children'. Here the essayist is in a reminiscent mood. He tells the children of his fancy-Alice and John-about great-grandmother Mrs. Field. She lived in a great house. She used to 'sleep alone in a big apartment in the deserted mansion.' She believed that the spirit of the two babes could be seen at midnight. The ghost was seen moving slowly up and down the long stair- case. She slept near the stair-case haunted by the spirits of the babes. She confidently said that the innocent babes in their bodily form would not cause her any injury. Lamb recalls how he was afraid of the ghosts, though in his childhood, he slept with his maid because he was not half so religious and pure as Mrs. Field. Yet Lamb never saw the spirits of the infants.

3. *Here John expanded all his eye-brows and tried to look courageous.*

Explanation-In these lines, selected from his fanciful essay, 'Dream Children', Charles Lamb records the imaginary reactions of his dream-son, John, to the story of 'Babes in the Wood'. People were moved by the cruelty of their uncle to the babes, who died in the Wood. They were afraid of the spirit of the innocent babes. Even Charles Lamb, the essayist, was afraid of the spirit of the babes. John, the son of Lamb's fancy, tried to show in his child-like, innocent way, how he was not afraid of ghosts in the least. He widened his eye-brows and made an attempt to appear bold. These are realistic touches. There is a blend of realism and fancy in the essay. The basis of the essay is the wistful thinking of Charles Lamb. His bachelor life thirsts for children. He shows them as real children, children in flesh and blood.

4. *I had more pleasure in strolling about.....at their impertinent frisking's.*

Explanation- These lines occur in Charles Lamb's Reverie "Dream Children". Here the essayist is in a reminiscent mood. Like Wordsworth, he recollects his emotions in tranquillity. He tells the children of his fancy-Alice and John- about his wanderings in the garden attached to Mrs. Field's-his grandmother's big house. He found intense joy in wandering in the garden. There were strange Yew trees with sad looks. There were tall fir trees. Charles Lamb in his boyhood, took intense pleasure in picking up the red berries and the fir apples.



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

5.4 DREAM CHILDREN: A REVERIE SUMMARY

Charles Lamb's "*Dream Children: A Reverie*" is an essay where the narrator, Elia, tells imagined stories to his two children, Alice and John, about his life and family. As he recounts memories of his grandmother, his deceased brother John, and a lost love named Alice, the dream children gradually fade away. The essay concludes with the realization that the children are not real but are representations of his unfulfilled desires for a family, leaving him alone with his regrets.

When the story starts Elia was addressing his two children, Alice and John, asks them to sit by the fire while he tells them a story. He begins by describing their great-grandmother, a pious and beloved woman who was the keeper of a beautiful country house. Then he shares a nostalgic tale of his grandmother, lamenting that after her death, the house's antique furnishings were moved and seemed out of place in a new setting. Then Lamb shares a story of his brother: The narrative then shifts to his brother, John, who was lively and helped Elia when he was a child because of his lameness. The children grow sad when the story turns to John's death, which is a profound loss for Elia.



Then there is the story of Alice the narrator's mother. As he continues to speak, the children begin to grow fainter and more transparent. They eventually fade away completely, revealing that they are not real, but "nothing; less than nothing, and dreams. The essay ends with Elia alone in his armchair, realizing the dream is over and he is childless and solitary. The dream children symbolize the family life he never had, highlighting his loneliness and the sadness of his personal history

5.5 DREAM CHILDREN: A REVERIE CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Dream Children: A Reverie, by Charles Lamb is an essay that explores themes of memory, loss, and unfulfilled desires through a dream-like narrative. There is an autobiographical connection as the essay is deeply rooted in Lamb's personal life, especially his feelings of loneliness after the death of his brother John and his own bachelorhood. The essay's narrator is James Elia, in the essay he speaks for Charles Lamb.

The essay's central attraction is the dream of having children, a boy named John and a daughter named Alice. These are not real children but are used to express Lamb's unfulfilled desires and to reflect on his family members, including his grandmother and his deceased brother, John. To convey his story to the readers Lamb has used many themes like memory and loss. The narrative weaves together idyllic childhood memories with the harsh realities of loss and death. The narrator's stories about his family members, and the way they bring the children. Many symbols are use in the essay the most important one is the symbol of Alice W ,an important part of the dream involves the narrator's imagined courtship of a woman named Alice, symbolizing a lost love. The blurring of his imaginary daughter and his lost love Alice in the dream is a poignant moment that underscores his deep regrets and the finality of his loss.

The dream ends when the narrator looks at his daughter and sees the "soul of the first Alice" in her eyes, causing the vision of his children to fade. He wakes up in his "bachelor armchair," with only his sister Bridget by his side, fully aware of his solitary reality.



5.6 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What is the primary setting of “ Dream Children : A Reverie ?
 - a. A bustling city street
 - b. A grand palace
 - c. The narrator’s childhood home
 - d. A courtroom

Correct answer: The narrator’s childhood home

2. What is the central theme explored in “ Dream Children: A Reverie” ?
 - a. The importance of wealth
 - b. The nature of dreams and reality
 - c. The horrors of war
 - d. The pursuit of fame?

Correct answer: The nature of dreams and reality

3. Who are the “Dream Children” in the essay?
 - a. The narrator’s real children
 - b. The children of a friend
 - c. Imaginary children of the narrator
 - d. Characters from a fairy tale

Correct answer: Imaginary children of the narrator.

4. What is the significance of the character “Alice” in the essay?
 - a. She is the narrator’s wife
 - b. She is the narrator’s sister
 - c. She is the narrator’s mother
 - d. She is a friend from childhood



Correct answer: She is the narrator's sister

5. What is the overall tone or mood of "Dream Children: A Reverie"?
- Humorous and light-hearted
 - Sombre and melancholic
 - Angry and resentful
 - Exciting and adventurous

Correct answer: Sombre and melancholic

6. What is Charles Lamb's most famous collection of essays called?
- Essays and Reviews
 - The Spectator
 - Elia
 - Character Sketches

Correct answer: Elia

7. Which literary movement is Charles Lamb primarily associated with?
- Romanticism
 - Victorianism
 - Modernism
 - Realism

Correct answer: Romanticism

8. What is the common characteristic of Lamb's essay style?
- Extreme objectivity
 - Intense focus on political issues
 - Personal and informal tone
 - Complex, philosophical arguments

Correct answer: Personal and informal tone

9. What is a recurring theme in Lamb's essays?
- The glorification of war
 - The importance of social status
 - Nostalgia for the past
 - The evils of industrialization

Correct answer: Nostalgia for the past.

10. What is the pen name of Charles Lamb used for his essays?
- Montaigne
 - Addison
 - Elia
 - Hazlitt

Correct answer: Elia



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

5.7 QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q1. Why is the essay titled "*Dream Children: A Reverie*"?

Answer- The title is fitting because the children are purely imaginary, born from a "reverie," or daydream, and the essay is a product of that fantasy. It's a "reverie" because Lamb is not literally asleep but lost in a waking dream, a wishful and nostalgic exploration of his past.

Q2. How does Lamb present his grandmother, Mrs. Field?

Answer- He presents her as a powerful, compassionate, and fearless woman who was both a pious caregiver and the best dancer in the area. He describes her managing an old manor house with great spirit, a vivid and idealized portrait of his actual grandmother.

Q3. How does Lamb present his brother, John L.?

Answer- He portrays John L. as a handsome, spirited, and kind young man who was very patient with him, particularly when Lamb injured his foot. He later reflects with regret that he wasn't as kind to John L. when he became "lame-footed" in old age, and deeply misses him after his death.

Q4. What is the significance of Alice's worn-out shoe?

Answer- The detail of Alice's shoe with the sole worn through symbolizes the passage of time and fading memories. It



represents the worn nature of memory itself and the painful nostalgia Lamb feels for the deceased Alice, his lost love.

Q5. Why do the children disappear at the end?

Answer- They vanish because the dream is ending, a poignant reminder of the harsh reality that he is a bachelor with no children. Their fading forms are a symbolic representation of his unfulfilled desire for a family, and their statement, "we are not of Alice, nor of thee," confirms they are "only what might have been".

Q6. What is the meaning of "faithful Bridget"?

Answer- "Faithful Bridget" is a pseudonym for Charles Lamb's sister, Mary, throughout the Essays of Elia. She is depicted sitting by his side as the reverie breaks, acting as a grounding figure and the only real person in his solitary life at that moment.

Q7. What is the most striking feature of the essay?

Answer- The essay's most striking feature is the powerful blend of humor and pathos (sadness). Lamb's fond, dream-like recollections are filled with moments of deep emotion, from the tenderness for his family to the profound grief over his brother's death, which is contrasted with the painful reality of his lonely existence.

Q8. What is the role of the "childhood stories" in the essay?

Answer- Lamb tells the children stories from his own childhood—about his great-grandmother and his brother—to entertain them and to use his imaginary children as a way to process his own past, grief, and nostalgia.

5.8 POINTS TO REMEMBER

In the present block we have studied three essayists' Francis Bacon, William Hazlitt and Charles Lamb. In the essay of Francis Bacon *Of friendship* we have studied about the fruitful aspects of friendship, the importance of a friend in our life. Bacons Life and his works are also covered. In the next essay by William Hazlitt, *On Actors and Acting* the essayist talks about actors and the different types of actors and types of acting life of Hazlitt and his narrative technique is also discussed. After this essays the block sheds light on the autobiographical essay of Charles Lamb that is *Dream Children : A Reverie*. In this essay the narrator tells stories about his deceased grandmother and brother, John L. The telling evokes sweet memories, but also leads to regret and sadness about past mistakes and loss.



