

Appendix - II

About the Lessons

Lesson 1 : Water's for... :

Children are fascinated by water and love to play with it. The poem lists the different uses of water and the fun of indulging in water games.

Lesson 2 : The Shoemaker and the Elves :

The short story is about an old couple (cobblers : those who make shoes) who are helped by two elves during difficult times. The story combines fantasy with a human touch. An attempt has been made to arouse curiosity and imagination in children so that they may develop an interest to read good short stories in English.

Lesson 3 : Measure for Measure :

The Tenali Raman stories are hugely popular because of the element of wit and humour which touches our hearts. The selected story is an interesting tale in which Raman convinces the king about the necessity of appointing people on the basis of competence.

Lesson 4 : The Tree that Never Stopped Giving :

The lesson has been adapted from Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree". It is a story about how man exploits nature for his advantage. The lesson is meant to make children conscious of the necessity for co-existing with the environment around us.

Lesson 5 : Alice in Wonderland

The lesson is a continuation of the dreamland story of Alice, an adaptation from the famous story by Lewis Carroll. The lesson aims at enhancing children's imagination and curiosity while they read about Alice.

Lesson 6 : From a Railway Carriage :

The poem is by Robert Louis Stevenson. Stevenson manages to touch the child's imagination through a fascinating theme - “Train Journey”. The sights and sounds that we witness around us have been described beautifully and as we read the poem, we feel that the poet has managed to take us along on the train journey.

Lesson 7 : Everyday Heroes :

The lesson has been adapted from the Everyday Heroes series published by Reader's Digest. The stories selected are about people in different regions of India who have made important contributions to the society.

Lesson 8 : At School :

‘At School’ is an extract from Gandhi's autobiography - “My Experiment's with Truth”. The lesson gives us an insight about Gandhiji's experiences as a child. We also understand that the qualities of ‘truth’ and ‘sincerity’ that were so dear to him were also reflected in his early life.

Lesson 9 : Beats in Memoir :

The lesson introduces children to Devdas Banjare who was a great Panthi artiste. His dedication to the art and his contribution to Chhattisgarh culture is an inspiration for children and adults alike.

Lesson 10 : A Place fit for God's to Marry :

The lesson has been developed from a newspaper article on the city of Madurai published in the Hindu. The article reveals the story behind the city's name and also the myths and legends associated with the ancient city.

Lesson 11 : Sympathy :

The poem is by M. Johnson. In the poem, the girl and the bird think very differently about each other. They admire their positions of advantage and feel pity of what the other does not have.

Lesson 12 : Children ask Kalam :

The President of India - Dr. Abdul Kalam is hugely popular with children. Hundreds of children write to him everyday and he tries to respond to all the letters. A selection of those letters has been made into a book - "Children Ask Kalam" from which some interesting questions asked by children have been used in this lesson. Some of the questions asked are personal and others deal with larger more complex issues.

Lesson 13 : Syani :

Syani Rani is the mascot of the Department of Consumer Affairs which released a series of public awareness advertisements in all major newspapers recently. Through Syani Rani's message, the consumer is made aware of his/her rights. The issues that Syani Rani addresses are the importance of buying ISI mark products, buying packaged goods, recognizing government hallmarks etc.

These issues are important for children and provide an opportunity to participate in consumer debates at an early age.

Lesson 14 : Craze :

Craze is a humorous essay about people who take long vacations to fulfill their urge to travel to distant places. The lesson exposes children to human behaviour and attitudes of people. Several places of tourist interest are also described in the lesson.

Lesson 15 : The Birdman of India :

The feature story exposes children to the wonderful world of birds through the eyes of the great ornithologist - Salim Ali. Several facts about birds and about Salim Ali's interesting life are represented in the lesson.

Lesson 16 : The Mountain and the Squirrel :

The poem is by Ralph Waldo Emerson, a famous American poet and thinker. Here, in this poem he gives the message that every individual's

talents are different and cannot be compared with the strengths of somebody else.

Lesson 17 : Nothing but the Target :

When Rajyavardhan Rathore became India's first individual silver medalist at the Olympic Games, the earliest interviews and stories were made available on the Internet much before newspapers were able to publish the story of his achievement. The lesson tries to capture his reactions after he had achieved the feat based on initial internet interviews and stories.

Lesson 18 : Dancing On :

The lesson is based on the life of Sudha Chandran written by Shailaja Ganguly. The story is about a young Bharatanatyam dancer who loses her leg as a result of an accident and her courageous comeback to the stage. In spite of her handicap, Sudha Chandran learnt to perform with an artificial leg and won worldwide fame for her performances.

Lesson 19 : Dear Daddy-Long-Legs :

The lesson is based on the life of an orphan Jerusha Abbott who spent her childhood in an orphanage. Her life changed wonderfully with new experiences-college, friends, social life because of a benefactor. The only condition that he had made was that she must never know who her benefactor was. However she wrote to him regularly about her school work. The letters are extracted from the book Dear Daddy-Long-Legs by Jean Webster.

Lesson 20 : Fog :

The poem is by W.H. Davies who takes us through the journey of a blind person. The author shows us that blind people have skills which can prove an advantage over people with vision which is explained through an incident.

Lesson 21 : Flavours of Thailand :

Thailand is one of the fast emerging South East Asian nations that has captured the imagination of the world. The lesson is meant to expose children to different geographies, culture, food and festivals.

Lesson 22 : The Photograph :

The Photograph is a short story by Ruskin Bond. The story is a journey down memory lane where the grandmother is reminded of her childhood because her grandson discovers an old photograph of her taken as a girl. The mystery of who the people in the photograph are is played out in the conversation between them.

Lesson 23 : Where the Mind is Without Fear :

The poem is by Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore tries to motivate people of India to participate in the creation of a society where every person can live without fear. It is a difficult thing to achieve, but the spirit of nationalism is necessary to build a strong nation.
