



# Footprints without Feet

Supplementary Reader in English  
for Class X

© NCERT  
not to be republished



एन सी ई आर टी  
NCERT

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

**First Edition**

April 2007 Chaitra 1929

**Reprinted**

October 2007 Kartika 1929

January 2009 Pausa 1930

January 2010 Magha 1931

November 2010 Kartika 1932

January 2012 Magha 1933

March 2013 Phalguna 1934

February 2014 Magha 1935

December 2014 Pausa 1936

December 2015 Pausa 1937

December 2016 Pausa 1938

December 2017 Pausa 1939

**PD 180T HK**

© **National Council of Educational  
Research and Training, 2007**

₹ 35.00

Printed on 80 GSM paper with  
NCERT watermark

Published at the Publication  
Division by the Secretary, National  
Council of Educational Research and  
Training, Sri Aurobindo Marg,  
New Delhi 110 016 and printed at  
Work Station System (P.) Ltd., Plot  
No. 35, Sector-H, Industrial Area,  
Govindpura, Bhopal - 462 023 (MP)

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

- No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher.
- This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise disposed of without the publisher's consent, in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published.
- The correct price of this publication is the price printed on this page. Any revised price indicated by a rubber stamp or by a sticker or by any other means is incorrect and should be unacceptable.

**OFFICES OF THE PUBLICATION  
DIVISION, NCERT**

NCERT Campus  
Sri Aurobindo Marg  
New Delhi 110 016

Phone : 011-26562708

108, 100 Feet Road  
Hosdakere Halli Extension  
Banashankari III Stage  
Bengaluru 560 085

Phone : 080-26725740

Navjivan Trust Building  
P.O. Navjivan  
Ahmedabad 380 014

Phone : 079-27541446

CWC Campus  
Opp. Dhankal Bus Stop  
Panihati  
Kolkata 700 114

Phone : 033-25530454

CWC Complex  
Maligaon  
Guwahati 781 021

Phone : 0361-2674869

**Publication Team**

Head, Publication Division : *M. Siraj Anwar*

Chief Editor : *Shveta Uppal*

Chief Business Manager : *Gautam Ganguly*

Chief Production Officer (In-charge) : *Arun Chitkara*

Editor : *Vijayam Sankaranarayanan*

Production Assistant : *Om Prakash*

**Cover and Layout**

*Blue Fish*

**Illustrations**

*Nidhi Wadhwa and Anuranjan Pegu*

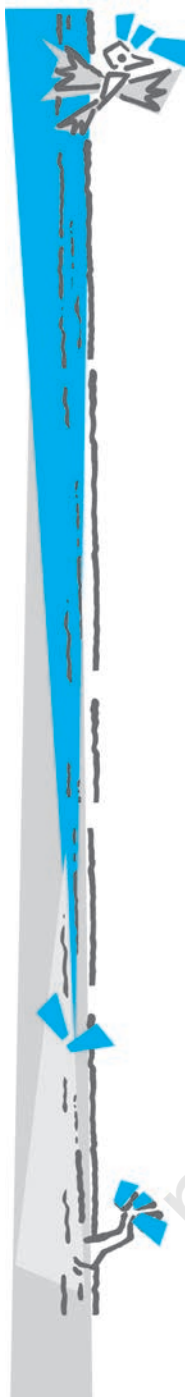
## Foreword

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005, recommends that children's life at school must be linked to their life outside the school. This principle marks a departure from the legacy of bookish learning which continues to shape our system and causes a gap between the school, home and community. The syllabi and textbooks developed on the basis of NCF signify an attempt to implement this basic idea. They also attempt to discourage rote learning and the maintenance of sharp boundaries between different subject areas. We hope these measures will take us significantly further in the direction of a child-centred system of education outlined in the National Policy of Education (1986).

