

## Unit - 5

### The Status of Tamil as a Classical Language

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#### Warm up

##### Question (a)

Name a few languages spoken in India:

**Answer:**

Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi

##### Question (b)

Mention a few international languages:

**Answer:**

Spanish, French, Latin, Hebrew, Greek, English

##### Question (c)

The box below gives details of a few languages and their origin. Arrange them chronologically.

Chinese – 1250 BC (BCE)	Hebrew – 1000 BC (BCE)	Latin – 75 BC (BCE)	
Tamil – 300 BC (BCE)	Greek – 1500 BC (BCE)	Sanskrit – 2000 BC (BCE)	Arabic – 512 AD (CE)

**Answer:**

Sanskrit – 2000 BC (BCE)	Greek – 1500 BC (BCE)	Chinese – 1250 BC (BCE)	
Hebrew-1000 BC (BCE)	Tamil – 300 BC (BCE)	Latin – 75 BC (BCE)	Arabic – 512 AD (CE)

##### Question (d)

Following are some of the great works in Tamil. Find out their names by filling in the missing letters.



**Answer:**



Samacheer Kalvi 12th English The Status of Tamil as a Classical Language Textual Questions

**1. Answer the following Questions in one or two sentences based on your understanding of the letter.**

**Question (a)**

Which is considered the oldest work in Tamil? When was it written?

**Answer:**

Tholkappiyam is the oldest work in Tamil. It dates back to 200 BCE.

**Question (b)**

What is the evidence that supports the finding of the oldest Tamil work?

**Answer:**

Earliest Tamil inscriptions are the evidences which support the finding of the oldest Tamil work.

**Question (c)**

Mention the Tamil works that date to the first two centuries of the current era.

**Answer:**

Sangam anthologies and Pattuppattu date to the first two centuries of the current era.

**Question (d)**

Name the great Tamil work that speaks volumes on ethics.

**Answer:**

“Tirukkural” is the great Tamil work which speaks volumes on ethics.

**Question (e)**

What are the other classical languages mentioned by the author?

**Answer:**

The other classical languages mentioned by the author are viz. Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Chinese, Persian and Arabic.

**Question (f)**

Can you define and list the themes explored in Tamil Literature? Why?

**Answer:**

No, one can't define the themes explored in Tamil literature. There is not a facet of human experience that is not explored and illuminated by Tamil literature.

**Question (g)**

What is unique about Tamil and its sources?

**Answer:**

Tamil is one of the primary independent sources of modern Indian culture and tradition.

**Question (h)**

Modern Indian languages are productive on earth. Why does the author say so?

**Answer:**

Modern Indian languages are the most fecund and productive languages on the earth. Each has begotten a modern (often medieval) literature that can stand with any of the modern literatures of the world.

**Question (i)**

Which language is as old as Latin?

**Answer:**

Tamil is as old as Latin and older than Arabic.

**Question (j)**

Why is it said that Tamil has the most independent tradition?

**Answer:**

Tamil arose as an entirely independent tradition with almost no influence from Sanskrit and other languages. Its ancient literature is indescribably vast and rich.

**Question (k)**

What is the role of Classical Tamil in Modern Tamil and Malayalam?

**Answer:**

Just as Sanskrit is the source of the modern Indo-Aryan languages, classical Tamil is the source language of modern Tamil and Malayalam.

## Additional Questions

**Question (a)**

Who is considered "Tamil Thatha" and why?

**Answer:**

Dr. U. Ve. Swaminatha Aiyar is considered Tamil Thatha because he had collected old palm leaf manuscripts of ancient Tamil books and catalogued them with the support of Damotharapillai.

**Question (b)**

What has Mr. George L Hart try to make?

**Answer:**

Mr. George L Hart has tried to make a comparative analysis of classical languages of the world.

**Question (c)**

What was the specific task assigned to George Hart by Prof. Maraimalai?

**Answer:**

Professor Maraimalai has asked George Hart to write regarding the position of Tamil as a classical language.

**Question (d)**

What does George L Hart state unequivocally?

**Answer:**

He unequivocally states that, by any criteria one may choose, Tamil is one of the greatest classical literatures and traditions of the world.

**Question (e)**

How antique is Tamil?

**Answer:**

Tamil is of considerable antiquity. It predates the literatures of modern Indian languages by more than thousand years.

## 2. Answer the following Questions in three or four sentences each.

### Question (a)

Supreme works in Tamil elevate it to be treated as sacred as the Vedas. How?

#### Answer:

Tamil has its own works that are considered to be as sacred as the vedas that are recited alongside vedic mantras in the great Vaisnava temples of South India.

### Question (b)

Tamil is a touchstone to understand the Dravidian's nature and development. Elucidate.

#### Answer:

As Sanskrit is the most conservative and least changed of Indo-Aryan languages, Tamil is the most conservative of the Dravidian languages, the touchstone that linguists must consult to understand the nature and development of Dravidian culture.

### Question (c)

How do you correlate the richness of Tamil language With Indian culture?

#### Answer:

Unlike other modern languages of India, Tamil meets the criteria laid down for a classical tradition. It meets each of the requirements. It is extremely old. It is as old as Latin and older than Arabic. It arose as an entirely independent tradition, with almost no influence from Sanskrit or other languages. And its ancient literature is indescribably vast and rich.

## Additional Questions

### Question (a)

How are Sangam anthologies and pattupattu important?

#### Answer:

The great work of ancient Tamil, the Sangam anthologies and the pattupattu, date to first two centuries of the era. They are the first great secular body of poetry written in India, predating Kalidasa's works.

### Question (b)

How does the author compliment the indigenous nature of Tamil?

#### Answer:

Tamil Constitutes only literary tradition indigenous to India that is not derived from Sanskrit. Indeed, its literature arose before the influence of Sanskrit become strong in the south. So it is qualitatively different from anything we have in Sanskrit or other Indian languages.

### Question (c)

How does the author prove that Tamil has an extremely rich and vast intellectual tradition?

#### Answer:

Tamil has its own poetic theory, its own grammatical tradition and its own esthetics. A large body of its literature that is quite unique. It shows Indian sensibility that is entirely different from Sanskrit or other Indian languages. Then it contains rich and vast intellectual tradition.

### 3. Answer the following in a paragraph of 100-150 words each.

#### Question (a)

How does the author justify the statement that Tamil is a classical language?

#### Answer:

To qualify as a classical tradition, a language must fit several criteria. It should be ancient. It should be an independent tradition that arose mostly on its own, not an off-shoot of another tradition. It must have a large and extensively rich body of ancient literature. Unlike the other modern languages of India, Tamil meets each of these requirements. It is extremely old as Latin and older than Arabic. It arose as an entirely independent tradition with almost no influence from Sanskrit or other languages. Its ancient literature is indescribably vast and rich.

Tamil is of considerable antiquity. It predates the literatures of other modern Indian languages by more than a thousand years. Its oldest work Tholkappiyam, contains parts that, judging from the earliest Tamil inscriptions, dates back to about 200 BCE. The greatest works of ancient Tamil, the Sangam anthologies and Pattuppattu, date to the first two centuries of the current era. They are the first great secular body of poetry written in India, predating Kalidasa's works by two hundred years.

#### Question (b)

Tirukkural is a fine example of an outstanding quality of classical Tamil Literature. Substantiate.

#### Answer:

Tirukkural is one of the greatest works on ethics. But this is merely one of a myriad of major and extremely varied works that comprise Tamil classical tradition. There is not a facet of human existence that is not explored and illuminated by this great literature. Tirukkural the sacred verses, is a classical text considered one of the greatest works ever written on ethics and morality, chiefly secular ethics. It is known for its universality and non-denominational nature. Traditionally it has been appreciated as "the universal veda" and "universal code of conduct". The 'Kural' is often called the masterpiece of Tamil literature both in philosophical and literary calibre. Next to Bible, Tirukkural is translated into a large number of languages across the world. Its universality appeals to readers in Japan and Singapore as well.

### Additional Questions

#### Question (a)

The credentials of Mr. George L Hart make him absolutely eligible to write regarding the

position of Tamil among the classical languages of the world – Explain.

**Answer:**

George L Hart has been a professor of Tamil at the university of California, Berkeley since ' 1975. He is currently the holder of Tamil chair at the institution. He received his degree in Sanskrit in 1970 from Harvard University. He was appointed at first as Sanskrit professor at the University of Wisconsin Madison, in 1969. Besides Tamil and Sanskrit, he knows languages of Greek and Latin. He has read extensively in Greek and Latin literatures in their original. He is also well acquainted with comparative linguistics and literatures of modern Europe. Thus, he is the most eligible person to write regarding the position of Tamil among classical languages of the world.

**Question (b)**

How does George L Hart prove beyond doubt that Tamil is one of the primary independent sources of modern Indian culture and tradition?

**Answer:**

Prof. George L Hart has extensively written on the influence of Tamil tradition on Sanskrit's poetic tradition. But equally important, the great sacred Hindu devotional literature in Tamil beginning with Sangam anthologies have undergirded the development of modern Hinduism. Bhagavatpurana has widely borrowed from it. There are other texts in Telugu, Kannada and Sanskrit which have drawn heavily from Tamil literature. Tamil has its work which are considered as sacred as the Vedas that are recited alongside Vedamantras in the great Vaishnava temples of South India. Then, George L Hart proves Tamil is one of the primary independent sources of modern Indian culture and tradition.

**Question (c)**

How does the author endorse the greatness of modern Indian languages?

**Answer:**

The author is aware of the richness of modern Indian languages. They are among the most fecund and productive languages on the earth. Each has begotten a modern (and often medieval) literature that can stand with any of the major literatures of the world. Yet none of them is a classical language. Like English and the other modern languages of Europe with possible exception of Greek, they rose on preexisting traditions rather late and developed in the second millennium.

## Vocabulary

(a) Analogy

Now complete each analogy with appropriate words from the list given below:

changeable	indifference
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nuance	insignificant
refusal	long-established
drastic	hide

CLASSICAL : TRADITIONAL

ancient : \_\_\_\_\_

UNIQUE : COMMON

sensibility : \_\_\_\_\_

INDIGENOUS : NATIVE

extreme : \_\_\_\_\_

FACET : ASPECT

subtlety : \_\_\_\_\_

SACRED : IRREVERENT

conservative : \_\_\_\_\_

OBVIOUS : DOUBTFUL

vital : \_\_\_\_\_

INFLUENCE : IMPACT

denial : \_\_\_\_\_

ILLUMINATE : DARKEN

explore : \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:**

1. long-established
2. indifference
3. drastic
4. nuance
5. changeable
6. insignificant
7. refusal
8. hide



(b) Suffixes

Match the -ics words with their appropriate meanings. You can make use of a dictionary.