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES



BLOCK -III

THE SOUTH SEA HOUSE- CHARLES LAMB

UNIT 6 : THE SOUTH SEA HOUSE- CHARLES LAMB'S

- 6.1 Objectives
- 6.2 Charles Lamb as an essayist
- 6.3 The South Sea House-
- 6.4 The South Sea House- Reference to the context and explanation
- 6.5 The South Sea House- Summary
- 6.6 The South Sea House- Critical Analysis
- 6.7 Questions and Answers
- 6.8 Multiple Choice Questions
- 6.9 Long answer question
- 6.10 Points to remember
- 6.11 Check your progress
- 6.12 References and suggested readings
- 6.13 Let's sum up

6.1 OBJECTIVES

- To understand Dickens's commentary on societal greed and financial speculation
- To analyse the historical context of the South Sea Bubble and its impact
- To explore Lamb's use of satire and irony to critique human behaviour
- To examine the literary techniques Lamb employs in his essays
- To appreciate Lamb's Style of social and economic criticism

6.2 CHARLES LAMB AS AN ESSAYIST



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

Charles Lamb is celebrated as a prince of English essayists for his unique blend of humor, pathos, and poetic style in works like *Essays of Elia*. His essays are deeply personal, often autobiographical, and combine the quaintness of earlier writers with a modern clarity, exploring themes of memory, childhood, and human foibles. He is known for his ability to transform ordinary subjects into thought-provoking and emotionally rich pieces, maintaining a playful yet profound connection with his readers.

Key characteristics of Lamb as an essayist:

Autobiographical and Personal: Lamb frequently made himself the subject of his essays, revealing his own personality, feelings, and life experiences to create a sense of intimacy with the reader.

Poetic and Lyrical Style: His prose is noted for its poetic quality, a result of its grace, spontaneity, and lyrical beauty. Many of his essays are considered as close to poetry as prose can get.

Blend of Humor and Pathos: He masterfully combined melancholy and humor, often exploring sad or tragic subjects with a gentle touch and a playful spirit.

Fanciful and Imaginative: Lamb's writing is characterized by a strong sense of playfulness and imagination, which he used to re-examine life and human nature with a unique perspective.

Unique and Allusive Style: He was a master stylist who drew on 17th-century prose masters while developing his own unique voice. His style is characterized by careful word choice, a blend of conversational ease with formality, and a rich use of allusions.

Focus on the Past and Memory: Many essays, like "Dream Children" and "Old China," are deeply rooted in nostalgia, recollecting scenes from childhood and later life to reflect on the passage of time.



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6.3 THE SOUTH SEA HOUSE: AN INTRODUCTION

"The South Sea House" is a nostalgic essay by Charles Lamb about his time as a clerk in a grand but now-quiet office building. The essay contrasts the building's past, when it was a busy centre of trade, with its present-day state as a magnificent relic, and it fondly recalls the quirky personalities of the clerks who worked there, such as the gentle Evans and the eccentric Thomas Tame. The essay serves as a poignant reflection on change, memory, and human eccentricities, using the deserted office as a backdrop for a character study.

The essay describes the physical South Sea House, a grand and handsome brick and stone building on Threadneedle Street, contrasting its present silence with its past as a bustling commercial hub. Lamb has tried to compare the past and the present as he focuses on the "magnificent relic" of the building, a place of "hectic activity" that is now deserted, carrying on only "nominal business". The essay also carries a perfect portrayal of his former colleagues. And he has also tried to give a perfect picture of his office colleagues. Lets see a few characters from *The South Sea House*:

Evans- The irritable-looking but sensible cashier.

Thomas Tame- An assistant with aristocratic lineage and harmless eccentricities.

John Tipp- The awful amateur musician who was the accountant.

Henry Man- A man of letters who seemed out of place in a business setting.

Plumer- A boisterous musician.

Maynard-Another expert musician who sadly died young.

The essay also carries the themes of nostalgia for a bygone era, the passage of time, and the enduring, humanity of the people who inhabited the building. Lamb's compassionate and tolerant view of human frailties and oddities shines throughout the essay.



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

6.4 THE SOUTH SEA HOUSE: IMPORTANT PASSAGES WITH EXPLANATION

Passage 1:

"Here are precincts of a court, where real indolence reigns paramount... where the clerks grow into old men, and old men grow into fainter ghosts of themselves, and die, and nobody misses them."

Explanation:

In the above-mentioned lines Charles Lamb has beautifully described an old building and its atmosphere. Lamb had tried to establish the central atmosphere of the place. He describes the place as calm, quiet decay, and irrelevance. Lamb uses vivid, slightly melancholic imagery to describe the inactivity of the South Sea House. The clerks are so ingrained in the leisurely, unchanging environment that their lives seem to merge with the building's silent rhythms. Their eventual deaths go unnoticed, emphasizing the institution's detachment from the bustling world outside. The "real indolence" is both a critique and an affectionate observation of the place's unique character.

Passage 2: The Characters (The Clerks)

"The house itself is a sort of genteel, handsome, anachronism... a wilderness of quiet, pensive suits, and of clerks, who seem to have been born old, and who will never die young."



Explanation:

In the above mentioned the essayist Charles Lamb gives a true portrayal of the characters of clerks.

He has described the South Sea House is an "anachronism" - something that belongs to a different time and he has also tried to compare it with modern London. The clerks are described as "born old," implying their lack of youthful energy, ambition, or connection to the world outside the office walls. They exist in a state of suspended animation, perfectly suited to the stagnant environment. Lamb views these eccentric figures with gentle humour and affection, highlighting their harmless, ghost-like existence.

Passage 3: The Contrast with the Past (The South Sea Bubble)

"The spirits of deceased South Sea directors haunt the old house... Here are faces of ancient clerks, who have long since retired... with their green aprons, and their ink-stands, and their pen-knives, and their rulers... They are a sort of emblematical figures, of the stagnation, that has succeeded to the ferment, of the South Sea Bubble."

Explanation:

In the above mentioned lines Lamb has compared the historical South Sea House with the present condition. The current state is one of "stagnation," which has replaced the "ferment" of speculation, greed, and chaos that once defined the place. The clerks, with their archaic tools and placid demeanor, are "emblematical figures" of this change. Lamb uses historical context to deepen the character of the place, portraying the South Sea House as a museum of past folly and subsequent calm.

Passage 4

"I was not a lonely boy, you may imagine, without some friend, that I could talk to..."

Explanation:

The above-mentioned lines from Charles Lamb's essay The South Sea House, shows Lamb's personal connection with the place.

Throughout the essay, Lamb injects personal, autobiographical elements. He writes under the pseudonym "Elia," an "old acquaintance, an Italian who was a fellow-clerk at the South-Sea House" when Lamb was a boy. This passage and others like it help create the intimate, conversational tone that is characteristic of Lamb's essays. He shares his own youthful feelings of being "a lonely boy" and his observations of the eccentric staff, inviting the reader into his personal world and memories. This personal touch is a key element of the essay's appeal, blending factual observation with nostalgic, subjective reflection.



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

6.5 THE SOUTH SEA HOUSE: SUMMARY

"The South Sea House" is a nostalgic essay by Charles Lamb about his time as a clerk in a grand but now-quiet office building. The essay contrasts the building's past, when it was a busy centre of trade, with its present-day state as a magnificent relic, and it fondly recalls the quirky personalities of the clerks who worked there, such as the gentle Evans and the eccentric Thomas Tame. The essay serves as a poignant reflection on change, memory, and human eccentricities, using the deserted office as a backdrop for a character study.

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6.6 THE SOUTH SEA HOUSE: CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Charles Lamb's "The South-Sea House" is a nostalgic and critical essay that uses a once-grand building to explore themes of memory,



decline, and the human eccentricities of the past. A critical analysis reveals that Lamb contrasts the building's present desolation with its vibrant past as the centre of a financial company, lamenting its fallen state while affectionately remembering the peculiar clerks who worked there. The essay's success lies in its masterful use of sharp observation to portray a bygone era and the lovable, albeit flawed, individuals within it.

Charles Lamb has used many themes related to the real life situation like nostalgia, decay, human eccentricities etc. The essay highlights nostalgia, with Lamb using the South-Sea House as a physical embodiment of the past. It functions as a memorial to a time when the building was active, but is now filled with dust and silence, reflecting a yearning for a lost era. He has tried to compare the past and the present condition of the buildings magnificent structure and its current neglected state is a central element. Lamb uses the physical decay of the building to symbolize the decline of the company and a sense of a lost world. Lamb with his minute observation has highlighted the human eccentricities in his portrayal of the former clerks, such as the gentle but irritable cashier Evans, the aristocratic but harmless Thomas Tame, and the terrible accountant John Tipp. The essay contrasts the human-focused, albeit eccentric, business of the past with the less personal and more public nature of current offices, which he finds less interesting.

Lamb pen name is Elia and he writes as his alter ego, "Elia," which allows him to blend his personal memories and emotions with a detached, witty, and observant narrative style. This allows for an affectionate but honest portrayal of the past without becoming overly sentimental or sentimentalizing the financial company's past, and its notorious South Sea Bubble. The essay is a powerful example of subjectivity and observation, where personal memory and feeling are used to create a vivid and compelling narrative. Lamb's use of wit and humanity in describing his colleagues' foibles makes them come alive for the reader.

6.7 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

1. Which of the following is Charles Lamb's most famous collection of essays?
 - a. The Canterbury Tales
 - b. Essays of Elia
 - c. Pride and Prejudice
 - d. Leaves of Grass

Correct answer: Essays of Elia

2. What was Charles Lamb's Profession?
 - a. Doctor
 - b. Lawyer
 - c. Clerk
 - d. Teacher

Correct answer: Clerk

3. With whom did Charles Lamb collaborate on Tales from Shakespeare?
 - a. Jane Austen
 - b. William Wordsworth
 - c. His sister Mary Lamb
 - d. Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Correct answer: His sister Mary Lamb

4. What is the name of the essays where Charles Lamb describes his experience working at the South Sea House?
 - a. Dream Children
 - b. Old China
 - c. The Superannuated Man
 - d. The South Sea House

Correct answer: The South Sea House

5. Which literary movement is Charles Lamb most closely associated with?
 - a. Romanticism
 - b. Victorianism



- c. Modernism
- d. Realism

Correct answer: Romanticism

6. In *The South Sea House* What does Lamb describe in detail?
- a. His childhood name
 - b. His experience working as a clerk
 - c. A visit to a famous tavern
 - d. A romantic relationship

Correct answer: His experience working as a clerk

7. What historical event is indirectly referenced in Lamb's essay?
- a. The French Revolution
 - b. The American Civil War
 - c. The South Sea Bubble
 - d. The Renaissance

Correct answer: The South Sea Bubble

8. What is the tone of Lamb's essay "The South Sea House"?
- a. Serious and nostalgic
 - b. Humorous and nostalgic
 - c. Angry and accusatory
 - d. Informative and factual

Correct answer: Humorous and nostalgic

9. What does Lamb suggest about the clerks and their works at the South Sea House?
- a. They were all highly efficient and productive
 - b. They were overworked and underpaid
 - c. They were often idle and seemed detached
 - d. They were actively involved in financial speculation

Correct answer: They were often idle and seemed detached

10. What is the key theme explored in *The South Sea House*?
- a. The importance of wealth
 - b. The impact of industrialization
 - c. The passage of time and the nature of memory
 - d. The horrors of war

Correct answer: The passage of time and the nature of memory



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

6.8 LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1: Discuss the main themes of Charles Lamb's "The South Sea House."