The success of this effort depends on the steps that school principals and teachers will take to encourage children to reflect on their own learning and to pursue imaginative activities and questions. We must recognise that, given space, time and freedom, children generate new knowledge by engaging with the information passed on to them by adults. Treating the prescribed textbook as the sole basis of examination is one of the key reasons why other resources and sites of learning are ignored. Inculcating creativity and initiative is possible if we perceive and treat children as participants in learning, not as receivers of a fixed body of knowledge.

These aims imply considerable change in school routines and mode of functioning. Flexibility in the daily time-table is as necessary as rigour in implementing the annual calendar so that the required number of teaching days are actually devoted to teaching. The methods used for teaching and evaluation will also determine how effective this book proves for making children's life at school a happy experience, rather than a source of stress or boredom. Syllabus designers have tried to address the problem of curricular burden by restructuring and reorienting knowledge at different stages with greater consideration for child psychology and the time available for





teaching. The supplementary reader attempts to enhance this endeavour by giving higher priority and space to opportunities for contemplation and wondering, discussion in small groups, and activities requiring hands-on experience.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) appreciates the hard work done by the textbook development committee responsible for this book. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the advisory committee for textbooks in languages for the secondary stage, Professor Namwar Singh, and the Chief Advisor for this book, Professor R. Amritavalli for guiding the work of this committee. Several teachers contributed to the development of this supplementary reader; we are grateful to their principals for making this possible. We are indebted to the institutions and organisations which have generously permitted us to draw upon their resources, materials and personnel. We are especially grateful to the members of the National Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Chairpersonship of Professor Mrinal Miri and Professor G.P. Deshpande for their valuable time and contribution. As an organisation committed to systemic reform and continuous improvement in the quality of its products, NCERT welcomes comments and suggestions which will enable us to undertake further revision and refinements.

New Delhi  
20 November 2006

*Director*  
National Council of Educational  
Research and Training

## A Note to the Teacher

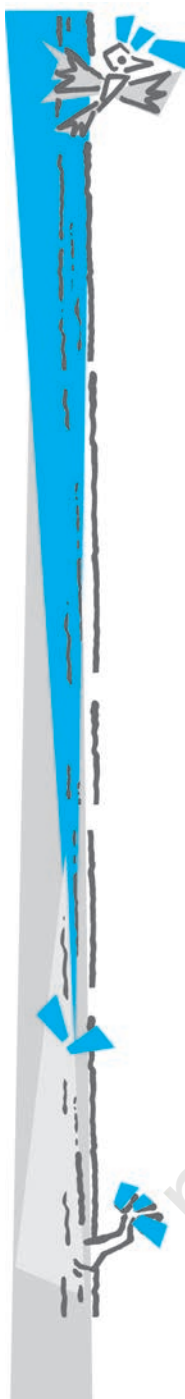
*Footprints without Feet*, a supplementary reader in English for Class X, is based on the new syllabus prepared as a follow-up to the National Curriculum Framework, 2005. The curriculum envisages language learning opportunities that are rich in comprehensible input, and adopts a language-across-the-curriculum, multilingual perspective on English in the school. Input-rich communicational environments are a prerequisite for language learning. Therefore, learners must be exposed to a variety of texts.

The supplementary reader is meant for students to read on their own; it aims at developing their reading skills. Learners need to develop the habit of reading for information and pleasure, drawing inferences from what they read, and relating texts to their previous knowledge. They need to learn to read critically and to develop the confidence to ask and answer questions.

The selections in the supplementary reader take into account the interests of young learners while making them aware of issues that they need to reflect on: personal relationships, the neighbourhood, and the community. Thematic variety has been taken care of and there is a good representation of a variety of genres as well as of writers from across the world—Indian, British, French, American and Japanese. This supplementary reader has ten pieces including a play and a factual prose piece, as well as science fiction.

Each piece begins with questions under the head 'Read and Find Out' to guide learners in their reading and comprehension of the text, which is divided into two to three sections, each section prefaced with relevant questions. Thus the texts do not need to be read out or explained by the teacher in class. Word glosses have similarly been kept to the minimum so as to encourage inferences about meaning from sentential and discourse contexts. The teacher, after a quick oral comprehension check, if necessary, can progress to the questions





under the head 'Think About It' at the end of each unit. These are meant to take the learner beyond factual comprehension to contemplate on the issues that the texts raise; the questions are open ended and thought provoking.