S. No.	Words	Meanings
1.	Linguistics	the scientific study of a language
2.	Numismatics	the study of principles of beauty
3.	Electro Dynamics	the study of speech sounds
4.	Phonetics	the study of genes
5.	Aesthetics	the study of analysing information shown in numbers
6.	Genetics	the study of government and using power in public life
7.	Statistics	the study of building and flying air-craft
8.	Politics	the study of money and coins
9.	Aeronautics	the study of processing data for storage and retrieval
10.	Informatics	the study of the way that electric currents and magnetic fields affect each other

**Answer:**

1. the scientific study of a language
2. the study of money and coins
3. the study of the way that electric currents and magnetic fields affect each other
4. the study of speech sounds
5. the study of principles of beauty
6. the study of genes

7. the study of analysing information shown in numbers
8. the study of government and using power in public life
9. the study of building and flying air-craft
10. the study of processing data for storage and retrieval

(c) Homonyms, Homophones and Homograph Complete the following with appropriate words from the box given.

night/knight	scent/sent/ cent	stationary/ stationery	lead/lead	reign/rain/rein
band/banned	bows/boughs	sell/cell	pass/pause/paws	present/present

1. My mother brought an expensive watch as a birthday \_\_\_\_\_
2. Everybody accepted the fact that overeating could easily \_\_\_\_\_ to obesity.
3. In the middle ages, people were trained to become a \_\_\_\_\_ at a young age.
4. Akshitha's brother plays the bugle in his school \_\_\_\_\_
5. The weather is fine and the air is filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of lemons.
6. What a splendid \_\_\_\_\_ the emperor Alexander's might have been!
7. Humans have foot, animals have \_\_\_\_\_
8. They know how to \_\_\_\_\_ their mobile phones online.
9. The teacher is so happy that all the students are \_\_\_\_\_
10. The cars were in the traffic jam.
11. It is not easy for him to tie in his shoe laces

**Answer:**

1. present
2. lead
3. knight
4. band
5. scent
6. reign
7. paws
8. sell
9. present
10. stationary
11. bows

(d) Collocation

Collocation: It is a pair or group of words that always appears in the same order. Here are some collocations picked from the lesson:

subtlety and profundity

greatness and richness

culture and tradition

vast and rich

Some of the commonly used collocations are:

read and write	pros and cons	sooner or later
dead or alive	null and void	black and white

(e) Descriptive Words

Go through the letter of Prof. George L Hart once again and enlist the words describing Tamil.

e.g. oldest	indigenous	unique	classical	secular
universal	independent	vast	rich	vital

Identify the words that mean the following.

Indigenous	myriad
conservative	indescribable
antiquity	aesthetics
universality	secular

1. This is something that is related to ancient time \_\_\_\_
2. The word that describes pleasing in appearance \_\_\_\_
3. Things that are not specifically religious \_\_\_\_
4. The word to mention a large number \_\_\_\_
5. This describes something which is produced or belongs to a particular region \_\_\_\_
6. The thing that cannot be described \_\_\_\_
7. This one is something which cannot come out of tradition
8. The quality of existing or involving everywhere

**Answer:**

1. antiquity
2. aesthetics
3. secular
4. myriad
5. indigenous
6. indescribable
7. conservative
8. universality

## Listening Activity

### The oath taken by Graduates of Medicine is given as Listening passage.

Hippocratic Oath:

I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity;

I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due;

I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity;

The health of my patient will be my first consideration;

I will respect the secrets which are confided in me;

I will maintain by all the means in my power, the honour and the noble tradition of the medical profession;

My colleagues will be my brothers; I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the time of conception, even under threat. I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity;

I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honour.

After listening to the pledge played on the tape recorder carefully, fill in the following statements with the right options given:

#### Question (a)

The medical graduates take oath to dedicate their \_\_\_\_\_ to the service of humanity.

(a) money

(ii) talent

(iii) life

(iv) nation

**Answer:**

(iii) life

#### Question (b)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the patient should be the doctor's greatest concern.

(i) dignity

- (ii) gratitude
- (iii) health
- (iv) honour

**Answer:**

- (iii) health

**Question (c)**

The would-be graduates promise to practise their profession with \_\_\_\_\_ and dignity.

- (i) conscience
- (ii) knowledge
- (iii) understanding
- (iv) respect

**Answer:**

- (ii) knowledge

**Question (d)**

They should respect the \_\_\_\_\_ of the patients.

- (i) age
- (ii) wealth
- (iii) background
- (iv) secrets

**Answer:**

- (iv) secrets

**Question (e)**

The pledge is also to treat the patients without any \_\_\_\_\_

- (i) fee
- (ii) discrimination
- (iii) interest
- (iv) hatred

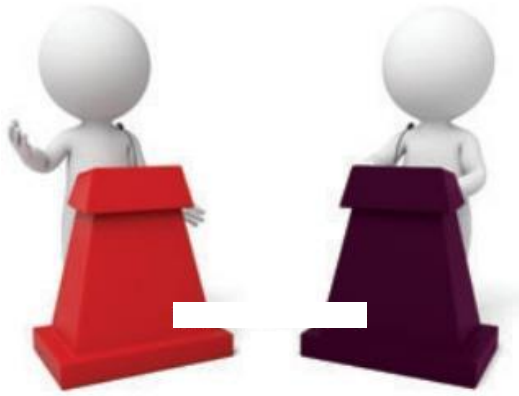
**Answer:**

- (ii) discrimination

## Speaking Activity

### Debate

### Important Rules



- The speakers must greet the chairperson, judges and the audience.
- The team supporting or opposing the motion must not change their point of view.
- If a speaker makes a statement, he or she must be able to provide evidence or reasons to support.
- The facts presented in a debate must be accurate.
- Speakers may not bring up new points in a rebuttal speech. Reinforce your points and conclude confidently.
- Points must be conveyed clearly and effectively without getting diverted from the main stream.

## Task

**(a) Now it's your turn to speak against the motion "Wars create more problem than they solve." Express your views with valid points.**

Student A

Respected judge, dignitaries on the dias and off the dias. I have come before you to speak against the topic "wars create more problems than they solve."

Abraham Lincoln waged the civil war in America to put an end to slavery. Of course many people died on both sides and Lincoln himself was assassinated soon after the abolition of slavery in America. But today America is a dream destination for any one who wants to make a fortune trading his individual expertise in Science, technology and ICT because the democratic foundation in America is solid and pluralistic culture encourages people from multi-ethnic backgrounds to emigrate and settle there as Americans. Trump administration is now taking a tough stand against emigrants and immigrants.

Student B

Next point we would like to put forward is that when we say "war" do not always think about conventional war. We wage war against poverty, illiteracy, drug addiction,

alcoholism, bribery and terrorism. Such wars may not be won over quickly but they are necessary. We can't allow the government alone to fight such social evils, we need NGOs, students and civil societies and even-principled political parties to fight against them to build a healthy society.

Student C

I would like to add that Swachata Abhiyan itself is a war against ignorance of people about the consequences of keeping their surroundings unclean and polluted. The campaign against Malaria, Dengue fever is a war against ill-health which necessarily generates awareness among people to prevent mosquito-caused illness among the masses.

We can also wage a war against the most dangerous social evil (i.e.) educated unemployment. Instead of just using war of words trying to prove our oratorical skills, we had better focus on skilling of youth in our country so that they can become self-reliant entrepreneurs giving employment to others by utilising 'Mudra loan'. In fact launching of Atal tinkering labs all over the country at the higher secondary level is the first step in the direction of skilling school students. It is time we realized that paper degrees will not guarantee jobs, we should arm ourselves with the skills demanded in the job market or for opening our own small-scale industries. On behalf of my team, I conclude wars against social evils can solve problems not create new ones.

## **(b) Conduct a debate for and against the motion. "Mobile phone – a big boon"**

Debate – Mobile phone boon or bane

Student A:

Shakespeare has very wisely said: "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so." Similarly, mobile phones in themselves are neither good nor bad; however, the way they are used makes them good or bad. Mobile phones have made our life so easy and full of comforts! Everything is available online now. Our mobile phones have become our e-wallets, e-books, e-payments, e-files, e-folders, etc. Our mobile phones are connected with our Adhar Card, Bank Account, Loans, etc. We do our buying and other transactions using our mobile phones. Life without mobile phones is almost impossible in the modern times. It is neither addiction nor creates distraction. Rather it is a basic necessity in the contemporary times.

I conclude that it is irrational and illogical to say anything negative about mobile phones. As said earlier, they should be used with discretion and precautions.

Mobile Phones – A bane

Student B:

My friend used a beautiful quote in my team's favour, "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so." Unfortunately, Mobiles have become a source of major

distraction for the students. Young boys and girls seem to have become inordinately addicted to these sites. They are thoughtlessly and uselessly wasting their precious time on useless sites.

The overuse of mobile poses serious health issues. Radiation affects eyesight due to over exposure to mobile screen for hours. Besides, mobile phones are also responsible for difficulty in concentration, fatigue, headaches and sleep disorders that can further trigger health complications. Text-neck is a serious health issue faced by mobile phone users. Owing to late night use of mobile phones, the youngsters skip on sleep which further causes health complications. This makes them aggressive and irritated. If you withhold an android phone from a child addicted to games in the mobile phone, he/she starts throwing tantrum. It is a curse that majority of the parents give the android phones to pacify the young children who refuse food and refuse to do homework if phone is withheld for even five minutes. Many young children who gaze at the mobile phone for hours tend to develop eye problems too. Addiction to mobile technology is a dangerous problem facing young children and adults of this country. Child psychologists and social activists are really worried how on earth we are going to wean young children away from the obsessive compulsive disorder of using android mobile phones and how we are going to redeem the youth from the sure disillusionment in continuing virtual friends to the point of ignoring family ties.

The other major disadvantage of the increasing use of such networking sites is the spread of obscenity or addiction to viewing explicit content. It is worrying because even adolescents have easy access to such sites because of the cheap data provided by greedy telecom business men. This is having a very negative impact on the impressionable minds of our young children and leading them astray.

The parents, teachers and the government must look into the problems being caused by mobiles and these networking sites and must formulate a strategy either to curb or completely stop its fast growing negative influence on the minds of our youth. Our youth is the future of our nation. We cannot allow this youth to waste their precious time on mobiles, chatting on the facebook and whatsapp. The same time must be spent on studying, researching and developing leadership or other life-skills. I conclude that it is our moral duty as well as responsibility to lead children and youth on the right path and teach them to make best use of these wonderful gadgets to improve themselves only.

**(c) Organize a class debate on the motion 'The advantages of social websites'. (Use the expressions for arguments like – First, firstly, I mean, My point is, In my opinion, Let me consider, etc.)**

The advantages of Social websites

At the outset, let us consider some irrefutable facts .We live in a time and age where information is just a button press away. We are swayed by information all around us. We



millennials want to know, read, understand and then speak our minds about it. That is where social media comes into play. Social media is one of the biggest elements that we live with and cannot ignore it. Social media plays a big role in our lives today. We have the access to any kind of information at just a button push away. Anything that is so vastly expanded has both positives and negatives related to it. The power of social media is very high and has its effects on each individual. It is difficult to imagine our lives with social media today and we do pay a price for excessive use. There is a lot of debate about the effects of social media on the society as a whole. Some feel that it's a boon whereas others feel that it is a curse.

Social media is a collection of websites, applications and other platforms that enable us to share or create content and also helps us to participate in social networking. Social media is not limited to blogging and sharing pictures, there are a lot of strong tools also that social media provides. That is because that the impact of social media is very high and far reaching, it can make or break images.

Of course, I agree that social media is a topic of controversy today, many feel it's a boon but there is a majority who feels that it is a curse. It has become an inevitable evil. Mostly people feel that social media has destroyed human interaction with a rapid rate and has modified modern human relationships. But there are others who feel that it is a blessing that has connected us to every part of the world, we can meet our loved ones that are far, we can spread awareness through it, we can send security warnings etc. There is a lot that social media can do. But it is an unarguable fact the presence of social media has made our lives convenient, easier and much faster.

In my opinion, mobile phones have not lowered active social life. On the contrary, they have made our social life more active! You must be wondering I am kidding! No I am not. Let me prove it. The IT revolution has made the internet network so fast and easily accessible. As a result we are using Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. more often sharing our latest whereabouts regularly, daily, or hourly! We wish our friends, relatives good morning, good afternoon, good evening, or good night almost daily using picture messages or videos. Was social life ever so active in the past? We send receive invitations, news, and one another's views through these socializing applications! What will you call this exchange of information? Has it lowered active social life or heightened active social life?