A: The main themes of "The South Sea House" centres on the passage of time, nostalgia, the contrast between past glory and present decay, and the nature of memory. Lamb contrasts the South Sea House's past, when it was the "Centre of hectic activity" during the time of its current state of calm and quiet. The building remains physically magnificent, but the bustling life it once contained has faded.

The essay is deeply autobiographical and filled with Lamb's affectionate reminiscences of his time as a clerk there. He reflects on his former colleagues, imbuing them with a sense of quaintness and eccentricity that only nostalgia can provide. The essay has an elegiac quality, lamenting the fleeting nature of human activities and ambition. The once-important figures and transactions are now forgotten, their "importance is from the past". Lamb uses his imagination to bring the place and its former inhabitants to life, suggesting that literature and memory can preserve what time physically erodes.

Q2: Analyze the role of the persona "Elia" in "The South Sea House" and Lamb's writing style in the essay.

A: In "*The South Sea House*," Charles Lamb introduces his famous persona, "Elia," a name borrowed from an old acquaintance and fellow clerk. The use of "Elia" allows Lamb a certain degree of freedom and intimacy in his writing. The persona is a sensitive, slightly eccentric, and retrospective narrator who invites the reader into his personal world and reflections. Elia is a vehicle for Lamb's autobiographical details, personality, and opinions, making the essays feel personal and confessional.



Writing Style: Lamb's style is characterized by intimacy and conversational tone. The essay reads like a personal conversation with a friend, marked by digressions and a gentle, reflective manner.

Descriptive Imagery: He uses vivid, evocative descriptions to paint a picture of the dusty, quiet atmosphere of the building and the peculiar habits of its clerks. His language sometimes has a deliberate, slightly old-fashioned quality, which adds to the nostalgic charm and reflects his deep immersion in older English literature.

Q3: How does Charles Lamb characterize the clerks and atmosphere of the South Sea House?

A: Lamb describes the clerks and atmosphere of the South Sea House with a mixture of gentle humour and affectionate detail, emphasizing their detachment from the bustling world outside. The atmosphere is one of profound quiet and decay, a "magnificent relic" of a bygone era. The building is filled with dust, silence, and old records, where time seems to have slowed down. It's a place where "light and passing things" of the modern world do not seem to penetrate.

The clerks themselves are presented as almost spectral figures, living in their own insulated world. Lamb describes individuals such as John Tipp, who is notable for his extreme caution and lack of enterprise; and other dreamers whose lives seem as dusty and archaic as the records they manage. They are not efficient, modern businessmen, but rather characters who belong to the past, contributing to the essay's theme that the "modern process" records things that are transitory, fading. Lamb portrays them not as objects of ridicule but as fascinating human studies, each with a unique, if small, place in his memory.

6.9 POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The essay is about a semi-autobiographical account of Lamb's tenure when he was working at the South Sea House.



6.11 REFERENCE AND SUGGESTED READINGS

- 1.The South Sea House, By Charles Lamb; Taylor & Hessey, 1823
2. Selected Essays of Charles Lamb edited by J.E.Morpurgo, Penguin Books, 1960.

6.12 LET'S SUM UP

In this block we have studied about the life and works of Charles Lamb. And also studied Lamb as an essayist, his narrative technique. The South sea house is nicely explained .The essay is about a semi-autobiographical account of Lamb's tenure when he was working at the South Sea House. Lamb has described the atmosphere as dull, idle and filled with a sense of forgotten grandeur, The essay introduces the reader to various characters, and the various types of people who were working with Lamb at the South Sea House. The reference of the South Sea Bubble in the essay is a major financial scandal that led to the company's decline.



BLOCK IV

UNIT 7: THE HAPPY PRINCE- OSCAR WILDE

7.1 Objectives

7.2 Life and Works of Oscar Wilde

7.3 Academic career and key position of Oscar Wilde

7.4 The Happy Prince: An Introduction

7.5 The Happy Prince: Introduction of Characters

7.6 The Happy Prince: Summary

7.7 The Happy Prince: Critical Analysis

7.8 Questions and Answers

7.1 OBJECTIVES

- To understand the Victorian society and values
- To study about symbolism, imagery, irony, and allegory in the given texts.
- To study about the narrative technique of Oscar Wilde
- To Study about the narrative technique of Somerset Maugham
- Compare and contrast the portrayals of societal norms and values in their respective eras.

7.2 LIFE AND WORKS OF OSCAR WILDE

Being a celebrated Irish playwright Oscar Wilde was also a novelist, and poet known for his wit and advocacy of the Aesthetic movement. He was born at Dublin in 1854. He was the student of Trinity College Dublin Oxford. He was a very clever student. Oscar Wilde has given us a lot of literary works but his major works include:



- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
- *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- *An Ideal Husband.*

Oscar Wilde was famous among his readers as a supporter of Aestheticism, for nurturing his career he went to London, He also propounded the theory of “Arts for art’s sake”. He married Constance Lloyd, and they had two sons. He also got famous for Women’s Liberation. During this tenure he worked as an editor for Woman’s World magazine. Wilde's life was marked by his flamboyant personality; he was charged and put to trial for homosexuality. He was imprisoned for this. Oscar Wilde’s life is full of controversies. He got released in 1897, at this time he was shattered and broken, he became poor, he was living in France at this time. Then he died in 1900.

His major works include:

- The Picture of Dorian Gray (1891)
- The Importance of Being Earnest (1895)
- An Ideal Husband (1899)
- Salome (1893)
- The Ballad of Reading Gaol (1898)

Short stories and essays:

- The Happy Prince and Other Tales (1888)
- Intentions (1894).

7.3 ACADEMIC CAREER AND KEY POSITION OF OSCAR WILDE

The Academic career of Oscar Wilde started at Oxford, when he was studying at Trinity College Dublin. While studying he developed and nurtured the aesthetic philosophy and he also studied the classics. He didn’t any formal academic position but he got famous due to supporting Aesthetic movement. He had added immense treasure to



the stock of English literature, he got the position of a celebrated playwright, novelist and a poet. He was a leading intellectual and socialite of his time.

7.4 THE HAPPY PRINCE: AN INTRODUCTION

The Happy Prince is written by One of the very famous literary gem Oscar Wilde. The Happy Price comes under the category of children literature. It was written by Wilde in 1880 in London. The work belongs to Victorian era. As the story starts a swallow stops to Egypt for the winter because he falls in love with a Reed—upon giving up that romance, he flies to a town where he happens to settle on a gilded statue. It was the statue of the Happy Prince. The statue speaks to the Swallow about the sufferings of his people, and the prince was so sad at the miserable plight of the children. The statue of the prince was at a high place of the town and from there the price was able to see everyone. He begs the Swallow to help him in removing the suffering of some people by delivering the valuables from his person to those in need. The first item was a ruby from the prince’s sword. Swallow delivers the ruby from the Happy Prince’s to a struggling person to feed her sick son. Then he gave one sapphire of the statue to a playwright, and the other to a young match-girl whose father would beat her if she came home empty-handed. As the Sparrow has come to love the Happy Prince, he opts to remain by his side after the loss of his eyes makes him blind, and tells him stories of Egypt to keep his world vibrant as the winter gets colder. At the end of the story the winter gets chiller and the Sparrow realizes that death is nearer he confesses his love to the Happy Prince and both of them exchange a kiss and died together. The Sparrow’s body perished and the Happy Prince’s heart cracks.

One day the mayor saw that cracked statue of the Happy Prince and ordered his men to melt it and remake it. As it was not possible for them to melt the lead heart, it was buried under the ground with the dead sparrow. After watching this God commanded his angels to bring the two precious things -the corpse and the broken heart, he also

promised an eternity for them in Paradise. This is how the story of The Happy Prince comes to an end.



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7.5 THE HAPPY PRINCE: INTRODUCTION OF CHARACTERS

Oscar Wilde has formed many characters to complete the story of The Happy Prince. Let's meet those characters:

1. The Happy Prince- He is both the protagonist of this story and its namesake. Being a statue now he was sheltered prince. When was alive he led a life of pleasure, the Happy Prince was turned into a gilded statue after his death.
2. The Swallow-He is the second protagonist of "The Happy Prince. He is a bird, who migrated for the winter. His trip is delayed due to his temporary passion for a Reed.
3. The Reed- She appears very rare in the story, but her was very important, due to her love the sparrow stopped near the statue of the Happy Prince.
4. The Little Match-Girl- A young girl selling matches on a street corner whose father beats her if she does not return with sufficient money.
5. God- God appears at the end of the story to rescue the Sparrow's body and the Happy Prince's leaden heart and to promise them eternity in Paradise for their sacrifices.
6. The Woman in the Poor House- She was a poor seamstress who use to sew satin gown for one of the Queen's maids. She was so that she was unable poor to purchase an orange for her ill son. This woman received one ruby from Prince's eye to overcome the situation.