The questions given under 'Talk About It' are intended to encourage the learners to express their own ideas in a creative and coherent way. It is hoped that the topics suggested for discussion will encourage learners to develop a constructive analysis of the relevant issues, involving critical thinking, reasoning, and previous knowledge as well as new knowledge.

The list of suggested readings given at the end of each story is meant to encourage learners to read further on their own. The idea is to promote the habit of self-learning and reduce dependence on the teacher.

Language learning is essentially a matter of acquiring in an integrated way the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and of honing these skills for effective communication in the classroom, and later in real life. This book offers an opportunity for taking learners in that direction.

# Textbook Development Committee

## **CHAIRPERSON, ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TEXTBOOKS IN LANGUAGES FOR THE SECONDARY STAGE**

Professor Namwar Singh, formerly *Chairman*, School of Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

## **CHIEF ADVISOR**

R. Amritavalli, *Professor*, English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad

## **CHIEF COORDINATOR**

Ram Janma Sharma, Former *Professor and Head*, Department of Education in Languages, NCERT, New Delhi

## **MEMBERS**

Kalyani Samantray, *Reader in English*, S B W College, Cuttak, Odisha

Lakshmi Rawat, *TGT (English)*, BRD Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Prasad Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi

Nasiruddin Khan, Former *Reader in English*, Department of Education in Languages, NCERT, New Delhi

Padmini Baruah, *Associate Professor in English*, Department of ELT, Guwahati University, Guwahati, Assam

R. Meganathan, *Assistant Professor in English*, Department of Education in Languages, NCERT, New Delhi

Sadhana Agarwal, *TGT (English)*, Rajkiya Pratibha Vidyalaya, Link Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi

Sadhana Parashar, *Education Officer (ELT)*, CBSE, Community Centre, Preet Vihar, Delhi

Sandhya Sahoo, *Professor in English*, Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar

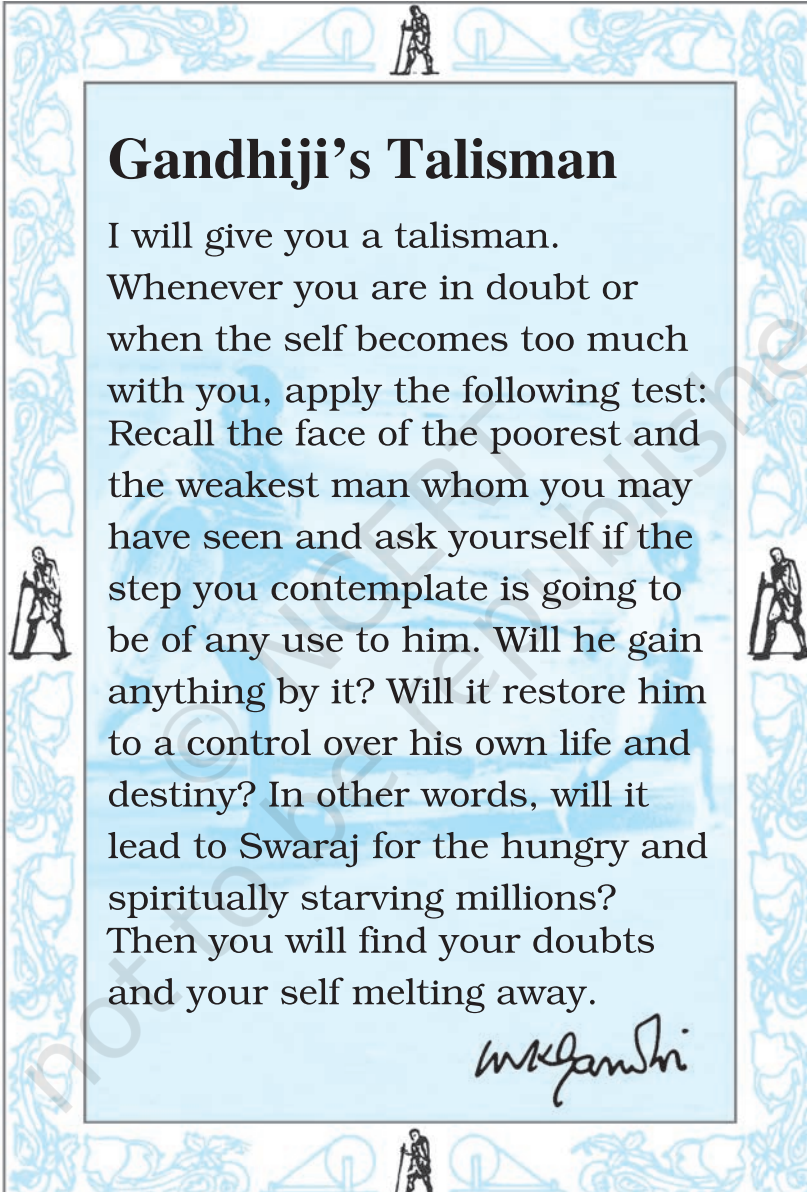
Shruti Sircar, *Associate Professor in English*, Centre for ESL Studies, EFLU, Hyderabad