Role of media in Jasmine revolution:

I would like to give some examples as to how social websites can overhaul even governments. In an article "The Emerging Role of Social Media in Political and Regime Change" by Rita Safranek, published in ProQuest, talks about social media as a major catalyst in bringing about the change in many countries that were going through a major period of political unrest. The author talks about the triggering point of the Jasmine Revolution, the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi was captured by passers-by and posted and re-posted on YouTube for everyone to see. Furthermore, the mass protests at his funeral also spread quickly all over. The author goes on to say that despite very strict

censorship of the internet by Tunisia's government, Tunisians were able to emerge as highly connected – 33% of the Tunisian population uses the internet, 16% uses Facebook and 18% uses Twitter.

Although the government did block YouTube during the crucial period of protests, it was unable to stop experienced bloggers and activists from finding alternate methods like by using private and proxy networks to post and re-post various contents and videos all over the cyber world. In fact, there was an eight percent increase in the number of Facebook users in Tunisia in the beginning of January 2011. The nature of the content being shared also changed with time – more content related to the current political situation and unrest was being shared. Although the author credits social media with helping organize the protest and connect activists, she also goes on to say that the social media will not be helpful with running the country which is the current concern in the country at present.

Social media and Jallikkattu Protests:

In my opinion, the success of Jallikkattu is a recent example. The youth of the entire state of Tamil Nadu clamoured for the right to conduct a traditional sport that half of them had only seen on television. How did the Jallikkattu case that has been in court for years, suddenly capture the imagination of the masses, enough to make them skip school, college and work . and take to the streets? How they gathered in millions in the Marina beach and camped there for weeks to press their demands in the most incredible manner. The answer to this is buried ' beneath superior internet connectivity, hash tags, viral videos, disenchantment and the post-truth phenomenon. Tamil Nadu boasts of spectacular rural teledensity, well ahead of most other parts of the country.

Student B:

In my strong opinion, social media is the single most factor causing depression and anxiety in people. It is also a cause of poor mental growth in children. Increased use of social media ' can lead to poor sleeping patterns. There are many other negative effects like cyber bullying, hacking, etc. as well. There is an increased 'Fear of Missing out' (FOMO) at an all-time high i in youth because of social media. Such ill inclinations need to be prevented by educating boys, girls and vulnerable women against unguarded use of social websites.

Conclusion: One must carefully weigh the positives and the negatives before engaging excessively in social media. If used in the most judicious way, social media can be a boon for mankind.

## Reading

**(a) Read the following passage carefully and Answer the following Questions.**

Pollution is the introduction of contaminants into the environment that causes harm to the ecosystem. The different kinds of pollution are air pollution, water pollution and land pollution. The release of various gases, finely divided solid particles, or liquid droplets that

escape into the atmosphere to disperse and dilute in the environment is called air pollution. Modern society is also concerned about specific types of pollutants, such as noise pollution, light pollution, and plastic pollution.

Particulate matter (PM), also known as particle pollution, is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets that get into the air. These particles if inhaled can affect health. The impact of PM 2.5 is particularly high in South Asia. Outdoor pollution is caused by a variety of pollutants like public and private vehicles, waste burning in the open, power

production industries and construction and even cigarette smoking in public places. Presently, air pollution is a major and growing risk factor for ill health in India. Delhi is one of the most air polluted cities in India. The air in the city as well as areas surrounding it has worsened to extremely hazardous levels in the recent years. This year's pollution level is the worst in four years. Several studies have shown that poor air quality is a cause for many health issues among people with lower respiratory disorders with symptoms like dry cough, breathlessness, wheezing, chest discomfort, serious lung infections and cardiovascular diseases. Some studies throw light on the fact that about 16 per cent of the deaths worldwide in 2015 were due to pollution.

Air Masks are an option to protect oneself outdoor. Air masks can be used while commuting or while one is exposed to a polluted area. Some of these masks also include a layer of Activated carbon to filter the air. They protect us from suspended air particles and particulate matter up to the size of 2.5 microns and above. Their usage is limited to some days and should be disposed off after their prescribed duration of usage. The price for air masks starts from Rs 100 and can go up to Rs 500 and more. We have to take active measures to control pollution and protect ourselves to lead a healthy and pollution free life.

## **Questions:**

### **Question 1.**

What is meant by pollution? Mention the different kinds of pollution.

#### **Answer:**

Pollution is the introduction of contaminants into the environment that can cause harm to the ecosystem. The different kinds of pollution are air pollution, water pollution and land pollution.

### **Question 2.**

How does Particulate matter cause air pollution?

#### **Answer:**

Particulate matter (PM) also known as Particle pollution. It is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets that get into the air. These particles, if inhaled can affect health.

**Question 3.**

Identify three major causes of pollution in air.

**Answer:**

The release of various gases, finely divided solid particles, or liquid droplets that escape into the atmosphere to disperse and dilute in the environment are the major causes of air pollution.

**Question 4.**

Name the types of pollution we encounter now.

**Answer:**

We encounter air pollution, noise pollution, light pollution and plastic pollution.

**Question 5.**

What sort of health issues do people face due to air pollution?

**Answer:**

The quality of air in cities has reduced to hazardous levels. This causes lower respiratory disorders with symptoms like dry cough, breathlessness, wheezing, chest discomfort, serious lung infections and cardio-vascular diseases.

**Question 6.**

How can we protect ourselves outdoor from air pollution?

**Answer:**

Air masks can be used while commuting or while one is exposed to a polluted area. Some of these masks also include a layer of Activated Carbon to filter the air. They protect us from suspended air particles and particulate up to the size of 2.5 microns and above.

**Question 7.**

Suggest a suitable title to the passage.

**Answer:**

Rising levels of Pollution and ways to avoid health issues.

**Question 8.**

Identify the meaning of the word similar to the one used in the fourth para:

**Answer:**

- (a) emerging
- (b) filtering
- (c) floating
- (d) falling

**(b) Read the following information given in the table below and Answer the**

## Questions.

A nice choice from Chennai to the National capital			
RAJADHANI EXPRESS TIMETABLE			
Shortest Route between Chennai and Hazrat Nizamuddin 8 Halts & 324 intermediate stations in between			
Station Name	Departs	Day	Speed
Chennai Central	06.05	1	75
Vijayawada	11.55	1	76
Warangal	14.40	1	77
Balharshah	18.00	1	78
Nagpur	20.45	1	74
Bhopal	02.10	2	89
Jhansi	05.31	2	99
Gwalior	06.32	2	85
Agra Cantt	07.57	2	76
Hazrat Nizamudin	10.25	2	-

### Question (a)

The number of stations between Chennai Central and Hazrat Nizamudin is \_\_\_\_

- (i) five
- (ii) ten
- (iii) eight
- (iv) eleven

**Answer:**

- (iii) eight

### Question (b)

The train is expected to reach around 8.45 PM

- (i) Warangal
- (ii) Vijayawada
- (iii) Bhopal
- (iv) Nagpur

**Answer:**

- (iv) Nagpur

**Question (c)**

Between the train runs at it's maximum speed.

- (i) Bhopal and Gwalior
- (ii) Bhopal and Jhansi
- (iii) Bhopal and Hazarat Nizamudin
- (iv) Bhopal and Agra

**Answer:**

- (ii) Bhopal and Jhansi

**Question (d)**

Almost the train reaches Vijayawada.

- (i) the day after
- (ii) around early morning
- (iii) late night
- (iv) around noon

**Answer:**

- (iv) around noon

**Question (e)**

People prefer the Rajadhani express to travel from Chennai to reach the capital because

- (i) it reaches the destination on the same day
- (ii) The charge is reasonable
- (iii) the train halts at eight stations
- (iv) it is the shortest route from Chennai to New Delhi

**Answer:**

- (iii) the train halts at eight stations

**Question (f)**

The destination of Rajadhani express is

- (i) Hazarat Nizamudin
- (ii) New Delhi junction
- (iii) Old Delhi
- (iv) Rajkot

**Answer:**

- (i) Hazarat Nizamudin

## Grammar

### Non-Finite Verbs

#### Task 1

Underline the gerunds in the following sentences.

1. Boys love playing cricket.
2. I love eating ice creams.
3. Jessie enjoys bothering others.
4. Painting is an interesting hobby.
5. Dancing gives me joy.

## Task 2

Use the gerundial form of the verb in the brackets and fill in the blanks.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (exercise) is good for health.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (fly) a kite is fun.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (shop) is my favourite hobby.
4. My friend waited for the \_\_\_\_\_ (meet).
5. Huckleberry Finn was responsible for \_\_\_\_\_ (signal).

### Answers

1. Exercising
2. Flying
3. Shopping
4. meeting
5. signalling

## Task 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct infinitives.

1. Deva forgot \_\_\_\_\_ the letter.
2. The doctor advised the patient \_\_\_\_\_ his medicines without fail.
3. Rajesh went to the airport \_\_\_\_\_ his friend.
4. The bear climbed up the tree \_\_\_\_\_ the honey.
5. The boys went to the forest \_\_\_\_\_ birds.
6. tried hard \_\_\_\_\_ both ends meet.
7. The archaeologists are trying \_\_\_\_\_ the ruins of Keelady.
8. Solar energy is used \_\_\_\_\_ electricity.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ concession, you have to apply well in advance.
10. We have plans \_\_\_\_\_ to London during summer vacation.

### Answer:

1. to post
2. to take
3. to receive
4. to eat

5. to trap
6. to make
7. to rebuild
8. to produce
9. To get
10. to go

## **Task 4**

**Combine each of the following pairs of sentences using participles.  
The first one is done for you.**

Example: 1 didn't know what to do. I phoned the police.  
Not knowing what to do, I phoned the police.

### **Question 1.**

The baby cried. She was feeling sleepy.

**Answer:**

Feeling sleepy, the baby cried.

### **Question 2.**

He lived alone. He had forgotten everybody.

**Answer:**

Living alone, he had forgotten everybody

### **Question 3.**

She walked out. She was smiling.

**Answer:**

Smiling, she walked out.

### **Question 4.**

The child says he needs attention. He shouts loudly.

**Answer:**

Shouting loudly, the child says that he needs attention.

### **Question 5.**

threw the pen. It was broken.

**Answer:**

The pen being broken, I threw it away.

### **Question 6.**

His coat is tattered. It needs mending.



**Answer:**

Being tattered, the coat needs mending.

**Question 7.**

heard the noise. I turned around.

**Answer:**

Hearing the noise, I turned around

**Question 8.**

He was dissatisfied. He quit his job.

**Answer:**

Being dissatisfied, he quit his job.

**Question 9.**

The politician entered the campus. He was accompanied by many comrades.

**Answer:**

Being accompanied by many comrades, the politician entered the campus.

**Question 10.**

The girl entered the room. She was singing a song.

**Answer:**

Singing a song, the girl entered the room.

## Articles And Determiners

### Articles

#### Task 1

**Complete the following exercise using a/ an/ the/ 'o' (no article) in the underlined space where appropriate. Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.**

According to (1) \_\_\_\_ National Weather Report, cyclones are winds circulating (2) \_\_\_\_ counter clockwise in (3) \_\_\_\_ Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in (4) \_\_\_\_ southern Hemisphere. Cyclones are usually accompanied by (5) \_\_\_\_ stormy weather. Tornadoes and hurricanes are types of cyclones. (6) \_\_\_\_ hurricane is (7) \_\_\_\_ cyclone that forms over (8) \_\_\_\_ tropical oceans and seas. (9) \_\_\_\_ hurricane rotates in (10) \_\_\_\_ shape of (11) \_\_\_\_ oval or a circle. (12) \_\_\_\_ Hurricane Andrew, which hit (13) \_\_\_\_ coasts of Louisiana and Southern Florida in August 1992, caused (14) \_\_\_\_ extreme devastation. It was one of (15) \_\_\_\_ most devastating hurricanes ever to hit (16) \_\_\_\_ U.S.. Fourteen people died of (17) \_\_\_\_ Andrew's effect.