7. The Playwright- A young man writing plays in his garret. He struggles to combat cold and hunger until the Happy Prince gives up one of his sapphire eyes to help him.
8. The mayor- He appears at end of the story. He wants the statue of the Happy Prince to be melted down and remade.

7.6 THE HAPPY PRINCE: SUMMARY

The Happy Prince is written by One of the very famous literary gem Oscar Wilde. The Happy Price comes under the category of children literature. It was written by Wilde in 1880 in London. The work belongs to Victorian era. As the story starts a swallow stops to Egypt for the winter because he falls in love with a Reed—upon giving up that romance, he flies to a town where he happens to settle on a gilded statue. It was the statue of the Happy Prince. The statue speaks to the Swallow about the sufferings of his people, and the prince was so sad at the miserable plight of the children. The statue of the prince was at a high place of the town and from there the price was able to see everyone. He begs the Swallow to help him in removing the suffering of some people by delivering the valuables from his person to those in need. The first item was a ruby from the prince’s sword. Swallow delivers the ruby from the Happy Prince’s to a struggling person to feed her sick son. Then he gave one sapphire of the statue to a playwright, and the other to a young match-girl whose father would beat her if she came home empty-handed. As the Sparrow has come to love the Happy Prince, he opts to remain by his side after the loss of his eyes makes him blind, and tells him stories of Egypt to keep his world vibrant as the winter gets colder. At the end of the story the winter gets chiller and the Sparrow realizes that death is nearer he confesses his love to the Happy Prince and both of them exchange a kiss and died together. The Sparrow’s body perished and the Happy Prince’s heart cracks.

One day the mayor saw that cracked statue of the Happy Prince and ordered his men to melt it and remake it. As it was not possible for them to melt the lead heart, it was buried under the ground with the

dead sparrow. After watching this God commanded his angels to bring the two precious things -the corpse and the broken heart, he also promised an eternity for them in Paradise. This is how the story of The Happy Prince comes to an end.



7.7 THE HAPPY PRINCE: CRITICAL ANALYSIS

In "The Happy Prince", Oscar Wilde has criticised the inequalities prevalent in society, he talks about the big gap between the rich and the poor, materialism and the true happiness. By using the allegory of a statue Oscar Wilde has presented the nature of true happiness.

The main theme covered in the story is the contrast between physical beauty and spiritual beauty. The element of irony is presented by "happy" prince's sorrow, which leads him to his heavenly reward. Different themes and symbols were used by Oscar Wilde to create a real impact on the minds of his readers. The story shows a contrast between the city's opulent statue and the poverty-stricken citizens, highlighting social and economic inequality.

Materialism vs. spirituality: The prince's initial joy is shown through material possessions. After sacrificing his adornments, his leaden heart becomes a symbol of compassion. The story Portrays that spiritual beauty is more important than material wealth.

The theme of sacrifice and love is shown through the real sacrifices of the Prince and the Sparrow. The prince gives away his jewels, his eyes, and the swallow sacrifices its migration and comfort just to help the prince. The title given by Wilde is also very ironic as the statue is lifeless but happy during the story and he also feels sorrow for his people.

The story serves as an allegory for the society as it sheds light on the miserable plight of the poor people. At the end of the story it also presents the Christian belief of receiving the heaven and good deeds rewarded at the end of the life.



7.8 QUESTION AND ANSWERS

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What is the Happy Prince made of?

- a. Gold
- b. Silver
- c. Bronze
- d. Stone

2. Who helps the Happy Prince?

- a. A swallow
- b. A seagull
- c. A dove
- d. A sparrow

Correct answer: A swallow

3. What does the Happy Prince give to the poor?

- a. His eyes
- b. His clothes
- c. His gold
- d. His heart

Correct answer: His gold

4. Why does the swallow stay with the Happy Prince?

- a. He is forced to
- b. He wants to help
- c. He is lost
- d. He is looking for treasure

Correct answer: He wants to help

5. What happens to the Prince and the Swallow at the end of the story?

- a. They go on an adventure
- b. They die
- c. They get married
- d. They become rich

Correct answer: They die

6. Which famous play did Oscar Wilde write?

- a. Hamlet
- b. Pygmalion
- c. The Importance of Being Earnest?
- d. Death of a Salesman

Correct answer: The Importance of Being Earnest

7. What was Oscar Wilde's nationality ?

- a. English
- b. Irish
- c. Scottish
- d. Welsh

Correct answer: Irish

8. What literary moment was Oscar Wilde associated with?

- a. Romanticism
- b. Realism
- c. Aestheticism
- d. Modernism

Correct answer: Aestheticism

9. What is the name of Oscar Wilde's only novel?

- a. Pride and Prejudice
- b. Dracula
- c. The Picture of Dorian Gray
- d. Frankenstein

Correct answer: The Picture of the Dorian Gray

10. What happened to Oscar Wilde later in his life?



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- a. He became a king
- b. He was imprisoned
- c. He won a Nobel prize
- d. He became a priest

Correct answer: He was imprisoned

7.9 LONG ANSWER QUESTION

Q1. Write about the life and works of Oscar Wilde?

Answer: Being a celebrated Irish playwright Oscar Wilde was also a novelist, and poet known for his wit and advocacy of the Aesthetic movement. He was born at Dublin in 1854. He was the student of Trinity College Dublin Oxford. He was a very clever student. Oscar Wilde has given us a lot of literary works but his major works include:

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Short stories and essays:

- The Happy Prince and Other Tales (1888)
- Intentions (1894).



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES

Q2. Write the critical analysis of Oscar Wilde's The Happy Prince?

Answer: In "The Happy Prince", Oscar Wilde has criticised the inequalities prevalent in society, he talks about the big gap between the rich and the poor, materialism and the true happiness. By using the allegory of a statue Oscar Wilde has presented the nature of true happiness.

The main theme covered in the story is the contrast between physical beauty and spiritual beauty. The element of irony is presented by "happy" prince's sorrow, which leads him to his heavenly reward. Different themes and symbols were used by Oscar Wilde to create a real impact on the minds of his readers. The story shows a contrast between the city's opulent statue and the poverty-stricken citizens, highlighting social and economic inequality.

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Q3. Write the summary of The Happy Prince ?

Answer: The Happy Prince is written by One of the very famous literary gem Oscar Wilde. The Happy Price comes under the category



of children literature. It was written by Wilde in 1880 in London. The work belongs to Victorian era. As the story starts a swallow stops to Egypt for the winter because he falls in love with a Reed—upon giving up that romance, he flies to a town where he happens to settle on a gilded statue. It was the statue of the Happy Prince. The statue speaks to the Swallow about the sufferings of his people, and the prince was so sad at the miserable plight of the children. The statue of the prince was at a high place of the town and from there the prince was able to see everyone. He begs the Swallow to help him in removing the suffering of some people by delivering the valuables from his person to those in need. The first item was a ruby from the prince's sword. Swallow delivers the ruby from the Happy Prince's to a struggling person to feed her sick son. Then he gave one sapphire of the statue to a playwright, and the other to a young match-girl whose father would beat her if she came home empty-handed. As the Sparrow has come to love the Happy Prince, he opts to remain by his side after the loss of his eyes makes him blind, and tells him stories of Egypt to keep his world vibrant as the winter gets colder. At the end of the story the winter gets chillier and the Sparrow realizes that death is nearer he confesses his love to the Happy Prince and both of them exchange a kiss and died together. The Sparrow's body perished and the Happy Prince's heart cracks.

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7.10 POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Focus on the themes like sacrifice, compassion, beauty and social inequality.
- Keep in mind the Happy Prince's transformation and the swallow's empathy.
- Keep in mind the symbolism of the statue, the jewels and the swallow.
- Identify Wilde's use of irony to critique societal values.
- Recognize the story's allegorical nature, representing broader human conditions.
- Reflect on the meaning of the ending and the ultimate rewards of selflessness.



UNIT 8 PRINCESS SEPTEMBER AND NIGHTINGALE- SOMERSET MAUGHAM

- 8.1 Life and Works of William Somerset Maugham
- 8.2 Academic Career and Key Position of William Somerset Maugham
- 8.3 Princess September and the Nightingale- William Somerset Maugham
- 8.4 Princess September and the Nightingale – Introduction of Characters
- 8.5 Multiple Choice Questions
- 8.6 Princess September and the Nightingale: Critical Analysis
- 8.7 Multiple Choice Questions
- 8.9 Long Answer Questions
- 8. 10 Points to remember
- 8.11 Check your progress
- 8.11 References and suggested readings
- 8.12 Let's sum up

8.1 LIFE AND WORKS OF WILLIAM SOMERSET MAUGHAM

William Somerset Maugham (1874–1965) was a prolific English novelist, playwright, and short-story writer known for his clear style and psychological insight into human nature, often set in cosmopolitan locations. He was born in Paris. He was an orphan and he received his early education at St. Thomas' hospital in London. He had taken an education related to medicine. After training as a doctor and a brief career in medicine, his success as a playwright in the early 1900s allowed him to become a full-time author. He wrote first novel *Liza of Lambeth* (1897), which was a critical and commercial success. He has given many famous works including the semi-autobiographical novel *Of Human Bondage*, the novel *The Razor's Edge*, and many short stories covering his extensive travels. Before

becoming famous as a novel writer, Somerset Maugham got tremendous success in the theatrical field.

During the time of first World War, he served as a driver and a secret agent for the British intelligence in Switzerland and Russia. Being an author later on he has shared his war experiences in his spy fiction *Ashenden*.

He was married in 1917, but his marriage was not a successful one and he separated from his wife and spent much of his life traveling with his companion, Gerald Haxton. Somerset Maugham settled in a villa on the French Riviera, which became a hub for various literary and political figures. He established the Somerset Maugham Award in 1947 to encourage young writers.

