



11072CH14

## 6. Creative Writing

THE teacher was explaining the lines in the beginning of Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*. It was a description of the battle and the lines were:

Like Valour's minion, carved out his passage,  
Till he faced the slave;  
With ne'er shook hands, nor baded farewell to him.  
Till he **unseam'd** him from the nave to the chaps,...

The teacher asked the students what the word 'unseamed' meant. It was difficult. The teacher prodded them on. "What does 'seam' mean? Haven't you ever come across the word?" One of the students blurted out "Cricket ball".

This is an example of how each of us reacts to words according to what our own experience has been.

When we write about factual information, all of us write almost similarly. But when we write for pleasure each of us may write about the same event in different ways.

*One very important element in creative writing is imagination. This is reflected in*

- our view or perspective
- choice of words
- the comparisons we make
- the images we use
- the tone we adopt
- novelty of ideas.

Let us study the paragraph below.

A town is like an animal. A town has a nervous system and a head and shoulders and feet. A town is a thing separate from all other towns, so that there are no towns alike. And a town has a whole emotion. How news travels through a town is a mystery not easily to be solved. News seems to move faster

than small boys can scramble and dart to tell it, faster than women can call it over the fences. (from an adapted version of Steinbeck's *The Pearl*)

*The topic:* A Town

*Analogy or comparison:* to an animal

*Word choice:* "has a whole emotion."

*Comparisons:* "faster than small boys can scramble and dart, faster than women...."

We find the first element of imagination operating in the way the writer visualises the town. Then he extends the primary analogy. The tone he adopts is light humour, a little sarcastic.

When we begin to write a story or poem we let our imagination free. We try to say things in a new way. This novelty is what makes our writing pleasurable to the reader.

Sometimes sentence structures are also different from factual writing. Consider the following:

They waited in their chairs until the pearls came in, **and then they cackled and fought and shouted and threatened** until they reached the lowest price the fisherman would stand. (from *The Pearl*).

In a normal construction we will not use so many 'ands'. But the action of the story is best reflected through this kind of chaining of actions through 'ands'. It is appropriate to the movement of the action described.

Let us look at another example:

She dragged me after her into Miss Rachel's sitting-room, which opened to her bedroom. At her bedroom door stood Miss Rachel, **her face almost white as the white dressing-gown she wore.**

The author has used a simile: "white as the white dressing-gown she wore."

In fact, the whiteness of a human face is because of a strong emotion — fear or shock.

But here comparing the whiteness to the dressing-gown she wore serves to **exaggerate** and intensify the emotion.

Exaggeration is one of the ways in which fact is distinguished from fiction.

Now look at these lines from a well-known poem, 'An Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' by Thomas Gray.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene  
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear  
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen  
And waste its fragrance in the desert air.

The stanza carries a simple statement: many people with outstanding qualities live and die unnoticed by the world.

To state this, the poet has used two strong images, 'a gem' and 'a flower'.

He has used two contrasting places: the ocean, that is full of water and the desert with no water at all.

Also notice the rhyming words: 'serene' and 'unseen', 'bear' and 'air'.

The first and third lines also begin with the same words — "full many a". The lines are of equal length.

All this together contribute to the literary quality of these lines.

### Activity I

Put down the images that come to your mind immediately when you see the words in the box.

cat	cupboard	wall	pond	bird
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### Activity II

Try to write four lines of poetry or four sentences of prose with one of these as the starting point.

### Activity III

Write a short story beginning with this sentence:

When the last of the guests left, I went back into the hall....

### Activity IV

Look for a story, a poem and a newspaper article on environment conservation and see how the style of each is different from the other.

Hello Children!

If you feel uneasy about someone touching you inappropriately, you should not keep quiet. You must

1. Not blame yourself
2. Tell someone whom you trust
3. You can also inform National Commission for Protection of Child Rights through the **POCSO e-box**.

When you get an unsafe touch, you may feel bad,  
confused and helpless  
You need not feel "bad" because it's not your fault



Press This Button

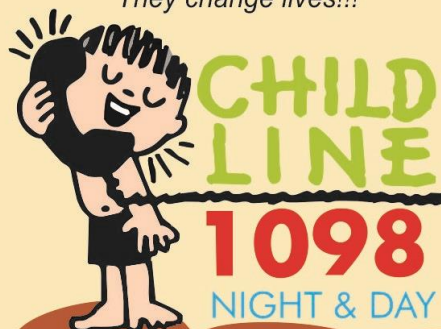
POCSO e-box available at [NCPDR@gov.in](mailto:NCPDR@gov.in)



नए समाज की ओर  
Towards a new dawn

If you are below 18 years of age, and are troubled or confused  
or abused or in distress or know some other child who is...

Call **1098**...because some numbers are good!  
They change lives!!!



**CHILDLINE 1098** - a national 24 hours toll free  
emergency phone service for children in distress is an  
initiative of CHILDLINE India Foundation supported  
by Ministry of Women & Child Development



नए समाज की ओर  
Towards a new dawn



Ek Kadam Swachchhta ki or





Hornbills (family *bucerotidae*) are a group of birds found in South East Asia and Africa. Their bills are shaped like a cow's horn, without a twist and with a casque on the upper bill (*buceros* means cow's horn in Greek). Hornbills need large, old trees with hollow trunks in which to build their nests.

The Sulu and the Writhed-billed Hornbill are two of the most endangered species. The main reason for this is logging of large, old trees in their forest home.

### Did you know?

Nagaland celebrates Hornbill Festival in reverence to the bird that shows up in many of the tribal folklores of the State. The eight-day festival brings all the tribes together in colourful performances and religious ceremonies.

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