**Answer:**

1. the
2. 'o'
3. the
4. the
5. a
6. the
7. The
8. a
9. the
10. The
11. the
12. an
13. The
14. the
15. 'o'
16. the
17. the
18. the

## Task 2

Complete the following sentences using appropriate determiners.

1. Only \_\_\_\_ people can afford to buy a flat in Chennai.
2. She earns so \_\_\_\_ that she could not make a decent living.
3. \_\_\_\_ information that she gave proved false.
4. How \_\_\_\_ sugar do you want?
5. I am very tired today, as I had \_\_\_\_ guests today.
6. \_\_\_\_ of my students have become doctors.
7. \_\_\_\_ do I know about his personal life.
8. How \_\_\_\_ pages did you read?
9. \_\_\_\_ fertilizer used these days spoils the soil.
10. During my student life I used to give \_\_\_\_ trouble to my teachers.

**Answer:**

1. a few
2. little
3. The
4. much
5. some
6. Some
7. Little
8. many
9. The
10. much

## Degrees Of Comparison- Transformation

### Task 1

Transform each of the following sentences using the comparative degree without changing the meaning.

**Question 1.**

Very few Indian languages are as ancient as Tamil.

**Answer:**

No other Indian language is more ancient than Tamil.

**Question 2.**

Hurricanes are as dangerous as tornadoes.

**Answer:**

Hurricanes are not more dangerous than tornadoes.

**Question 3.**

This is the most challenging task I have ever undertaken.

**Answer:**

This task is more challenging than any other task I have undertaken.

**Question 4.**

E-mail is the fastest means of communication.

**Answer:**

E-mail is faster than all other means of communication.

**Question 5.**

Compulsive gambling is the worst habit a man can develop.

**Answer:**

No other habit is more compulsive than gambling that a man can develop.

### Task 2

Rewrite each of the following sentences using the superlative degree retaining the meaning.

**Question 1.**

Shakespeare is greater than many other dramatists of the world.

**Answer:**

Shakespeare is the greatest dramatist in the world.

**Question 2.**

Some people think that nothing is as important as money in life.

**Answer:**

Some people think that money is the most important thing in life.

**Question 3.**

The peacock is more colourfull than any other bird found in India.

**Answer:**

The peacock is the most colourfull bird in India.

**Question 4.**

Very few people in this town are as generous as Mr. Mohan.

**Answer:**

Mr. Mohan is the most generous person in this town.

**Question 5.**

No other planet in our solar system is as cold as Neptune.

**Answer:**

Neptune is the coldest planet in our solar system.

**Question 6.**

cannot do anything better for you than this.

**Answer:**

This is the best thing I can do for you.

## **Task 3**

**Replace the comparative adjectives in the following sentences with their positive forms.**

**Question 1.**

Rural life is certainly more peaceful than urban life.

**Answer:**

Urban life is not so peaceful as rural life.

**Question 2.**

The pen is mightier than the sword.

**Answer:**

Sword is not so mighty as the pen.

**Question 3.**

Train journey is more comfortable than bus journey.

**Answer:**

Bus journey is not so comfortable as train journey.

**Question 4.**

My mother can speak more sweetly than anyone else.

**Answer:**

No one can speak so sweetly as my mom.

**Question 5.**

Gold is not more useful than iron.

**Answer:**

Gold is not so useful as iron.

## Writing Slogan Writing Tips for writing an effective slogan

Highlight a key benefit. The point of a slogan is to differentiate a product or brand from that of its competitors, while also underscoring the company's general mission.

1. Explain the company's commitment.
2. Be consistent.
3. Keep it short and simple.
4. Give them a rhythm, rhyme and ring.
5. Stay honest.
6. Make it timeless.
7. Be unique and different.

While writing slogans to create awareness among the public

- Explain the need for the change.
- Make it sensible and easy to understand.
- Keep in mind the target audience and use catchy phrases to suit the audience.

Look at the pictures given below, and write slogans to advertise the products. Suggest your own



Sparkle Toothpaste – Removes bacteria and strengthens the gums.

Zoom Cam – Captures beautiful moments

Revos Water Purifier – Pure, natural, refreshing and healthful.

Mughal Gulab Jamun – Roly-poly syrupy sweet, melts in your mouth as soon as you eat.

Write slogans to create awareness of the following topics using the tips given above.

- Junk food – Fast food and fast death
- Labour Day – Labours are your many hands, keep them relaxed and happy.
- Save Water – Don't let life slip down the drain.
- Yoga – Takes nothing but gives you health, fitness and peace.
- Blood Donation – Your blood can give life to someone.

## Paragraph Writing

Write a paragraph of about 150 words, on the following topics.

**Question (a)**

The teacher I like the most

**Answer:**

I like my science miss Sangeetha very much. She always uses very lively demonstration to help us understand not only principles or formulaes in Science, but also human values. One day she taught us how plants also have the capacity to feel happiness and respond to the language of love. We thought it was a joke. The next day she brought two plants of the same size in two pots. She asked us to keep one in the next room window and one in our classroom near the window. Both plants were watered regularly. The plant in the classroom window was showered with love and we sang songs and spoke to her in an endearing language. The other plant was ignored. In three months time, the plant we doted on grew tall and started blooming. But the other plant was drooping and about to die. One girl in my class begged the teacher to give the same treatment to the other plant. Both the

plants were kept together and the treatment continued. In the next few months both grew tall. It became difficult to tell them apart when we asked science miss how this happened she said, "With love everything grows." So, I like Sangeetha teacher very much.

**Question (b)**

The value of discipline

**Answer:**

Discipline is of much value in every walk of our lives. We need to be disciplined in the school, home, office, institutions, factory, playground, battlefield or other places. It is necessary for leading a happy and peaceful life. It gives us lots of great opportunities, the right way to go ahead, to learn new things in life, to experience more within less time, etc. and grow. Whereas, indiscipline gives no peace and progress in life, instead it creates lots of problems. Discipline is the act of keeping one's body, mind and soul under control and doing all the works in the right manner in the right time. It is also following the orders of our parents, elders, superiors, teachers and officers who lead us towards success. We need to behave well in an orderly manner. We should value the importance of discipline in our daily lives. People, who are not disciplined in their lives; face lots of problems and ultimately feel disappointed with themselves.

**Question (c)**

Need for Moral Education in schools

**Answer:**

Education is said to be complete only when it leads to the all round development of an individual, which encompasses not only intellectual but also moral development. The social thinking of an individual is influenced by moral education which makes him/ her a person who can distinguish between what is right and what is wrong. In modern times, imparting moral education has become a basic need, where one is fast witnessing a degeneration of moral values. Students are the future of our country. The future of our country depends on the moral values imparted to them. Moral lessons should be properly taught among students in homes, schools and colleges. Moral education is concerned with moral virtues, such as respect for others, honesty and responsibility. It is important as it gives an understanding of diversity, tolerance, mutual respect and pluralistic values. Since young students readily and unconsciously learn whatever is taught to them, whether good or bad, if they do not have proper guidance, they may get misled. Therefore, it is crucial that the students be given moral education which will make them acquire sound religious and moral principles, that will lead to the development of appropriate attitudes and values that will help them take good decisions in their adulthood.

**Question (d)**

The importance of Good Health

**Answer:**

We are familiar with the saying, "Health is wealth". Health is a state of complete physical, social and mental well being and not merely the absence of a disease which is more important than any amounts of wealth. When there is health and peace of mind, a person

can achieve more than even he/she can imagine. It is a resource of everyday life. Mahatma Gandhi has said, "It is health which is real wealth, and not pieces of gold and silver". There is nothing more blessed than to be healthy all through life without being dependent on anyone. People who don't have a healthy lifestyle, suffer a range of health disorders like obesity, high blood pressure, heart diseases, diabetes, high cholesterol, kidney problems, liver disorders, etc. An unhealthy person will always be worried and cannot be cheerful. Being healthy takes lots of efforts, although, it is rewarding. Being in good health alone allows a person to perform well in their daily lives and be successful.

#### **Question (e)**

The importance of Reading

#### **Answer:**

Descartes says, "The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest people of the past centuries." It is rightly said that Books are your best friend as reading helps build up your confidence and uplifts your mood. Reading can help one grow and give a new perspective in life. The more one reads, the more one falls in love w'ith reading. Reading develops language skills and vocabulary. Reading books is also a way to relax and reduce stress. Reading increases creativity and enhances one's understanding of life.

Reading also inspires one to develop writing skill as well. If one wants to adopt some good habits in life then reading should definitely be on the top of one's list. It plays a vital role in the positive mental attitude and development of a person. Reading leads to self-improvement. The pleasure of reading cannot be expressed in words. One needs to read to experience the joy of reading. There are many advantages of good reading habits which keeps one's mind active, strong and healthy. Reading is essential for one's overall personality growth and development. Besides, one will never feel bored or lonely if one develops good reading habits.

**Observe the following pictures and write a paragraph in about 150 words about each one of them.**

#### **Question (a)**





**Answer:**

Now, in India, we have the technology to predict the time and location of a cyclone at least 6 to 10 hours prior to its occurrence. This picture reminds one of the devastation caused by Gaja cyclone in the recent past.

Tamil Nadu government was much appreciated for the timely warning given to the people. Many farmers in Nagapattinam, Thiruvavarur and Pudukkottai districts who had coconut farming were disheartened because it would take a minimum of 15 to 20 years to raise them again. On such disasters, instead of just waiting for the state or centre to give doles of mercy, youth across the state, 'who are volunteers in NSS, NCC, JRC, Scouts and Guides can swing into action and help rebuild the victims' homes by raising funds and by offering labour.

Volunteers can generate awareness among people to go for mixed crops and not depend on only one type of crop for their sustenance. Students can dig wells in such cyclone prone districts because water becomes scarce as all electricity gets disrupted for many weeks. If students pitch in and join in rescue and rehabilitation work, they would be recognised as responsible citizens of the country.

**Question (b)****Answer:**

Animals in captivity always long for freedom even if they are fed regularly. But, they don't like it. Animals love to hunt and eat their prey alive. Cats roam freely and chase the rats and eat them. Even if domesticated they don't want to be kept in a cage like an object showcased for an audience. They want to roam inside the house and even share the pillow of the mistress of the house. The canary bird we find in the picture is a singing bird. It is sure that if the cat were out, it would try to make a meal of him. Yet, the bird feels sorry for the caged cat. It tries to appeal to the mistress of the house to let the cat free.

**The Status of Tamil as a Classical Language About The Author**



George Luzerne Hart is a professor of Tamil language at the University of California, Berkeley. His work focuses on classical Tamil literature and on identifying the relationships between Tamil and Sanskrit literature. In 2015, the Government of India awarded him the title of Padma Shri, the third highest civilian honour. He studied Latin, Greek, Sanskrit and several modern and European languages.