His works include:

- *Of Human Bondage* (1915) -This work is one of his masterpieces, the novel contains many autobiographical elements about a young man's life like his struggle with love, belonging and identity.
- *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919)- This novel carries the artistic exploration of sacrifice and obsession related to Paul Gauguin's life.
- *The Painted Veil* (1925)- The novel presents the aftermath of cholera epidemic in China and highlights the themes of infidelity, betrayal and redemption.
- *Cakes and Ale* (1930)- A satirical novel that questions the nature of genius and the writing life.
- *The Razor's Edge* (1944)- A novel present the time period of American Civil War when people were searching for spiritual and philosophical meaning in life.
- Short Stories- Somerset Maugham had contributed many short stories, including-
 1. *The Trembling of a Leaf* (1921)
 2. *Creatures of Circumstance* (1947)



8.2 ACADEMIC CAREER AND KEY POSITION OF WILLIAM SOMERSET MAUGHAM



William Somerset Maugham had a distinguished career and he is best known for his literary achievements. Maugham received his early education at King's School at Canterbury, then for receiving his higher education he went to St. Thomas Hospital in London, where he studied medicine. In 1879 he became a doctor. Although he has studied medicine but he never practiced it and he started writing plays and stories. Later on he achieved success as a playwright, novelist and a short story writer. His notable works include "Of Human Bondage" and "numerous plays". Through out his career he didn't hold any academic posts, but he had received many honours. He was a very prominent author of the literary world. He was near and dear to his readers as he has always given n them a real slice of human life. People always remember him dure to his skilful storytelling.

8.3 PRINCESS SEPTEMBER AND NIGHTINGALE: AN INTRODUCTION

Princess September and the Nightingale, is a short story by Somerset Maugham is the abridged version of the short story. The story is set in modern Thailand and the story is related to the Siamese princess. The princess got a Nightingale as a gift. Her jealous sisters advised her to put the bird in the cage, after caging the bird stopped singing. Soon the Princess realised the pain of that caged bird and she released her. The story tells us that due to a great connective and love of princess the bird returns to her. In a way the story teaches about the value of freedom, connectivity and trust.

The major characters are:

Princess September

The king

The queen

The other eight princesses

The singing bird

Later in the story we are informed that the King and the Queen have given birth to nine daughters. As a result, naming the princesses has become a tedious job. In addition, the queen frequently becomes troubled when recalling the names of her daughters. To make it simple the king given his name on the months of the year.



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Princess Septembers Nightingale use to sing lovely songs. He began singing about the lake in the King's garden, then about the willow trees that mirrored in the calm water and the goldfish that floated in and out of the reflected branches.

In popular literature, Nightingales are often regarded as an object of symbolism. The Nightingale is widely seen as a spring signal, with its song bringing in new leaves after the winter. In the present story also the Nightingale uplifts the mood of the grieving Princess. When the Princess showed the King and Queen the tiny bird. They were both shocked and overjoyed. Princess September was so happy with the Nightingale, she joyfully raced around the palace's chambers, singing like a lark. By following her, the bird joined her in her joyous celebration. The other sisters were jealous of her and they suggested her to put the bird in a cage. And the Princess convinced by her sistets caged him. While the eight princesses were present, the tiny bird remained silent. The bird began pleading to be let out as soon as they left the room.

In this story, the eight princesses feel victorious as they were successful in influencing the mind of Princess September. The story also says that evil intentions generally come to us during our terrible times to add fuel to our miseries and enjoy themselves at our cost. But we may overcome this circumstance by carefully highlighting the benefits of our misfortunes. In the same way, life is a combination of highs and lows. However, we can make the lowest of moments better by creating a tiny aperture for a positive change.

While the eight princesses were present, the tiny bird remained silent. The bird began pleading to be let out as soon as they left the room. For a couple of days, the bird was kept in the cage and she stopped singing. Then one day Princess September felt the pain of the tiny bird and she released the bird from the cage. After few dayds the bird



again returned back to Princess due the unending love and attachment with her.

The theme of the narrative is expressed in the statement, "I cannot sing unless I'm free, and if I cannot sing I die."

8.4 PRINCESS SEPTEMBER AND THE NIGHTINGALE: CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

1. Princess September – She is a young, innocent, and kind-hearted princess who is the central character in the story. Her story is about how she learns that true love means giving freedom, not possession, as she initially cages a nightingale she loves. She is emotional and compassionate, initially distraught by her pet parrot's death, and later learns the value of freedom from the nightingale's song and sorrow when caged. She is the youngest daughter of the King of Siam, she is initially naive and emotional. She develops compassion and wisdom throughout the story by learning to put the happiness of the nightingale before her own.

2. The Nightingale- A talented and free-spirited bird who becomes Princess September's friend after her parrot dies. It is a symbol of freedom, creativity, and genuine happiness.

3 The Eight Sisters- Princess September's older sisters are portrayed as envious, petty, and unkind. They advise her to cage the nightingale, representing how some people seek to control what they love rather than allow it freedom.

8.5 PRINCESS SEPTEMBER AND NIGHTINGALE: SUMMARY

Princess September and the Nightingale is written by Somerset Maugham. The story is based on the conflict of human emotions.

The King and Queen of Siam give birth to several daughters and name them in the order of the months, with the last being Princess

September, the main character of the story. The King presented to each of his daughters a parrot in a golden cage. The parrots become much talked about in the palace until September's parrot dies in the cage, and she befriends a Nightingale out of the blue.

While the parrots can only utter a few words, the songbird can enchant the crowd with distinctive songs. The Nightingale now grabs all the attention, much to the dismay of the other eight princesses. Hence the sisters convinced September into putting the bird in a cage.

The bird is locked in a cage; the bird refused to sing or eat. However, seeing the bird's plight, September goes against her sisters and let the bird come out. The bird, in return, promises to visit her often and sticks to its vow. The bird, when let free, comes back with the loveliest of songs. The rapport between the bird and Princess grows beautifully, and so does the Princess. On the other hand, the eight princesses grow to be ugly and disagreeable. At the end of the story, Princess September is married to the King of Cambodia, being carried off on a white elephant while the other eight princesses are married off to the less-worthy councillors of the King with a pound of tea and a Siamese cat.



8.6 PRINCESS SEPTEMBER AND NIGHTINGALE: CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Princess September and the Nightingale, is a short story by William Somerset Maugham critically presents the nature of love and freedom, contrasting possessiveness with selflessness. The story uses a fairy-tale structure to show that true love requires granting freedom, not controlling another, as the princess learns when she releases the nightingale, ultimately strengthening their bond and leading to her genuine happiness. It's an allegory for how love and joy flourish outside of captivity and material possessions.

There are many themes presented by the author in the story let's see a few of them:



- Freedom vs. possession- The story is a powerful allegory for the idea that one cannot have another's happiness or spirit. The nightingale sings beautifully in the open but stopped singing when caged. This shows that its vitality and joy are tied to freedom, which is more valuable than any material comfort the princess can provide.
- Love and selflessness- Princess September's journey is one of transformation. She initially believes that caging the bird will provide her happiness, but her jealous sister's advice led her to take this action. She soon realizes that her love for the nightingale is greater than her desire to keep it and she decided to set it free is an act of profound love and selflessness.
- True happiness- The story suggests that true happiness comes not from material possessions, but from freedom and love. By releasing the bird, Princess September is rewarded with its continued love and finds a more fulfilling happiness than she had before, which created a stronger, more authentic bond with the nightingale.
- Influence and critique- The story also highlights a more evolved understanding of love that values the well-being and independence of the other person above one's own selfish desires.

8.7 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What did the princess receive as gifts from the king?

- a. Diamonds
- b. Puppies
- c. Parrots
- d. Horses

Correct answer: Parrots

2. What did princess September want after her parrot died?

- a. Another parrot
- b. A dog
- c. A nightingale
- d. A cat

Correct answer: A nightingale

3. What did the nightingale do for the princess?

- a. Told her secrets
- b. Sang beautiful songs
- c. Brought her food
- d. Helped her with chores

Correct answer: Helped her with chores

4. What did the other Princess do to try to keep the nightingale?

- a. Locked him in a cage
- b. Gave him food
- c. Asked him to stay
- d. Tried to trick him

Correct answer: Tried to trick him

5 What eventually happened to the nightingale?

- a. He flew away
- b. He died
- c. He stayed with the princess forever
- d. He was captured by the king

Correct answer: He flew away

6. Which of the following is a famous novel by W. Somerset Maugham?

- a. Pride and Prejudice
- b. To the Lighthouse



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- c. Of Human Bondage
- d. The Great Gatsby

Correct answer: Of Human Bondage

7. What was W. Somerset Maugham's primary nationality?
- a. American
 - b. Irish
 - c. English
 - d. Scottish

Correct answer: English

8. In which century was W. Somerset Maugham primarily active as a writer?
- a. 18th century
 - b. 19th century
 - c. Early to the mid-20th century
 - d. Late 20th century

Correct answer: Early to the mid-20th century

9. What is the common theme in Maugham's works?
- a. Supernatural event
 - b. Social hypocrisy and human nature
 - c. Space travel
 - d. Historical battles

Correct answer: Social hypocrisy and human nature

10. Which of these is a play written by W. Somerset Maugham?
- a. Waiting for Godot
 - b. The Importance of Being Earnest
 - c. Our Town
 - d. The Circle

Correct answer: The Circle

8.8 LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. Write about the life and works of William Somerset Maugham?

Answer: William Somerset Maugham (1874–1965) was a prolific English novelist, playwright, and short-story writer known for his clear style and psychological insight into human nature, often set in cosmopolitan locations. He was born in Paris. He was an orphan and he received his early education at St. Thomas' hospital in London. He had taken an education related to medicine. After training as a doctor and a brief career in medicine, his success as a playwright in the early 1900s allowed him to become a full-time author. He wrote first novel *Liza of Lambeth* (1897), which was a critical and commercial success. He has given many famous works including the semi-autobiographical novel *Of Human Bondage*, the novel *The Razor's Edge*, and many short stories covering his extensive travels. Before becoming famous as a novel writer, Somerset Maugham got tremendous success in the theatrical field.

During the time of first World War, he served as a driver and a secret agent for the British intelligence in Switzerland and Russia. Being an author later on he has shared his war experiences in his spy fiction *Ashenden*.

