

4.2 the storyteller

...Warming up!...

1. Short stories are of many types, Match the type of story in column A with its description in column B.

Story type (A)	Description (B)
1. Anecdote	(a) serious and ends in tragedy
2. Fable	(b) untrue but realistic
3. Parable	(c) short amusing account of an incident
4. Myth	(d) where vices and folly are
5. Legend	(e) moral bearing story with animal characters
6. Fairy Tale	(f) having historical base/characters but may not be true
7. Tragic Tale	(g) having religious base and a message or moral
8. Fiction	(h) exaggerated comedy
9. Farce	(i) having supernatural characters/ a moral for children
10. Satire	(j) originated in ancient time. authorship unknown

Ans. 1. Anecdote - (c) short amusing account of an incident

2. Fable - (e) moral bearing story with animal characters

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7. Tragic Tale - (a) serious and ends in tragedy

8. Fiction - (b) untrue but realistic

9. Farce - (h) exaggerated comedy

10. Satire - (d) where vices and folly are ridiculed

2. Complete the following story using the verbs in the brackets in their proper form:

Ans. Footprint

One night a man had a dream. He dreamt that he was walking along the beach with God. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him and the other, to God.

After the last scene had flashed, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He observed

that many times along the path of his life there were only one set of footprints and that it had happened at the saddest, most troubled times of his life.

He questioned God about it. "God, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. So I don't understand why you left me alone when I needed you the most."

God replied, "During your times of trials and sufferings, where you saw only one set of footprints, they were mine, for it was then that I carried you in my arms."

... English Workshop...

1. From the story (Part I and Part II), find 4 words that begin with the prefix 'un-' and write their opposites.

Ans. (1) occupied x unoccupied
(2) limited x unlimited
(3) unsympathetic x sympathetic
(4) unable x able
(5) unenterprising x enterprising
(6) uninteresting x interesting

2. Find one example of the following punctuation marks from the story and copy the sentence in which they are used -

(a) colon

Ans. Colon - "Bertha was terribly frightened, and thought to herself: 'If I had not been so extraordinarily good I should have been safe in the town at this moment.'

(b) semi-colon.

Ans. Semi-colon - There was a murmur of approval at the excellence of the Prince's decision; so many people would have decided the other way.

3. Read the following pieces from the story and suggest a title for each as shown in the 1st one.

From	Up to	Title (Answer)
1. It was a hot afternoon ...	...said the aunt weakly.	'Children pester their aunt'.
2. The smaller girl created a diversion ...	...likely to lose his bet.	'The irritating little girl'.
3. In a low confidential voice ...	... it was so stupid," said Cyril.	'Aunt tells a story.'
4. She (Bertha) did all that she was told ...	... must be an extra good child.	'The horribly good Bertha'.

5. The storyteller paused to let...	...popular tunes of the day.	'Bertha's outing at the park'.
6. Bertha was trembling very much ...	...the three medals for goodness...	'The punishment.

4. Write your opinion, in your own words :

(a) Why do you think the children dislike their aunt's story?

Ans. The story was uninteresting and unenterprising. The children did not like the good little girl in the story. She appeared to be too good. Besides, the aunt could not satisfy the questions that they asked. Obviously, not only was the aunt a very bad story-teller but the story too was boring. Hence the children disliked the story.

(b) Why did they appreciate and praise the stranger's story?

Ans. The children were probably tired of the moral education imparted by the aunt. So when they came across a girl who was 'horribly good, and who met a terrible end, they were thrilled. Moreover, the stranger narrated the story well. Hence they appreciated and praised the story.

(c) Do you think Bertha should have met such a gory end to her life? Justify your answer.

Ans. No. I don't think that Bertha should have met such a gory end to her life. After all, she was only a small child and it was probably not her fault that she was vain about her goodness. She should have merely been frightened by the wolf, not devoured by it.

(d) What did the aunt fail to realise in Bertha's story?

Ans. The aunt failed to see Bertha's pride in herself; she only saw that Bertha was good, but had yet met a gory end. The aunt failed to realize that Bertha met a gory end as a punishment for her vanity.

(e) What is that one vice which nullifies all virtues that a person has?

Ans. Pride is the one vice that nullifies all the virtues that a person has. However good or talented a person is, he/she is not liked if he/she is proud or vain. Many tragic heroes in fiction and history were the victims of their own pride. It is often said that Pride comes before a fall'.

(f) Write down two or three proverbs / axioms that suit the message Bertha's story.

Ans. (1) "Pride goes before a fall."
 (2) "Wealth is a gift from God, and pride is bequeathed to us from the devil."
 (3) "Proud people breed sad sorrows for themselves."

5. Write three to five sentences about each of the following characters:

(i) The Aunt: The aunt was a meek and mild woman. She did not understand children, and could not control them. She had no imagination to make up a story, and no skills to present

the story in an interesting manner. She believed that children needed a strict moral upbringing. She was upset with the bachelor's story and thought that it was improper.

(ii) The Bachelor: The bachelor was impatient with the aunt's inability to control the children. He understood kids well and knew what type of story they wanted. He was resourceful and found a method to keep the children quiet for ten minutes. He also enjoyed the fact that the children would now trouble their aunt for an improper story.

(iii) Cyril: Cyril was a normal, naughty and restless boy. He had many questions to ask and wanted answers for all those questions. He was quite outspoken in saying that he found the aunt's story stupid. He found the bachelor's unusual story beautiful.

(iv) Bertha: Bertha was a very, very good little girl. She was so good that she was horrible. She was also obedient and punctual. She won many medals for her good qualities. But she had one bad quality, and that was pride. However, the moment she was in danger, she wished that she had not been so extraordinarily good. She was finally devoured by the wolf.

6. Say whether you agree or disagree.

(a) The children would have behaved well in the train if their aunt had scolded them harshly.

Ans. Disagree

(b) The youngest child was most irritating.

Ans. Agree

(c) Being a bachelor, the stranger had no patience with children.

Ans. Disagree

(d) The children showed disinterest even in the bachelor's story-telling, throughout

Ans. Disagree

(e) Bertha was very good but very proud too.

Ans. Agree

(f) The prince had rare, uncommon likes and dislikes.

Ans. Disagree

(g) The wolf could not trace Bertha because she was behind a myrtle bush.

Ans. Agree

(h) The bachelor had narrated an improper story to the children.

Ans. Disagree

7. The Storyteller' has a story within a story. Search from the internet or your library books for other stories which have another story within. Enlist at least 3 to 5 of them.

Ans. Ramayan, Mahabharat, Panchatantra.

8. List all the verbs related to the verb 'say' or 'tell' from the story. Note where they occur. Rewrite at least 3 of the speeches near which they occur using indirect speech.

Ans. Said, exclaimed, persisted, recited, asked, quoted.

Direct:	"Why are those sheep being driven out of that field?" he asked.
Indirect:	He enquired why those sheep were being driven out of that field.
Direct:	"Perhaps the grass in the other field is better," suggested the aunt.
Indirect:	The aunt suggested that perhaps the grass in the other field was better.
Direct:	"Was she pretty?" asked the bigger of the small girls.
Indirect:	The bigger of the small girls asked if she had been pretty.
Direct:	"It is the only beautiful story I have ever heard," said Cyril.
Indirect:	Cyril said that it was the only beautiful story he had ever heard.

9. Read: "The Open Window by H.H. Munro (Saki).

Ans. Its an activity for students.