The Status of Tamil as a Classical Language Summary in English

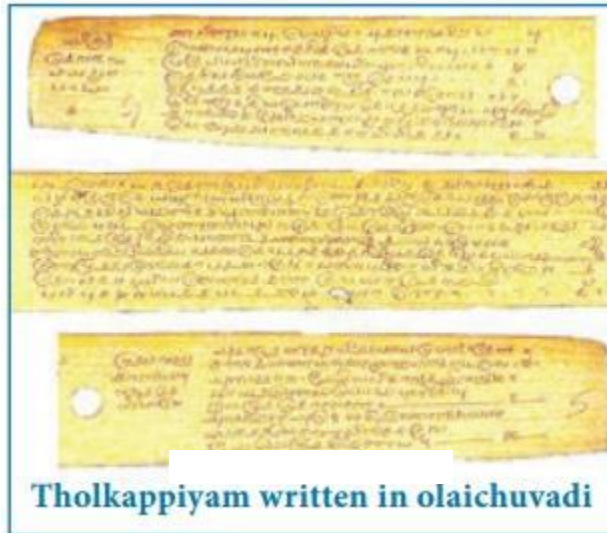
## Introduction

Mr. George L. Hart, a linguistic anthropologist, has made an attempt to make a comparative analysis of classical languages of the world. In response to Prof. Maraimalai's request, the author, after a meticulous analysis of world's classical languages writes about the position of Tamil, which is the best among the equals.

## Eligibility of the scholar

Prof. George L. Hart is heading the Department of Tamil in the University of California, Berkeley, since 1975. Currently he holds the Tamil chair there. He has done his degree in Sanskrit in Harvard. Initially, he was appointed as Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1969. Besides Tamil and Sanskrit, the author is well-versed in Greek and Latin. He has read extensively in their literature in the original. He has a strong grounding in the comparative linguistics and literatures of modern Europe. In recognition of his deep knowledge of Indian classical languages, he was conferred Padma Shri award, the third highest civilian honour

## Tamil – A classical language with classical tradition and literature



Three most important things according to the author make Tamil indisputably the best classical language in the world in comparison with Greek, Latin, Arabic and Sanskrit. The first is its antiquity. Sangam literature and the Pattuppattu date to first two centuries of the current era. Secondly, Tamil possesses indigenous literary tradition independent of Sanskrit or any other Indian languages. | In fact, Tamil has influenced Sanskrit and Malayalam to a great extent. Thirdly, it is fit to stand beside the great literatures of Sanskrit, Greek, Persian and Arabic. The subtlety and profundity of Tamil works, their varied scope and universality qualify Tamil to be rated as one of the greater classical tradition of the world. Thirukkural is one of the world's greatest work on ethics. It covers every facet of human life.

## Meeting all criterion of a classical language



Tamil is extremely old (i.e.) as old as Latin and older than Arabic. It arose as an entirely independent tradition with almost no influence from Sanskrit or any other Indian Languages. There's god's plenty in Tamil literature.

## Conclusion

It is established beyond doubt that Tamil is one of the greatest classical languages of the world. It has become a vital and central part of the greatness and richness of Indian culture.

# Poem

## Father to his Son

---

### Warm up

Every parent is anxious about the welfare of his / her children. Parents express their anxiety by advising them almost all the time. What kind of advice do you frequently receive from your parents? Fill in the bubbles. Tick the ones you like to follow implicitly and reasons for the ones you don't like to follow.



Answer:



- Wash your fingers before eating.
- Don't stay awake till late night.
- Who are you talking to over the phone for a long time?

1. I don't like to tell my parents what I do with the phone. Why should they interfere with my privacy?

2. I don't gossip; I just share what I enjoyed. My friends tell me what they like. How can my parents call it 'gossip'?

Time spent in sharing our dreams is not wasted but invested. The other three agree.

## 1. Fill in the blanks choosing the words from the box given and complete the summary of the poem.

A father sees his son nearing manhood.

What shall he tell that son?

“Life is hard; be steel; be a rock.”

And this might stand him for the storms  
and serve him for humdrum monotony

and guide him among sudden betrayals  
and tighten him for slack moments.

“Life is a soft loam; be gentle; go easy.”

And this too might serve him.

Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.

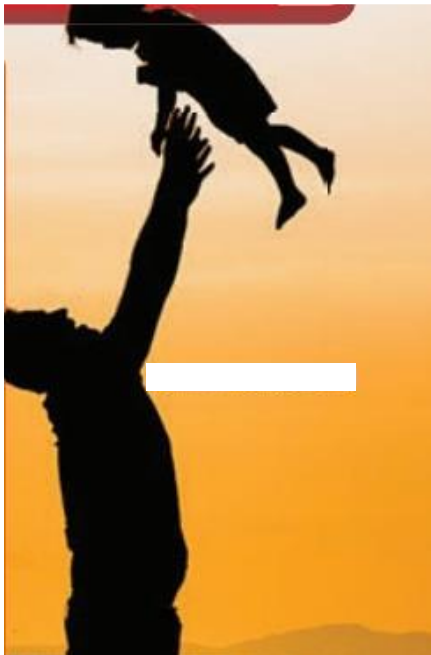
The growth of a frail flower in a path up  
has sometimes shattered and split a rock.

A tough will counts. So does desire.

So does a rich soft wanting.

Without rich wanting nothing arrives.

Tell him too much money has killed men  
and left them dead years before burial:  
the quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs  
has twisted good enough men  
sometimes into dry thwarted worms



Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.  
Tell him to be a fool ever so often  
and to have no shame over having been a fool  
yet learning something out of every folly  
hoping to repeat none of the cheap follies

thus arriving at intimate understanding  
of a world numbering many fools.  
Tell him to be alone often and get at himself  
and above all tell himself no lies about himself  
whatever the white lies and protective fronts

he may use against other people.  
Tell him solitude is creative if he is strong  
and the final decisions are made in silent rooms.  
Tell him to be different from other people  
if it comes natural and easy being different.

Let him have lazy days seeking his deeper motives.  
Let him seek deep for where he is born natural.  
Then he may understand Shakespeare  
and the Wright brothers, Pasteur, Pavlov,  
Michael Faraday and free imaginations

Bringing changes into a world resenting change.  
He will be lonely enough  
to have time for the work  
he knows as his own.



## Lines 1-25

deep desire	manhood	gentleness	mistakes	easy
leisure	fool	life	money	repeat
tender-flower	rock	challenges	wisdom	

The poet Carl Sandburg gives a vivid description of a father's worldly (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in directing a son who is at the threshold of his (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Here the father motivates his son to be like a hard (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and withstand life's (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and sudden betrayals. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is like a fertile soil. We can make our life fruitful if we are gentle, and take life as it comes. At times (6) \_\_\_\_\_ overtakes harshness. The growth of a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ can split a rock. One should have a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and strong will to achieve. Greed for (9) \_\_\_\_\_ has left men dead before they really die. Good men also have fallen prey in quest for (10) \_\_\_\_\_ money. Time for (11) \_\_\_\_\_ is not a waste. When you seek knowledge never feel ashamed to be called a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ for not knowing, at the same time learn from your (13) \_\_\_\_\_ and never (14) \_\_\_\_\_ it.

### Answers:

1. wisdom
2. manhood
3. rock
4. challenges
5. life
6. gentleness
7. tender-flower
8. deep desire
9. money
10. easy
11. leisure
12. fool
13. mistakes
14. repeat

## Lines 26-44

changes	introspect	inherent	work   resents
---------	------------	----------	----------------



white lies	creative	final decisions	different :
------------	----------	-----------------	-------------

Do (15) \_\_\_\_\_ often, and do not hesitate to accept your shortcomings, avoid (16) to protect self against other people. Solitude helps to be (17) and (18) are taken in silent rooms. Instead of being one among many, be (19) , if that is your nature. The son may need lazy days to find his (20) abilities, to seek what he is bom for. He will then know how free imaginations bring (21) to the world, which (22) change. During such resentment, let him know that it is time for him to be on his own, and (23) to achieve like Shakespeare, the Wright brothers, Pasteur, Pavlov, and Michael Faraday.

**Answer:**

- 15. introspect
- 16. white lies
- 17. creative
- 18. final decisions
- 19. different
- 20. inherent
- 21. changes
- 22. resents
- 23. work

## 2. Based on your understanding of the poem Answer the following Questions in one or two sentences.

**Question (a)**

How would the poet's advice help his son who is at the threshold of manhood?

**Answer:**

The poet's advice helps his son face life's challenges and sudden betrayals daringly.

**Question (b)**

A tough will counts.' Explain.

**Answer:**

One's physical strength doesn't matter. Any person with a strong will can achieve great feats. A frail flowering plant succeeds in splitting a rock due to its hard will. Thus a tough will (i.e.) "rich soft wanting" determines one's success.

**Question (c)**

What happened to the people who wanted too much money?

**Answer:**

The people who wanted too much money has left dead before they really die.

**Question (d)**

What has twisted good men into thwarted worms?

**Answer:**

One's desire or love for money should be limited to meeting one's basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter. Beyond that, inordinate desire to possess a lot of money in a dishonourable way reduces even good men to "thwarted worms".

**Question (e)**

How would his being alone help the boy?

**Answer:**

Being alone would help the boy to be more creative and make him take final decisions.

**Question (f)**

Where are the final decisions taken?

**Answer:**

In silent rooms, final decisions are taken.

**Question (g)**

What are the poet's thoughts on 'being different'?

**Answer:**

The poet says that instead of being one among many, his son should be different if it is work with ease and nature.

**Question (h)**

Why does the poet advise his son to have lazy days?

**Answer:**

Lazy days would help the boy to find his inherent abilities and goad him to discover the purpose for which he was born.

**Question (i)**

The poet says

'Without rich wanting nothing arrives'

but he condemns 'the quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs.' Analyze the difference and write.

**Answer:**

Everyone needs money to satisfy his desire and wanted things. His motto must be in the right way. One should earn money honestly. He must be contented with what he had in his life. But the search for money illegally should not be entertained. One should not accumulate money beyond essential needs.

### **3. Here are a few poetic devices used in the poem.**

**Question (a)**

Antithesis – It is a literary device that emphasizes the idea of contrast,  
eg. The growth of a frail flower in a path up  
has sometimes shattered and split  
a rock. Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.

**Question (b)**

Transferred Epithet – It is a figure of speech in which an epithet grammatically qualifies a noun other than the person or a thing, it is actually meant to describe.  
eg. and left them dead years before burial:  
Let him have lazy days seeking his deeper motives.  
Bringing changes into a world resenting change.

**Question (c)**

Repetition – It is a figure of speech.  
eg. Tell him to be alone often and get at himself and above all tell himself no lies about himself

## **Appreciate The Poem**

### **4. Read the lines given below and Answer the Questions that follow.**

(a) “Life is hard; be steel; be a rock.”

**Question (i)**

How should one face life?

**Answer:**

One should face life-like steel.

**Question (ii)**

Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

**Answer:**

Metaphor

(b) “Life is a soft loam; be gentle; go easy. ”

And this too might serve him.

**Question (i)**

Why does the poet suggest to take life easy?

**Answer:**

There are certain occasions one needs to treat life-like wet clay very gently. Take life as it comes without hard resistance. The poet says, “Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.”

**Question (ii)**

Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

**Answer:**

Metaphor

(c) "Tell him solitude is creative if he is strong  
and the final decisions are made in silent rooms."

**Question (i)**

Can being in solitude help a strong human being? How?

**Answer:**

Yes, solitude helps the strong person to be creative. Solitude helps even a strong human being to introspect and analyze his own mistakes.

**Question (ii)**

Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

**Answer:**

Personification

(d) "Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.  
Tell him to be a fool every so often"

**Question (i)**

Why does the poet suggest that time can be wasted?

**Answer:**

Unless one wastes one's time, one may not commit mistakes and learn from them. Besides learning not to repeat those mistakes would naturally make him wiser.

**Question (ii)**

Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

**Answer:**

Simile

**Question (e)**

"Tell him to be a fool ever so often  
and to have no shame over having been a fool  
yet learning something out of every folly  
hoping to repeat none of the cheap follies"

**Question (i)**

Is it a shame to be a fool at times?