He was married in 1917, but his marriage was not a successful one and he separated from his wife and spent much of his life traveling with his companion, Gerald Haxton. Somerset Maugham settled in a villa on the French Riviera, which became a hub for various literary and political figures. He established the Somerset Maugham Award in 1947 to encourage young writers.

His works include:

- *Of Human Bondage* (1915) -This work is one of his masterpieces, the novel contains many autobiographical elements about a young man's life like his struggle with love, belonging and identity.
- *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919)- This novel carries the artistic exploration of sacrifice and obsession related to Paul Gauguin's life.
- *The Painted Veil* (1925)- The novel presents the aftermath of cholera epidemic in China and highlights the themes of infidelity, betrayal and redemption.



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- Cakes and Ale (1930)- A satirical novel that questions the nature of genius and the writing life.
- The Razor's Edge (1944)- A novel present the time period of American Civil War when people were searching for spiritual and philosophical meaning in life.
- Short Stories- Somerset Maugham had contributed many short stories, including-
 1. The Trembling of a Leaf (1921)
 2. Creatures of Circumstance (1947)

Q2. Give the summary of Princess September and the Nightingale by William Somerset Maugham?

Answer: "

Princess September and the Nightingale" is a short story by W. Somerset Maugham that explores the themes of freedom, love, and the consequences of possessiveness.

Summary

The story is set in Siam (modern-day Thailand), where the King and Queen have nine daughters, the youngest of whom is Princess September. Each princess is gifted a green parrot in a golden cage for the King's birthday. While the other princesses' parrots can only repeat simple phrases, September's parrot dies, leaving her heartbroken.

A wild nightingale then flies into her room and sings a beautiful song about the world outside the palace. September is delighted and the bird becomes her new companion. However, her eight jealous older sisters, seeing the attention the nightingale receives, advise September to put it in a cage, warning her that it might fly away forever.

Worried, Princess September follows their advice and locks the bird in the golden cage. In captivity, the bird becomes miserable, refuses to eat, and stops singing, explaining that it cannot sing unless it is free to see the sky, the trees, and the green rice fields. Seeing the bird near death, September realizes her mistake. Prioritizing the bird's

happiness over her own desire for its constant presence, she opens the cage and sets it free.

The bird, grateful for its freedom, promises to return and sing for her whenever it wishes. September keeps her window open day and night, allowing the bird to visit freely. As a result, September grows up to be a beautiful and graceful woman who marries the King of Cambodia. In contrast, her sisters, who kept their windows shut (symbolizing their closed-mindedness and possessiveness), grow up to be ugly and disagreeable and are married off to the King's councillors with a pound of tea and a Siamese cat each.



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Q3. Give the character sketch of Princess September?

Answer: Princess September is compassionate, sensitive, and initially naive, but ultimately wise and loving, while the Nightingale is a gifted but sacrificial artist who values freedom over confinement. Princess September's kindness to the Nightingale shows her empathy, and her decision to set it free despite her sisters' envy demonstrates her understanding that true love is about freedom, leading to a life of happiness. The Nightingale is an idealist who gives its beautiful song as a sacrifice, but unlike the student in *The Nightingale and the Rose*, Princess September understands the bird's need for freedom and doesn't try to cage it.

Princess September

Compassionate and sensitive: She is deeply saddened by the death of her parrot and shows great kindness and care toward the Nightingale, feeding it from her hand and being distressed when it is unhappy.

Childlike and impressionable: Initially, she is easily influenced by her sisters, who persuade her to cage the bird. Her childlike traits make her susceptible to both sadness and joy.

Ultimately wise: She matures through her experiences, realizing that love requires giving freedom rather than restricting it. Her decision to release the Nightingale, despite the risk, is an act of love that brings mutual happiness.



Freed from superficiality: By letting the Nightingale fly, she becomes more beautiful and receives sunlight and fresh air, which ultimately leads to a happy and successful future.

8.9 POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Princess September was given the gift of a Nightingale which makes her happy.
- Her sisters were jealous of her they all advised her to cage the bird.
- Due to caging the Nightingale stops singing. It symbolizes the loss of freedom and joy.
- The Princess soon realized that the Nightingale was happy in the cage and she released her. This shows the princess true love and companionship.
- Then you need to remember the return of the Nightingale back to the Princess. It shows a good bond between the Princess and the Nightingale both of them have respect and affection for each other.
- The Story teaches us the lesson of freedom and the importance of allowing loved ones the freedom to be themselves.

8.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q1. Write a critical summary of The Happy Prince written by Oscar Wilde?

4. *Princess September and Other Stories* By William Somerset Maugham; Cassel and Company, 1939.



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8.12 LET'S SUM UP

In the Present Block we have studied about the two authors Oscar Wilde and William Somerset Maugham. Their narrative techniques and their works got analysed. The first story is about The Happy Prince; it is the story of a golden statue who sees the suffering in his city and with the help of a swallow gives away his precious jewels and his eyes precious diamond to help the poor and suffering people. In the end, he sacrifices everything and both he and the swallow died due to excess cold but their souls got recognized by God.

The next story given in this block is Princess September and the Nightingale written by William Somerset Maugham. Princess September was given a Nightingale but her jealous sisters convinced her to keep her bird in a cage. After caging the Nightingale stopped singing. But soon the Princess felt her pain and released her, after sometime due to connectivity the Nightingale returns back. The story teaches the value of freedom and happiness.



BLOCK - V

THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND-H.G.WELLS (1904)

HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP-RUDYARD KIPLING

UNIT 9 THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND-H.G.WELLS (1904)

9.1 Objectives

9.2 Life and works of H.G. Wells

9.3 Academic career and key position of H.G. Wells

9.4 The Country of the Blind: An Introduction

9.5 The Country of the Blind: Character Introduction

9.6 The Country of the Blind: Summary

9.7 The Country of the Blind: Critical Analysis

9.8 Ten Multiple Choice Questions with answers related to The Country of the Blind

9.9 Five Long Questions with answers related to The Country of the Blind

9.10 Points to remember

9.1 OBJECTIVES

- To explore the narrative structures of fiction.
- To study about character development, symbolism and thematic analysis in the select works of H.G.Wells and Rudyard Kipling
- To study the stories social commentary on the topics like conformity, prejudice, greed etc

9.2 LIFE AND WORKS OF H.G. WELLS



H.G. Wells was a prominent English writer. He was born on September 21 (1866) in England. His parents were very poor and his childhood was spent in poverty. He is also called the "father of science fiction" known for works like *The Time Machine*, *The War of the Worlds*, and *The Invisible Man*. His early life was marked by poverty and a passion for reading, which helped him to make a career that included not only science fiction but also social commentary, history, and satire also. Through his writings he also did social criticism. When H.G.Wells was studying in Normal School of Science in London ,he won a scholarship to study biology. At this school Thomas Huxley was his teacher. He started his career as a science teacher first then he started writing.

Notable works of H.G.Wells- He has written mainly the science fiction. Through his science fiction he had explored the social issues. He has written many science fiction like:

1. The Time Machine (1895)
2. The Island of Doctor Moreau (1896)
3. The Invisible Man (1897)
4. The War of the Worlds (1898)

Besides science fiction he has also written some historical and political works:

1. The Outline of History (1920)
2. A Modern Utopia (1905)

H.G. Wells is known as the foundational author of science fiction, in his fictions he has also predicted many future technologies like space travel and even the internet. His works are still read due to his skill of imaginative story telling. Overall, he has added fifty novels and many short stories. He died in 1946.

9.3 ACADEMIC CAREER AND KEY POSITION OF H.G. WELLS

H.G. Wells had an academic career in science before becoming a famous writer, earning a BSc in Zoology from the University of



London in 1890. He studied biology under Thomas Henry Huxley at the Normal School of Science and became a science teacher, with his first published work being a textbook of Biology. While he didn't complete his degree at the time, his education and scientific background heavily influenced his writing, particularly his famous science fiction novels.

9.4 THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND: AN INTRODUCTION

"*The Country of the Blind*" is a short story by H.G. Wells about a mountaineer, Nunez, who discovers a secluded valley where the inhabitants have been blind for generations. He believes he can become their leader, but the rest of his countrymen thought him a mad person.

The story is about a mountaineer whose name is Nunez. He falls into a hidden valley in the Andes where everyone was blind. The highlighted theme in the story is cultural relativism. In the Country of the blind the man who was king got one eye. After spending some time with the blind people, Nunez was failed to assert dominance and he decided to stay in that valley forever. He even started thinking like those blind people and he also started seeing his vision as a curse

9.5 THE COUNTRY OF THER BLIND: INTRODUCTION OF CHARACTERS

The main characters in H.G. Wells's "The Country of the Blind" are:

Nunez- He was mountaineer from Columbia. Who fall and stuck in a blind isolated valley. He is only the sighted person in the valley, which he thinks as his superiority over others but the blind residents of the valley didn't like his way of thinking.

Yacob- He was an old blind man who becomes Nunez's master, and with his youngest daughter, Medina-Sarote Nunez falls in love. He was a kind person but he was always suspicious about Nunez.

Medina Sarote- She is the daughter of Yacob. She is the only one in the valley who seems to listen to Nuñez's descriptions of sight, though she is ultimately unable to accept his world.

The Blind Community- The story presents the broader community of the valley, who have long adapted to a life without sight. They are initially sceptical and fearful of Nunez, eventually viewing his sight as a sign of madness and dangerous.

The Elder and Doctor- Yacob consults with an elder, who also serves as a doctor, about Nunez's condition. This character proposes the "cure" of removing Nunez's eyes to make him "normal" and an acceptable citizen.



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9.6 THE COUNTRY OF THE BLIND: SUMMARY

The Country of the Blind written by H.G. Wells is a short story of a mountaineer, Nunez, who falls into a secluded valley in the Andes and discovers a community that has been blind for generations. All of them were born blind due to a disease, they all had developed their senses and living nicely. The Island is totally isolated and cut off from the outside world by natural mountains and rivers. He thought that as he had eyes so he will rule them by becoming their king but the villagers cannot comprehend sight and see it as a defect they want to "cure" by removing his eyes. Ultimately, he is forced to flee the valley to escape them.