## **MEMBER-COORDINATOR**

Kirti Kapur, *Associate Professor in English*, Department of Education in Languages, NCERT, New Delhi







## Gandhiji's Talisman

I will give you a talisman.  
Whenever you are in doubt or  
when the self becomes too much  
with you, apply the following test:  
Recall the face of the poorest and  
the weakest man whom you may  
have seen and ask yourself if the  
step you contemplate is going to  
be of any use to him. Will he gain  
anything by it? Will it restore him  
to a control over his own life and  
destiny? In other words, will it  
lead to Swaraj for the hungry and  
spiritually starving millions?  
Then you will find your doubts  
and your self melting away.

*M.K. Gandhi*



## Acknowledgements

The National Council of Educational Research and Training is grateful to Professor M.L.Tickoo, formerly of the CIEFL, Hyderabad, and the Regional Language Centre, Singapore for his valuable suggestions and advice in the development of this book.

For permission to use copyright material, NCERT would like to thank Scott, Foreman and Company, Glenview, Illinois for the pieces 'The Making of a Scientist' by Robert W. Peterson and 'The Book that Saved the Earth' by Claire Boiko. Special thanks are due to Professor Yash Pal and Dr Rahul Pal from whose *Discovered Questions* (NCERT, 2006) we have taken three questions along with their answers.

We also thank the Publication Department, NCERT, for their support. We gratefully acknowledge the services of Parash Ram Kaushik, *Incharge*, Computer Resource Centre, NCERT; Razi Ahmad and Arvind Sharma, *DTP Operators*; G.C. Chandrakar, *Copy Editor*; and Mathew John, *Proof Reader*.





Nirmalya Chakraborty, College of Art, New Delhi



# Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	iii
<i>A Note to the Teacher</i>	v
1. A Triumph of Surgery <b>JAMES HERRIOT</b>	1
2. The Thief's Story <b>RUSKIN BOND</b>	8
3. The Midnight Visitor <b>ROBERT ARTHUR</b>	14
4. A Question of Trust <b>VICTOR CANNING</b>	20
5. Footprints without Feet <b>H.G. WELLS</b>	26
6. The Making of a Scientist <b>ROBERT W. PETERSON</b>	32
7. The Necklace <b>GUY DE MAUPASSANT</b>	39
8. The Hack Driver <b>SINCLAIR LEWIS</b>	47
9. Bholi <b>K.A. ABBAS</b>	54
10. The Book That Saved the Earth <b>CLAIRE BOIKO</b>	63



© NCERT  
not to be republished