**Answer:**

No, everyone does commit funny mistakes in life. One might just laugh at them.

**Question (ii)**

What does one learn from every folly?

**Answer:**

Every folly teaches a person his limitations and vulnerabilities. By making conscious efforts to avoid them in the future, one will become stronger and wiser.

(f) “\_\_\_\_\_ Free imaginations

Bringing changes into a world resenting change”

**Question (i)**

How does free imagination help the world?

**Answer:**

Free imagination brings changes in the world.

**Question (ii)**

Identify the figure of speech.

**Answer:**

Personification

**Question (e)**

Pick out the alliterated words from the poem and write.

“And this might stand him for the storms”

**Answer:**

The words stand and storms alliterate.

## **Additional Questions**

(a) “And this might stand him for the storms  
and serve him for humdrum monotony”

**Question (i)**

What does the poet mean by storms?

**Answer:**

The poet means life’s challenges by ‘storms’.

**Question (ii)**

What can help the son overcome “the boring routine” in life?

**Answer:**

One can overcome ‘the boring routine’ by keeping a strong steel/rock-like will power and face life boldly.

(b) “and guide him among sudden betrayals  
and tighten him for slack moments.”

**Question (i)**

What could guide the son among unexpected betrayals?

**Answer:**

Rock/steel-like would guide the son among betrayals.

**Question (ii)**

What could happen to the boy during slack moments?

**Answer:**

During slack moments, the boy may be betrayed by his trusted friends.

(c) “Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.”

**Question (i)**

When does the Government or law use lashes?

**Answer:**

When a brute has committed a crime, the law uses lashes to punish him.

**Question (ii)**

What can transform brutes?

**Answer:**

Gentleness can transform brutes.

(d) “The growth of a frail flower in a path up has sometimes shattered and split a rock.”

**Question (i)**

What do you mean by ‘frail’?

**Answer:**

Frail means weak and delicate.

**Question (ii)**

How does a frail flower plant split a rock?

**Answer:**

The plant’s tough will to survive and grow forces the rock to split.

**Question (e)**

“The quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs  
has twisted good enough men  
sometimes into dry thwarted worms.”

**Question (i)**

What do you mean by 'quest for lucre'?

**Answer:**

'Quest for lucre' means seeking money in a dishonourable way.

**Question (ii)**

What is the result of such a quest?

**Answer:**

It results in frustrating and ruining good men.

## **5. Explain the following lines with reference to the context.**

**Question (a)**

"and guide him among sudden betrayals  
and tighten him for slack moments."

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem "A Father to his Son" written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet says these words while explaining the need to stay strong like a rock or steel. The steel will guide him when confronted with unexpected betrayals from trusted friends. It will also help him to be strong against future experimentations.

**Question (b)**

"Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed."

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem "A Father to his Son" written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet highlights the importance of soft but firm will to melt even hardened criminals. Love can transform even criminals. Harsh punishment may harden them but gentleness and love may bring about a change of heart.

**Question (c)**

"Yet learning something out of every folly hoping to repeat none of the cheap follies"

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem "A Father to his Son" written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet says these words while hinting at the possibilities of failures in the pursuit of knowledge. People may mock a beginner as a fool. He should not feel ashamed of being called a fool. He must continue the pursuit of knowledge doggedly to achieve success.

**Question (d)**

“He will be lonely enough  
to have time for the work”

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem ‘A Father to his Son’ written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet says these words to explain how creative thinkers and those who strive to bring about changes are left alone to fend for themselves. The poet says his son must take advantage of this loneliness to pursue his creative imagination and succeed like Shakespeare, the Wright brothers, Pasteur, Pavlov, and Faraday.

## Additional Questions

**Question (a)**

“and above all tell himself no lies about himself  
whatever the white lies and protective fronts”

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem ‘A Father to his Son’ written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet says these words to his son as to how to conduct himself after a folly is done. He wants him not to tell lies or defend himself or blame others for his predicament. He must learn from his follies and become wiser.

**Question (b)**

“Let him have lazy days seeking his deeper motives.  
Let him seek deep for where he is born naturally. ”

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem ‘A Father to his Son’ written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet says these words while highlighting the advantages of spending leisure hours in introspection. When a person looks within in solitude he will realise his inner strength, innate abilities and also realise the purpose for which he has been created.

**Question (c)**

“Life is hard; be steel; be a rock.”  
And this might stand him for the storms”

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem ‘A Father to his Son’ written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet emphasizes the need to have rock or steel-like determination to confront the challenges in life. He believes that such a stance would help his son to overcome the boredom of the routine in life.



**Question (d)**

"A tough will counts. So does desire.  
So does a rich soft wanting

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet says these words while stressing the need to have the tough will to create a path for success even on rocky terrain. One needs to have a deep passionate desire and a strong will to succeed in life.

**Question (e)**

"The quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs  
has twisted good enough men"

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem "A Father to his Son" written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet says these words while explaining how ill-gotten wealth suffocates the good men. The money earned through dishonest means frustrates good men and even reduces to the level of worms.

**Question (f)**

"Tell him too much money has killed men  
and left them dead years before burial:"

**Answer:**

Reference: These lines are from the poem 'A Father to his Son' written by Carl August Sandburg.

Context and Explanation: The poet says these words while dwelling on the evil effects of amassing wealth beyond the basic needs of men. Oliver Goldsmith says, "Where wealth accumulates, man decays." The poet says that a man who amasses wealth against ethical principles is spiritually dead.

**6. Answer the following Questions in about 100-150 words each.**

**Question (a)**

Explain how the poet guides his son who is at the threshold of manhood, to face the challenges of life.

**Answer:**

The poet shares his wisdom with his son who is at the threshold of manhood. He persuades his son to be hard as steel or rock to withstand challenges and unforeseen betrayals in life. A person with a soft heart will crumble before a breach of trust. Similarly, he wants his son to be discerning enough to be soft when needed to grow like a frail flower plant splitting a rock. Occasionally one has to go with the current because life is at times fertile with a lot of opportunities to grow even among the harshest circumstances. 'Rich soft wanting' can help

a person to win against all odds. He reiterates this idea by explaining how gentleness can reform a hardened criminal when lashes would, in contrast, harden them further.

### **Question (b)**

How according to the poet is it possible for his son to bring changes into a world that resents change?

### **Answer:**

The poet advises his son to introspect often and not feel ashamed of being called a fool especially when he pursues knowledge. He can examine himself and remove his follies. He must enjoy the advantages of solitude. Solitude would help him to be creative. He would invariably learn that final decisions are always taken in silent rooms. Being alone, he can identify his innate potential and talents. His free imagination will bring about changes even if the world resents them. The zest to bring about changes will elevate him to the level of Shakespeare, Pasteur, Wright Brothers, Pavlov, and Michael Faraday. Thus he will be remembered as one of the great men who changed the world.

## **Listening Activity**

**Listen to the poem read by the teacher or to the recorded version and write a synopsis in about 100 words. The teacher can choose any three stanzas.**

Lincoln's Letter to his Son's Teacher:

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, all men are not true. But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero; that for every selfish politician, there is a dedicated leader... Teach him for every enemy there is a friend,

Steer him away from envy, if you can, teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Let him learn early that the bullies are the easiest to lick... Teach him, if you can, the wonder of books... But also give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and the flowers on a green hillside.

In the school teach him it is far honourable to fail than to cheat... Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong. Teach him to be gentle with gentle people, and tough with the tough.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the bandwagon... Teach him to listen to all men... but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth, and take only the good that comes through.

Teach him if you can, how to laugh when he is sad...Teach him there is no shame in tears, Teach him to scoff at cynics and to beware of too much sweetness...Teach him to sell his brawn and brain to the highest bidders but never to put a price-tag on his heart and soul. Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob and to stand and fight if he thinks he's right. Treat him gently, but do not cuddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

Let him have the courage to be impatient... Let him have the patience to be brave. Teach him always to have sublime faith in himself, because then he will have sublime faith in mankind. This is a big order, but see what you can do... He is such a fine little fellow, my son!

Abraham Lincoln

Synopsis of the first three stanzas:

Abraham Lincoln's letter to his son's teacher is full of his optimism and ethical values he believed in. He asks the teacher to teach his son to have faith in humanity and teach him not to be discouraged by scoundrels, selfish politicians, and enemies. For every selfish politician, there is a dedicated hero. He need not condemn all politicians as bad. There may be enemies but there is a friend for every enemy. Thus, the equations in life are wonderful. He must learn the dignity of labour and hard work. He should be taught the necessity of undergoing the pain of failure in order to appreciate success. He requests his son to stay away from envy and to enjoy quiet laughter. He wants him to teach his son that bullies accept defeat quickly. He also urges him to teach his son the wonders of reading books and deep quiet reflection on the beautiful mysteries of nature.

Given below is a well-known quotation.

"Cowards die many times before their death".

Study the quotations and identify the adverse human qualities that are worse than 'death' and discuss the underlying message conveyed.

Greed and the craze to amass wealth through dishonourable methods is like dying years before one actually dies. Cowardliness is equally worse than death. Shakespeare has said, "the valiant die only once in their lifetime."

**Father to his Son About the Poet**



"Poetry is the opening and closing of a door, leaving those who look through to guess about what was seen during a moment." – Carl Sandburg

Sandburg was born in Galesburg, Illinois, to parents of Swedish ancestry. Carl August Sandburg (January 6, 1878 – July 22, 1967) was an American poet, writer, and editor. He won three Pulitzer Prizes. During his lifetime, Sandburg was widely regarded as “a major

figure in contemporary literature”, especially for volumes of his collected verse, including Chicago Poems (1916), Comhuskers (1918), and Smoke and Steel (1920). He enjoyed; unrivaled appeal as a poet in his day. At his death in 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson observed that “Carl Sandburg was more than the voice of America, more than the poet of its strength and genius. He was America.”

## Father to his Son Summary in English

### Inheritance of wisdom

Poet Carl Sandburg wants to leave his wisdom to his son who is at the threshold of his manhood. He wants his son to be like steel and rock to confront the harsh challenges and betrayals. But he should use his discernment to go easy because life can be like soft clay too. He explains lucidly how a tender flowering plant with a ‘tough will’ can split a rock. He makes his son understand how gentleness has reformed criminals when lashes failed. One can’t achieve much without a deep desire to achieve success. He advises his son to be cautious with money for the greed of easy money has heralded the downfall of good men. One can’t acquire wisdom or knowledge overnight. One may commit mistakes in life and be called a fool. But one can overcome frailties by consciously avoiding such mistakes.

### Value of introspection

One has to look within and analyse one’s shortcomings. One must not be defensive but accept one’s own drawbacks. While contemplating in solitude, one gains flashes of insight into one’s own self and becomes creative. The best decisions in life are usually taken in silent rooms. If it is natural on one’s part to be different, ignoring criticisms one can dare to be different.

### Changes wrought by free imagination

Great geniuses like Shakespeare, Pasteur, Pavlov, and Michael Faraday achieved grand success in their pursuits because they wanted to use their free imagination to change the world in their own way. The world is complacent with the existing order of things and may resent changes. But if one brushes aside the popular resentment and strives hard with free imagination one can achieve success like scientists and social thinkers who have transformed the world.

### Conclusion

The greatest legacy a father can possibly leave his son or daughter is not wealth but wisdom and a positive attitude to meet challenges in life.

# Supplementary

## All Summer in a Day

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### Warm Up

- (a) What makes the earth the one and only living planet?  
(b) Name a few things that make the earth a unique planet.

	animals		
		The ozonelayer	

Answer:

Atmosphere	animals	plants	birds
butterflies	water	The ozonelayer	Human

- (c) Do you enjoy watching movies? What type of movies do you like to watch? Here are the pictures of a few blockbuster movies.