9.7 THE COUNTRY OF THER BLIND: CRITICAL ANALYSIS

H.G. Wells' "*The Country of the Blind*" nicely portrays the cultural relativism, societal norms, and the limits of individual perspective.



Through the story of a sighted man, Nunez, in a valley of the blind, the story challenges the idea of inherent superiority and shows how what is perceived as an advantage in one context can be meaningless in another. A central theme is the contrast between the individual and the collective, as the blind community thrives through shared experience, while Nunez's attempts to impose his sight ultimately fail.

The author has nicely dealt with the themes like Cultural relativism and perception. In the society of the blind's Nunez's sight is not seen as a gift but as a curse. All the elders of the community decided to remove his eyes just to make him one like them. Though Nunez got the eyes but still he was not successful in dominating those blind people. The blind community was running smoothly due to their collective knowledge and due to this they all were successfully leading their lives. The story also reminds us that superiority complex of Nunez ended when he realized that his advantage is not acceptable by the blind citizens of the valley.

Some readers view the story as an allegory for colonialism, with Nunez as an imperialist who tried to impose his culture in the blind valley but fails at the end.

Another key element of the story is irony that Nunez, a sighted man, is found helpless in a society where his sight has no value, highlighting how an advantage in one context can be a liability in another.

9.8 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What is the ultimate fate of the protagonist in the story The Country of the Blind by H.G.Wells?

- a. He becomes their leader?
- b. He escapes the valley
- c. He is blinded
- d. He is killed

Correct answer: He escapes the valley

2. What does the community want the protagonist to do?

- a. Leave the valley
- b. Marry one of them
- c. Help them farm
- d. Build houses

Correct answer: Marry one of them

3. What does the protagonist initially believe he can do in the valley?

- a. Become a king
- b. Teach them to see
- c. Learn their language
- d. Find hidden treasure

Correct answer: Teach them to see

4. What is the name of the protagonist who stumbles into the valley?

- a. John Davis
- b. Nunez
- c. Robert Smith
- d. Thomas jones

Correct answer: Nunez

5 .What is the main physical condition of the people in the isolated valley?

- a. Deafness
- b. Blindness
- c. Paralysis
- d. Muteness

Correct answer: Blindness

6. Which of the following is a famous Science fiction novel by H.G.Wells?

- a. War and Peace



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- b. The Time Machine
- c. Pride and Prejudice
- d. Great Expectations

Correct answer: The Time Machine

7. What is H.G.Wells nationality?
- a. American
 - b. Canadian
 - c. English
 - d. Australian

Correct answer: English

8. In what era was H.G.Wells most active as a writer?
- a. 18th century
 - b. 19th and early 20th centuries
 - c. Mid-20th century
 - d. Late- 20th century

Correct answer: 19th and early 20th century

9. Which of these is a recurring theme in H.G.Well's works?
- a. Romantic love
 - b. Social commentary and the impact of science
 - c. Historical battles
 - d. Detective mysteries

Correct answer: Social commentary and the impact of science

10. Which of the following is another notable science fiction novel written by H.G.Wells?
- a. Dracula
 - b. Frankenstein
 - c. The Invisible Man
 - d. The Picture of Dorian Gray

Correct answer: The Invisible Man

9.9 LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. Write about the life and work of H.G.Wells ?

Answer: H.G. Wells was a prominent English writer. He was born on September 21 (1866) in England. His parents were very poor and his childhood was spent in poverty. He is also called the "father of science fiction" known for works like *The Time Machine*, *The War of the Worlds*, and *The Invisible Man*. His early life was marked by poverty and a passion for reading, which helped him to make a career that included not only science fiction but also social commentary, history, and satire also. Through his writings he also did social criticism. When H.G.Wells was studying in Normal School of Science in London ,he won a scholarship to study biology. At this school Thomas Huxley was his teacher. He started his career as a science teacher first then he started writing.

Notable works of H.G.Wells- He has written mainly the science fiction. Through his science fiction he had explored the social issues. He has written many science fiction like:

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Q2. Write the summary of *The Country of the Blind* written by H.G.Wells?



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Answer: The Country of the Blind written by H.G. Wells is a short story of a mountaineer, Nunez, who falls into a secluded valley in the Andes and discovers a community that has been blind for generations. All of them were born blind due to a disease, they all had developed their senses and living nicely. The Island is totally isolated and cut off from the outside world by natural mountains and rivers. He thought that as he had eyes so he will rule them by becoming their king but the villagers cannot comprehend sight and see it as a defect they want to "cure" by removing his eyes. Ultimately, he is forced to flee the valley to escape them.

Q3. Give a critical analysis of The Country of the Blind by H.G.Wells?

Answer: H.G. Wells' "The Country of the Blind" nicely portrays the cultural relativism, societal norms, and the limits of individual perspective. Through the story of a sighted man, Nunez, in a valley of the blind, the story challenges the idea of inherent superiority and shows how what is perceived as an advantage in one context can be meaningless in another. A central theme is the contrast between the individual and the collective, as the blind community thrives through shared experience, while Nunez's attempts to impose his sight ultimately fail.

The author has nicely dealt with the themes like Cultural relativism and perception. In the society of the blind's Nunez's sight is not seen as a gift but as a curse. All the elders of the community decided to remove his eyes just to make him one like them. Though Nunez got the eyes but still he was not successful in dominating those blind people. The blind community was running smoothly due to their collective knowledge and due to this they all were successfully leading their lives. The story also reminds us that superiority complex of Nunez ended when he realized that his advantage is not acceptable by the blind citizens of the valley.

Some readers view the story as an allegory for colonialism, with Nunez as an imperialist who tried to impose his culture in the blind valley but fails at the end.

Another key element of the story is irony that Nunez, a sighted man, is found helpless in a society where his sight has no value, highlighting how an advantage in one context can be a liability in another.

9.10 POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The story highlights the importance of adapting to different environment.
- It shows our understanding of the world is shaped by our senses.
- The story compares the knowledge of the outside world with the blind villagers limited understanding.
- The story examines the pressure of social conformity and the consequences of the established norms.
- Blindness is presented as metaphor
- The nature of reality is shown.



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UNIT 10 HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP- RUDYARD KIPLING

- 10.1 Life and works of Rudyard Kipling
- 10.2 Academic career and key position of Rudyard Kipling
- 10.3 How the Camel Got His Hump: An Introduction
- 10.4 How the Camel Got His Hump: Summary
- 10.5 How the Camel Got His Hump: Critical Analysis
- 10.6 Ten Multiple Choice Questions with answers related to How the Camel Got His Hump
- 10.7 Five Long Questions with answers related to How the Camel Got His Hump.
- 10.8 Points to remember
- 10.9 Books Suggested five to six
- 10.10 Summary of Module

10.1 LIFE AND WORKS OF RUDYARD KIPLING

Rudyard Kipling was an English author born in India on December 30, 1865, who became a famous poet and storyteller, he won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1907 for his innovative short stories. His works highlight his experiences in India and the British Empire, and include classics like *The Jungle Book*, *Kim*, and the poem "If". He became a controversial figure due to his imperialist views. He worked for Anglo-Indian newspapers and began his career as a writer, publishing poems and stories that brought him early success.

In 1892 he married Caroline Balestier and moved to USA, where he wrote the famous children fiction *The Jungle Book*. A family dispute made him to move back to England in 1896. He remained a popular writer among his readers but his views are always controversial. Before his death he lived in Sussex England, then he died in 1936 in Westminster Abbey.

His famous works include:

The Jungle Book (1894)- It is a collection of stories that became a children's classic, set in the Indian jungle.

Kim (1901)- A novel about a young boy's adventures in the Himalayas.

Short stories- He was famous for his short stories. His short stories include:

Plain Tales from the Hills (1888)

Soldiers Three (1888).

Poetry: Besides being an author, he was also a good poet. He has written poems like:

Barrack-Room Ballads (1892)

"If—"and a novel named *Captains Courageous* (1897)



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10.2 ACADEMIC CAREER AND KEY POSITION OF RUDYARD KIPLING

Rudyard Kipling did not have a formal academic career; after his secondary education at the United Services College in England, he returned to India to work as a journalist. He was not considered able to attend a university like Oxford on a scholarship, and his career was instead defined by his journalism and his extensive literary work, which was recognized with a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1907. In later life, he was an honorary fellow at Cambridge, but this was an acknowledgment of his literary achievements, not part of a traditional academic path. He got his education at United Services College at England. After this he returned back to India and started working as a journalist in the Military Gazette. He built his career by writing and journalism. Considering his contribution to literature he was given an honorary fellow post at Cambridge

10.3 HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP: AN INTRODUCTION



"*How the Camel Got His Hump*" is a children's fable by Rudyard Kipling about a lazy camel in the early days of the world who refuses to work, only saying "Humph!" to the other animals. As a result, the other animals have to work double time, so they complain to the Djinn of All Deserts. The Djinn came and punishes the camel with a large hump, and the camel is forced to work for three days without food or water. The moral of the story is that laziness leads to hardship, and it's important to complete your duties. The stories setting shows the beginning of the world when animals human beings started using animals for their personal use. In the story it was shown that the camel lives in the desert and he don't want to do hard work, when the other animal characters dog, ox and horse ask him to work he only says a single word that is "Hump". The other animals complain to the Djinn of All Deserts. As a punishment he makes the camels back puff up, forming a large hump.

The Djinn explains that the hump is the result of his idleness and allows him to work for three days without eating or drinking. The camel is forced to go to work with his large hump . The story teaches a lesson about the result of laziness and tells us about the importance of hard work

10.4 HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP: SUMMARY

In Rudyard Kipling's story "*How the Camel Got His Hump*", the life of a lazy camel is shown who always refuses to work and says only one word that is "Hump". The other animals asks him to help but he always ignores them. The other animals complain to the Djinn of All Deserts, who magically gives the camel a large hump on his back as punishment. The hump allows the camel to survive for three days without food, but it represents the three days of work he missed, and he must now carry it with him. The story teaches a lesson about the negative impact of laziness and the importance of hard work.