Classify the movies based on the following categories: Historical/ Comedy/ Horror/ Cartoon/ Science Fiction

Discuss : Gravity is a science fiction movie.

Student A: Gravity, a 2013 block buster science fiction movie received an overwhelming response for its realistic depiction of the various conditions and challenges faced by astronauts to save themselves after their spare shuttle gets' clobbered by space debris from a destroyed Russian satellite.

Student B: As much we loved watching Gravity, its important that we get acquainted with various scientific aspects depicted in the movie.

Student C: Let me tel! you about the opening scene of the movie. Three astronauts including Dr. Ryan Stone (played by Sandra Bullock) and Lieutenant Matt Kowalski (played by George Clooney) are seen space walking and having a nice informal chat.

Student D: Allow me to explain what the movie tries to convey to us. The crew members of space shuttle explorer are servicing the Hubble space telescope. Suddenly they are informed by mission control in Houston that a cloud of debris (caused by the destruction of a Russian defunct spaceship) is headed towards their location. They are advised to abort the mission to avoid a nasty collision. But the collision happens. Dr. Stone and Kowalski head for ISS after their shuttle is hit. ISS is destroyed. Kowalski and Stone get separated as their tethers get twisted. She couldn't dock the Soyuz with Chinese station. She ejects herself from Soyuz via

explosive decompression. She uses pressure from fire extinguisher to push herself towards Tiangong which is also abandoned in space. She enters Shenzhou capsule but is unable to separate the capsule from the space station. The space station begins to break up and the capsule gets separated. As the capsule falls to the earth, it corrects its position and descends through the atmosphere. Parachute opens up. Stone lands in a lake and comes out with unsteady legs.

#### **Question (a)**

Which aspect of the movie is real science?

#### **Answer:**

It is true that space debris can indeed cause uncontrolled collisions between objects present in lower earth orbit (LEO); the orbit that encloses every orbit below 2000 km, Kessler syndrome, excess of "trash" in the space orbit could cause problems. The world communication can be blacked out.

It is also true that space station can fall out of orbit. ISS has to be boosted to make sure that it maintains the orbit. The process doesn't take place suddenly. It takes a few years, it is true that the earth's atmosphere is relative to Earth's size. In the film, the fantastic shots of earth enveloped a thin translucent layer of atmosphere which was truly mesmerising. The

best thing is that they have correctly depicted the atmosphere's thinness relative to the earth's size without exaggeration.

**Question (b)**

Which aspect of the movie is fictional?

**Answer:**

Informal chats in a space walk is fictional. Every action during a space walk is premeditated in order to avoid unnecessary ambling and minimize the use of oxygen.

The possibility of the Hubble telescope and a destroyed Russian satellite colliding in the space is fictional because of the following reasons:

The Hubble telescope orbits at an altitude of 500 kilometres above the earth. The film claims that the Russian satellite is also in orbit at the same height. It is wrong because this type of communication satellites which are called TDRSS (Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System) stay in the geosynchronous orbit which is much higher (i.e.) almost 35000 km above the earth. The film showing the Hubble Telescope, ISS and Tiangong-1 located close to each other is fictional. In fact, these three man-made structures are not only at different heights but also lie in different orbits around the earth.

The scene in which Dr. Stone's tears trickle down his cheeks and then floats is fictional as it doesn't happen that way in space.

## **1. Based on your understanding of the story, Answer the following Questions in a sentence or two.**

**Question (a)**

What do children get ready for at the beginning of the story?

**Answer:**

The children get ready for looking at the sun at the beginning of the story.

**Question (b)**

How is life on the planet Venus described?

**Answer:**

It was raining continuously for seven years without Sunlight. Trees grew and perished in the planet.

**Question (c)**

Who is Margot? How is she different from the rest of the children?

**Answer:**

Margot is a nine-year-old girl who comes to the planet Venus from Earth, just five years ago. She is always different from the other children by remembering her earthly life.

**Question (d)**

What does Margot like the most – the sun or the rain?

**Answer:**

Margot liked Sun the most.

**Question (e)**

What was Margot waiting for? Why did William say that it was a joke?

**Answer:**

Margot was waiting for the sun to appear. According to William, the sun never appeared during rainy days. So he said that it was a joke.

**Question (f)**

Why does Margot wish to return to the earth?

**Answer:**

Margot is accustomed to the systematic change of day and night on the earth. She hated the wretched rain which lasted for seven years. She even refused to take a shower because she never felt like living a normal life in Venus. So, she wanted to go back to the earth.

**Question (g)**

Why did the children lock Margot in a closet?

**Answer:**

The children locked Margot in a closet because she was always talking about the sun and earthly life which she had experienced five years ago.

**Question (h)**

Margot could recall what the sun looked like while the other children could not. Why?

**Answer:**

Margot had come only 4 years ago to Venus. She had seen the sunlight almost every day in Ohio. So, she could recall the appearance of the Sun vividly.

**Question (i)**

How long did the Sunshine on Venus?

**Answer:**

The sun shined on Venus only once in seven years as the rain was constant there.

**Question (j)**

Why did one of the girls wail?

**Answer:**



One of the girls wailed because rain resumed after one hour of sunlight. She caught a droplet of rain in her palm and reacted to the abrupt end of sunlight and the resumption of rain.

## **2. Based on your understanding of the story, Answer the following in three or four sentences.**

### **Question (a)**

What is the significance of the particular day described in the story “All summer in a day”? That particular day all the children were clamouring for a glimpse of sunlight which was predicted for an hour. Only Margot had a clear memory of sunlight that she had seen five years ago. Others had not seen the Sun for about seven long years. Her explanation was an orb-like penny and its colour was that of a lemon, the children were annoyed and could not believe her words of experience.

### **Question (b)**

What happens to Margot while the teacher is out of the classroom?

#### **Answer:**

One of the children, especially a boy named William seized her roughly and treated her very badly. They surged about her, caught her up, slammed, and locked the door of a tunnel. This is what happened to Margot while the teacher is out of the classroom.

### **Question (c)**

How did Margot describe the sun to others?

Margot explained that Sun looked like a penny. When other children objected she said, “It’s like a fire in the stove”. She even wrote a poem, “I think the Sun is a flower, that blooms for just one hour.” One of the boys even protested that Margot did not write the poem.

### **Question (d)**

How did the children react when the sun came out after seven years?

#### **Answer:**

When the sun came out after seven years, the children were running and turning their faces up to the sky and feeling the sun on their cheeks like a warm iron; they were taking off their jackets and letting the sun burn their arms.

### **Question (e)**

Why did William and the other children bully Margot?

#### **Answer:**

William and other children did not have deep living knowledge about the Sun. They had seen it for an hour seven years ago when they were only two years old. But Margot had the fortune to enjoy the warmth of Sunlight till she was 5 years old in Ohio. Others got used to live in the dark but Margot wasn’t comfortable living in the dark planet in the underground tunnel. She longed to see the Sun. She wrote a poem on the Sun. She distanced herself from

others and spoke less. The feeling that she was different from them was a cause that made the other students in the school bully her.

**Question (f)**

What were their feelings towards Margot at the end of the story?

**Answer:**

They stood as if someone had driven them like so many stakes, into the floor. They looked at each other and could not meet each other's glances. Their faces were pale and solemn. They seem to be very pathetic.

**Question (g)**

What does the title of the story convey?

**Answer:**

The title of the story suggests the summer in Venus does not last a few months. It lasts only for an hour a day. The entire season is capsuled in a single day which is unusual.

### **3. Answer the following Questions in a paragraph of about 100-150 words each.**

**Question (a)**

What is the conflict between Margot and the other children in the story, "All Summer in a day"?

**Answer:**

The main conflict in the story is between Margot, a nine-year-old girl who has recently moved to Venus from Earth, and the other children in her class. The story takes place on Venus, a planet of constant rain, except for a few hours every seven years, when the sun briefly comes out. Margot refuses to play the games with the other children in the school as she is neglected by the children.

According to the children, her real crime is memory. They said that she had come here only five years ago from Earth and she remembered the sun and the way the sun was and the sky was when she was four in Ohio. They had been on Venus all their lives and they had been only two years old when the sun came out last.

Margot's memory of the sun is her memory of being human. The children locked her in a closet and forgot about her when the sun finally came out. However, the story ends without any resolution to this conflict.

**Question (b)**

How do the children react to the long-awaited event in the story?

**Answer:**

Children get really excited. They want to see the touch of sunlight on all forms of life on the planet. They want to tan themselves in the newfound warmth of the Sun. Children persist that they are allowed to go out to the Sun. The teacher allows them with a warning that they must be back in two hours. They start running and turning their faces up to the sky and feeling the sun on their cheeks like a warm iron. They take off their jackets to allow the Sun to bum their arms. They gladly shouted "Oh, it's better than Sun lamps. Children stood in the great jungle in Venus. The jungle was in the colour of stones as they had not seen the Sun for years.

The children lay out laughing on the jungle mattresses and heard it sigh and squeak under them resilient and alive. They ran among the trees, they slipped and fell and pushed one another. They played hide and seek. But most of them squinted at the sun until tears ran down their faces. They put their hands up to the yellowness and the amazing blueness, they breathed off the fresh air and listened to the silence in a blessed sea of sound lessness. They looked at everything and savoured everything. Like animals escaped from their caves, they ran shouting in circles. Their mirth continued for one hour.

**Question (c)**

The sun brought about a positive change in the attitude of the children. Illustrate the statement.

**Answer:**

After really enjoying the brief summer that lasted for an hour, they quietly returned to the tunnel. Suddenly they remembered that they had locked Margot in a closet and a sense of guilt pervaded among all the students. Margot, who was most anxiously waiting to see the Sun had been locked up. They had the opportunity to play in the brief summer but she had to stay in the dark, feeling lonely. She did not deserve that punishment. Realizing their folly, they went back and opened the door very slowly. There was silence. They let Margot out slowly. The arrogance in their behaviour was gone. They were sorry for Margot who they had punished just because she was sharing her real experiences of 'sunlight'. She had lost the chance to see the Sun.

**Question (d)**

Did the children regret having locked Margot in a closet? **Answer** citing relevantly from the story.

**Answer:**

Yes, the children did regret. Young children can't keep feelings like anger and hatred for long. The collective sense of guilt tormented them. The joy they experienced under the sunlight for an hour vanished. A kind of uncomfortable gloom and silence fell among them. They looked at one another with remorsefulness. They couldn't meet each other's glances. They felt as if someone had driven them like so many stakes into the floor.

One of the girls said, "Margot". Another girl whispered, "go on." They could perceive only silence behind the door. They unlocked the door even more slowly and let Margot out. After

all, all her descriptions of the Sun turned out to be correct. They had unjustly punished her. Their arrogance and aversion had abandoned them. They were guilt-driven. They did not know how to appease her. They were penitent but had no words to seek Margot's forgiveness.

## Additional Questions

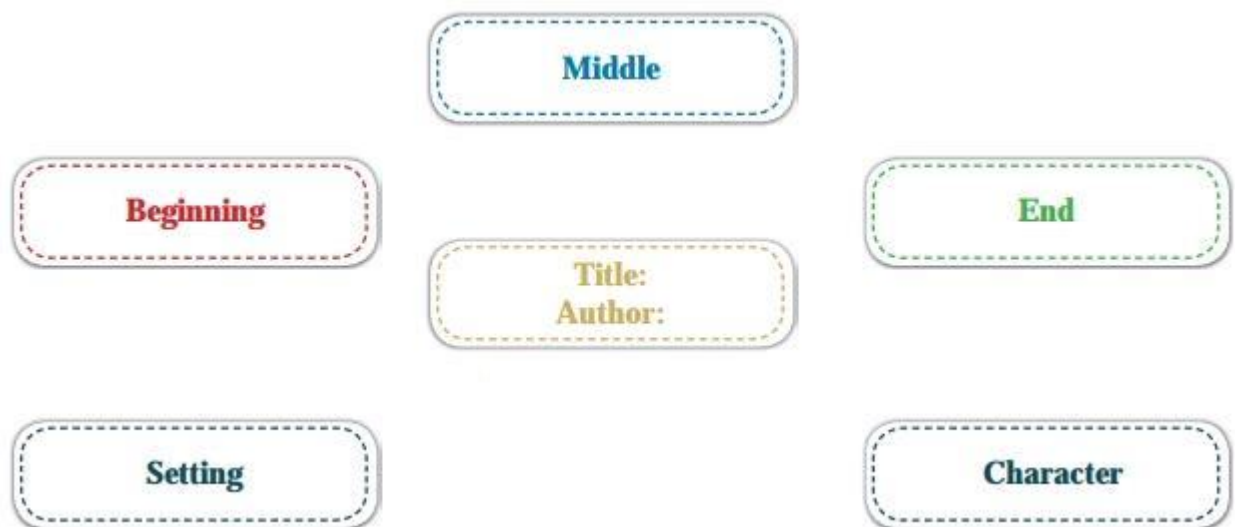
### Question (a)

What kind of vegetation was seen in the forest of Venus? How was it different.

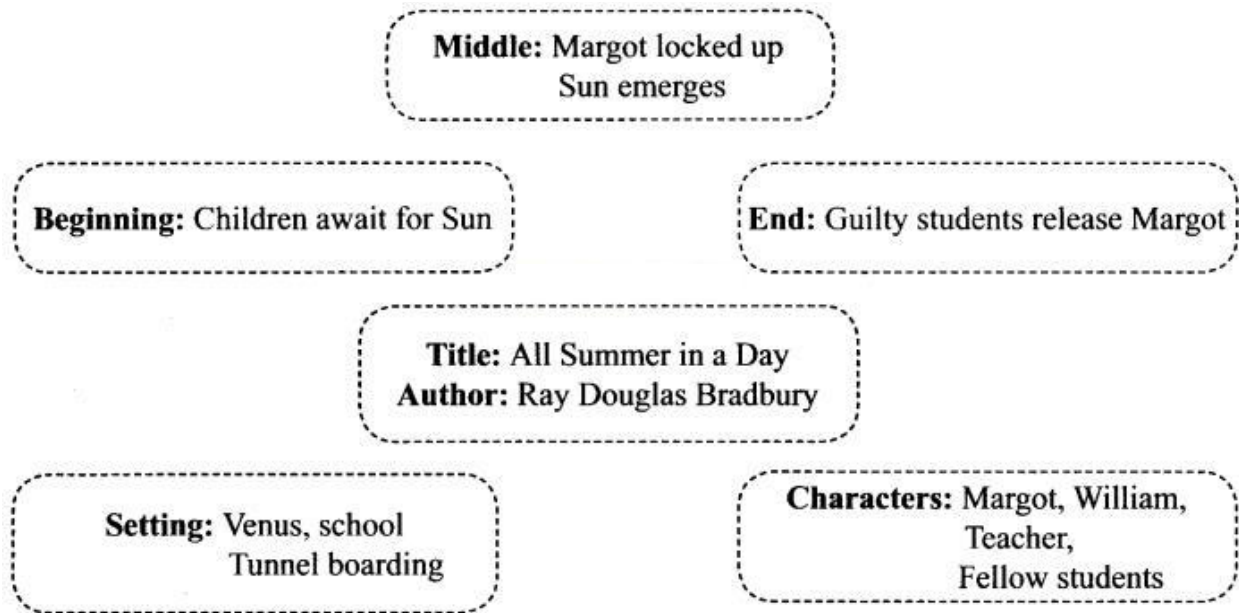
#### Answer:

The jungle continued to grow tumultuously. The children saw a nest of Octopi, clustering up great arms of flesh like weed, wavering and flowering in that brief spring. It was the colour of rubber and ash, this jungle, from the many years without sunlight was the colour of stones and white cheeses and ink. It was the colour of moon. The grass was not green. A thousand forests had been crushed under the rains. They have grown again up a thousand times to be crushed again. This was the way the jungle existed in Venus.

## 4. Based on your understanding of the story, complete the story map.



#### Answer:



5. Find out and encircle the following words in the word grid. (The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and even back to front)

fades	predict	discriminate	locks	reminded
experience	anticipated	unlock	recall	

N	E	T	A	N	I	M	I	R	C	S	I	D	M	U
Z	H	T	D	E	M	S	P	K	L	M	R	A	H	N
T	C	C	A	S	R	T	S	E	A	O	E	O	S	L
B	D	I	E	X	P	E	R	I	E	N	C	E	G	O
L	Y	D	K	V	I	Q	E	T	U	Y	A	K	F	C
Q	A	E	S	T	A	R	T	S	D	I	L	G	S	K
F	Z	R	E	M	I	N	D	E	D	K	L	S	A	S
I	A	P	B	S	D	M	C	K	P	F	S	G	S	B
J	X	P	A	N	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	E	D	B

Answer:

N	E	T	A	N	I	M	I	R	C	S	I	D	M	U
Z	H	T	D	E	M	S	P	K	L	M	R	A	H	N
T	C	C	A	S	R	T	S	E	A	O	E	O	S	L
B	D	I	E	X	P	E	R	I	E	N	C	E	G	O
L	Y	D	K	V	I	Q	E	T	U	Y	A	K	F	C
Q	A	E	S	T	A	R	T	S	D	I	L	G	S	K
F	Z	R	E	M	I	N	D	E	D	K	L	S	A	S
I	A	P	B	S	D	M	C	K	P	F	S	G	S	B
J	X	P	A	N	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	E	D	B

Now read the sentences below. Complete them appropriately with the words you identified from the grid.

1. The scientists \_\_\_\_\_ that the Sun would come out on Venus that day after seven years.
2. The children are getting ready for the \_\_\_\_\_ event.
3. The children Margot as she \_\_\_\_\_ the Sun.
4. William and other children have bullied her and \_\_\_\_\_ her in a closet.
5. When the Sun comes out, the children \_\_\_\_\_ the sun.

**Answers:**

1. predicted
2. anticipated
3. discriminate, recalls
4. locked
5. experience

## Speaking Activity

### Pair Work

Ray Bradbury's "All Summer in a Day" is a piece of science fiction. Discuss plots of similar stories with your partner and share your ideas with the class.

We read a story called “The thief”. Yarmuk is one of the top thieves of the solar system. He overhears a secret about planet ‘X’. There is no crime on the planet ‘X’. There are no policemen. Most of the shops had no assistants. They were all honesty stores. Yarmuk wanted details about the location of the planet so that he could steal from a jewel store there and settle for life. He mixes a tranquilizer in his friend’s Makin’s second drink. When Makin loses his consciousness, he obtains the address of a man who knows the coordinates of the planet ‘X’.

He steals into the house of that man. He uses a hallucinogen to get the information he wants from the man. He prowls the space parking lot. On visiting a space ship dealer, he collects information on different spacecraft and narrows down on MIG-31 spacecraft for his trip to planet ‘X’. He finds a newly married couple parking in a hotel. He takes a room just next to the couple.

Using a false key, he enters their room. He gasses them both and takes a space-port parking lot pass; the electronic card which opens their spaceships airlock and controls its engines and the hyper-wave radio key. He vacates the room explaining that he got a video call from his wife that she was sick. Yarmuk enters the spaceport and explaining his wife’s sudden illness get permission to blast off. He reaches the planet ‘X’. The parking charges in the spaceport are ridiculously cheap. To try to find out, if the alarm goes off, he stealthily picks up socks in an unmanned textile showroom. Nothing happens. Emboldened by the attempt he goes to one of the posh jewellery shops.

He makes a mental note of which ever jewels he wants to steal the following day. He takes two big suitcases and stuffs all valuable jewels and rushes back to the hotel. Nobody checks him. He sleeps gladly. The next morning when he leaves the hotel, he is stopped by the security guards with stun guns. He does not understand how his theft got found out. Later he learns that planet ‘X’ is full of telepathists, mind readers, and clairvoyants. Stray customers who had seen him at the jewellery and the hotel staff have read his thoughts and just communicated in a flash of a second through their minds. He is sentenced to 20 years in the alien’s jail.

**All Summer in a Day About The Author**



Ray Douglas Bradbury (August 22, 1920 – June 5, 2012) was an American author and screenwriter. He worked in a variety of genres, including fantasy, science fiction, horror, and fiction. Widely regarded as the most important figure in the development of science fiction as a literary genre, Ray Bradbury's works evoke the themes of racism, censorship, technology, nuclear war, humanistic values, and the importance of imagination. Ray Bradbury is well-known for his incredibly descriptive style.

He employs figurative language (mostly similes, metaphors, and personification) throughout the novel and enriches his story with symbolism. On April 16, 2007, Bradbury received a special citation from the Pulitzer Prize jury "for his distinguished, prolific, and deeply influential career as an unmatched author of science fiction and fantasy." Bradbury also wrote and consulted on screenplays and television scripts, including *Moby Dick* and *It Came from Outer Space*. Many of his works were adapted to comic book, television, and film formats.

## All Summer in a Day Summary in English

### Introduction

Bradbury's story "All Summer in a Day" revolves around a day's happenings in planet Venus after it is colonized by humans. This story falls under the category of Science fiction. So far, Earth is the only planet supporting human beings and the survival of millions of plants and thousands of animals. But in this story we come across children who are settled in Venus in an underground tunnel.

### Excitement of children

Scientists predicted that the Sun would be visible in planet Venus for an hour. Children, in the dark planet, were overjoyed about the event. Each tried to visualise how the Sun would appear. Except Margot, all the children had seen the Sun seven years ago. Margot had come only four years ago. Till 5, she was in Ohio and had seen and enjoyed many "sunny days"



and summer lasting three months. She says it is an orb like a penny. It is a kind of a ball with yellow flame. Its burning like a stove. The more details she gives, the more she is hated by her peers. Realising the unspoken but obvious contempt in the eyes of the peers, Margot keeps quiet. William teases Margot. Her silence of deep understanding of Sun annoys peers.

## **Be different and be punished**

Margot is different from the students in the school. One day she even threw tantrums and wanted to be sent back to her parents to the earth. Other children realised that it would cost a fortune for her parents. But she was helpless. She stopped talking to the peers who did not hide their hatred. They teased her. She ignored and started anxiously waiting for the brief encounter with the Sun. She deeply believed that as per the prediction of the scientists, they would see the sun for an hour in the Venus planet. Her knowing silence and unwillingness disturbed the peers so much that they forcefully locked her up in a room.

## **Vivid Memory**

When other children had nightmarish dreams recalling how the Sun was 7 years ago, Margot remembered the yellow lemon-like ball of fire she had seen almost everyday in Ohio for 5 long years. She secretly disdained the inadequate knowledge of her peers.

## **Pride and Prejudice**

Margot was in love with the Sun. Margot wrote a poem, "I think Sun is a flower, that blooms for just one hour." She read out the poem when it was raining outside the classroom. She knew for sure that her friends were dreaming and remembering gold or yellow crayon or coin large enough to buy the world with. They were often woken up by the tatting drum of rainfall. Her unexpressed pride over her knowledge of the Sun had really caused a prejudice among children. They locked her up in the anticipated day of sunlight