10.5 HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP: CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Rudyard Kipling's short fiction "*How the Camel Got His Hump*" is a fable which talks about the ill effects of laziness and idleness. The story uses the camel's hump as a physical punishment for its refusal to work, illustrating that shirking responsibility for the "common good" leads to isolation and hardship. The tale also contains Biblical references of Genesis and Jonah, placing the story in a larger context of creation and morality. Concerning the symbolism and allegory the author represents a person who is lazy and who never helps anyone and in the story the camel represents this motif of the author.

The Hump shows the burden of a person's laziness, a "punishment" and a visible reminder of time wasted. In the story the Djinn represents the divine and the supernatural power that gives justice at the end of the story.

The most important theme of the story is that laziness has negative consequences. The camel's hump is a direct result of his refusal to work, and the story warns that idleness leads to trouble. The story also sheds light on the importance of responsibility and hard work.

10.6 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which famous work is a collection of stories by Rudyard Kipling?

- a. Pride and Prejudice
- b. The Jungle Book
- c. War and Peace
- d. Russian

Correct answer: The Jungle Book

2. What is Rudyard Kipling's nationality?

- a. American
- b. British



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- c. French
- d. Russian

Correct answer: British

3. In which country was Rudyard Kipling born?

- a. England
- b. India
- c. South Africa
- d. Australia

Correct answer: India

4. What prestigious award did Rudyard Kipling win in 1907?

- a. The Pulitzer Prize
- b. The Nobel prize in Literature
- c. The Booker Prize
- d. The Academy award

Correct answer: The Nobel Prize in Literature

5. Which of the following is a famous poem by Rudyard Kipling?

- a. Ode to a Nightingale
- b. The Raven
- c. If
- d. The Waste Land

Correct answer: The Waste Land

6. What is the setting of the story How the Camel Got His Hump?

- a. The Jungle
- b. The Desert
- c. The Ocean
- d. The City

Correct answer: The Desert

11. What does the Camel do at the beginning of the story?
- a. Works Hard
 - b. Plays Game
 - c. Complains and says “ Hump”!
 - d. Help Others

Correct answer: Complains and says “ Hump”!



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12. Who asks the Camel to work?
- a. The Man
 - b. The Horse
 - c. The Dog
 - d. All of them

Correct answer: All of the above

13. What does the Djinn do to the Camel?
- a. Punishes him
 - b. Gives him a gift
 - c. Helps him find food
 - d. Tells him a story

Correct answer: Gives him a gift

14. What is the purpose of the Camel’s hump?
- a. To store water
 - b. To carry heavy loads
 - c. To store food
 - d. To make him look different

Correct answer: To store food

10.7 LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. Q1. How did the camel get his hump?

A: The camel got his hump as a punishment from the Djinn of all Deserts because he was lazy and refused to work. He kept saying "Humph" instead of doing the tasks assigned by the horse, dog, and ox. The Djinn, annoyed by his constant refusal to work, turned the camel's back into a great big hump.



Q2. What was the purpose of the hump, according to the Djinn?

A: According to the Djinn, the hump's purpose was to help the camel live for three days without eating, since he had missed three days of work. The hump stores food and energy for the camel to use during this time.

Q3. Why did the other animals get angry with the camel?

A: The other animals were angry because the camel was lazy and didn't want to work. The dog had a stick in his mouth for carrying, the horse had a saddle on his back, and the ox was pulling a plow, but the camel would just sit and eat sticks and thorns instead of helping.

Q4. What is the moral of the story?

A: The story teaches a moral lesson about the importance of not being lazy or idle. It shows that one must do their work and not expect to get by without effort. The story also highlights how one's actions can have consequences, as the camel's laziness led directly to the hump being formed on his back

10.8 POINTS TO REMEMBER

- A comparison of laziness with hard work is shown nicely with the life of a camel and other animals.
- The story teaches about the importance of hard work.
- The story also teaches the value of diligence and the negative effects of idleness.
- The camels transformation shows how human beings can adopt good habits and can change their lives.

10.9 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q1. Write the summary of H.G.Wells fiction *The Country of the Blind* in your own word's?

10.11 LET'S SUM UP

In the above block we have studied about the life and works of H.G.Wells and Rudyard Kipling. The module sheds light on the narrative technique of the two authors and covers the short story *The Country of the Blind* by H.G.Wells and *How the Camel Got His Hump* by Rudyard Kipling. In Kipling's *How the Camel Got His Hump* a proper comparison of laziness with hard work is shown nicely with the life of a camel and other animals. The story teaches about the importance of hard work, the value of diligence and the negative effects of idleness. The camel's transformation shows how human beings can adopt good habits and can change their lives. And the story by H.G.Wells *The Country of the Blind*, highlights the importance of adapting to different environments. It shows our understanding of the world is shaped by our senses. The story compares the knowledge of the outside world with the blind villagers' limited understanding. It examines the pressure of social conformity and the consequences of the established norms. The author has presented Blindness as a metaphor.



ESSAYS AND SHORT STORIES



GLOSSARY

Abstract:	A brief summary of a paper or report.
Analysis:	Examining parts of an idea or text to understand the whole.
Argument:	An explanation of a viewpoint, often aiming to persuade.
Audience:.	The intended readers
Antagonist:	A character or force opposing the protagonist.
Advoutress:.	Adulteress
Alegory:	a story with a hidden moral meaning
Absurd:	Stupid and unreasonable.
Admirable:	Deserving respect and approval.
Alighted:.	Landed on something
Alegory:	a story with a hidden moral meaning
Absurd:	Stupid and unreasonable.
Admirable:	Deserving respect and approval.
	Alighted: Landed on something.
Affect:	To like or desire something Acting: The activity of portraying a character in a performance; Hazlitt views it as a truer and



	more intelligible picture of life than mere abstract moralizing.
Applause	The audience's enthusiastic reception, which provides the actor with an exhilarating sense of success and validation, contrasting sharply with their everyday societal position.
Body Paragraphs:	The main sections presenting and supporting ideas with evidence.
Brave (adjective):	Boastful or ostentatious.
Bravery (noun):	Boastfulness or ostentation.
Brook:	To tolerate or put up with something (e.g., a man can scarce brook to supplicate or beg).
Conclusion:	The final part summarizing main ideas or linking back to the introduction
Character:	A person or entity in a narrative, described as round/flat or dynamic/static.
Characterization:	Methods authors use to present Characters.
Climax:	The peak of intensity or turning point in a



	story.
Conflict:	The struggle between opposing forces driving the plot.
Counsellors:	Members of a council that advises the King
Countenance:	To give approval or support to something/someone (e.g., to countenance some extraordinarily).
Curious:	In this context, it often means elaborate or fine, as in "curious" directions or details.
Denouement (Resolution):	The final outcome where the conflict is resolved.
Dramatic Invention:	The creative power, notably attributed by Hazlitt to Shakespeare, that allows for a wide range of characterizations and expressions, taking precedence over an intense focus on a single passion.
Dialogue:	working), and hump (a lump on the back). Other key words relate to the setting, like dust-cloak (a cloak of dust) and actions, such as fetch (go and bring) and yoke (a wooden bar for animals). Facts,



	examples, or information supporting an argument.
Exposition/Expository Text:	Writing that explains using definition, classification, etc.
Exposition:	The beginning introducing setting, characters, and background.
Falling Action:	Events after the climax leading to the resolution.
Fiction:	An imagined story about unreal characters and events
Flashback:	A break in time to show an earlier event.
Foreshadowing:	Hints suggesting future events
Gusto:	While explored in a separate essay, the concept of "gusto" (passion or power in art) is relevant to Hazlitt's overall critical approach. In acting, it implies an intense, visceral quality in the performance that creates a "living principle" and an immediate connection with the audience's senses and emotions.
Gilded:	Covered with a thin layer of gold or



	something that looks like gold.
Glum:	Looking or feeling sad.
God save the King / Pretty Polly:	Phrases the princesses' parrots repeated in different languages.
Human Nature:	Actors are seen as representatives of human nature, portraying various emotions and roles, which allows the audience to understand general morality through specific, relatable examples.
Humorous:	Capricious, whimsical, or moody, rather than funny.
Hook:	An attention-grabbing start to engage readers.
Imitation (Mimetic Mode):	Hazlitt implicitly discusses acting as an imitation of life and passion, a "picture of life" which, when done well, can refine manners and teach morals.
Imagination:	The faculty by which both the actor embodies a role and the audience engages with the performance, allowing for emotional release and moral instruction.



Impertinent:	Irrelevant or beside the point.
In a mean:	In moderation or within a reasonable limit.
Introduction:	The beginning providing context and usually the thesis statement.
Irony:	The difference between appearance and reality (verbal, situational, dramatic).
Imagery:	Language appealing to the senses.
Nonfiction:	Prose based on reality or opinion.
Narrator:.	The person or character telling the story
Opiate:	A remedy that induces rest and dulls the senses; Bacon argues friendship is a better "opiate" for the mind's troubles than physical medicine.
Plot:	The sequence of events in a story.
Point of View (POV):	The perspective from which a story is told.
Paraphrasing:	Restating another author's ideas in one's own words.
Persuasion:.	Convincing an audience of a claim's validity
Protagonist:	The main character



	striving for a goal. Proper relations: The specific roles and associated behaviors a person has with others (e.g., a father to a son).
Prejudice:	The negative and disrespectful views held by society towards the acting profession, which Hazlitt argues are unfounded and a key reason why actors are not as respected as they should be.
Quoting:	Using another author's exact words.
Reverie:	Daydream
Sarza:	Short for sarsaparilla, a plant used in medicine to treat the liver in Bacon's era.
Sorteth with the person:	It is appropriate or fitting for the person's status or role (e.g., a friend may speak as the case requires, and not as it sorteth with the person).
Supplicate:	To beg or humbly request
Summary:	A short restatement of a text's main ideas.
Transition:	Words or phrases connecting ideas for flow.
Tawdry :	Gaudy

Voice:	The writer's unique style or personality in the text.
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