

Unit – 3

Let's Begin:

The story of 'The Little Girl', in Beehive, is about the changing attitude of a girl child towards her father.

- As you are grown up now, you may want to interact with your parents on many issues. How will you go about it?
- Do you feel a communication gap between you and your parents which leads to unpleasantness?
- What are your feelings at that time?
- How do you cope with that situation?

Answer:

→ Whenever I am facing any issue related to my marriage, I always go to my parents for a sound advice. It feels quite at ease discussing anything with them as I share a very friendly relation with them.

→ No, I don't feel a communication gap between my parents and me. They understand me and give due consideration to my views and feelings. I feel quite natural around my parents. They are quite receptive to my suggestions and ideas.

→ I feel very positive and relieved as I fully trust them and their decisions.

→ No matter how the intense and grave situation is, I find it quite convenient to cope with it effectively as long as I have my parents by my side. I always follow their advice and try to keep myself calm and composed.

Reading Comprehension:

Read the following text and answer the questions that follow.

Text – I

This is an extract from Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. After supper, Atticus sat down with the paper and called, "Scout, ready to read?" I ran crying, went to the front porch. Atticus followed me. "Something wrong, Scout?" I told Atticus I didn't feel very well and didn't think I'd go to school any more if it was alright with him.

Atticus sat down in the swing and crossed his legs. His fingers wandered to his watch pocket; he said that was the only way he could think. He waited in amiable silence, and I sought to reinforce my position: "You never went to school and you do alright, so I'll just stay home too. You can teach me like Granddaddy taught you 'n' Uncle Jack." "No I can't", said Atticus. "I have to make a living. Besides, they'd put me in jail if I kept you at home."

Now what's the matter? Bit by bit, I told him the day's misfortunes. "And the teacher said you taught me all wrong, so we can't ever read any more, ever. Please don't send me back, please Sir." Atticus stood up and walked to the end of the porch. When he completed his examination of the wisteria vine he strolled back to me. "First of all", he said, "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view-" "Sir?" "-until you climb into his skin and walk around in it". "But in I keep on going' to school, we can't ever read any more..'" "That's really bothering you, isn't it?" "Yes sir."

When Atticus looked down at me I saw the expression on his face that always made me expect something. "Do you know what a compromise is?", he asked. "Bending the law?" "No, an agreement reached by mutual concessions. It works this way", he said. "If you'll concede the necessity of going to school, we'll-'go on reading every night just as we always have. Is it a bargain?" "Yes sir!"

"We'll consider it sealed without the usual formality", Atticus said, when he saw me preparing to spit.

As I opened the front screen door Atticus said, "By the way, Scout, you'd better not say anything at school about our agreement". "Why not?" "I'm afraid our activities would be received with considerable disapprobation by the more learned authorities."

My brother and I were accustomed to our father's diction, and we were at all times free to interrupt Atticus for a translation when it was beyond our understanding.

"Huh, Sir?"

"I never went to school", he said, "but I have a feeling that if you tell Miss Caroline we read every night she'll get after me, and I wouldn't want her after me".

Question 1.

Why was Scout, the little girl upset?

- (a) She didn't like being told what to do.
- (b) She didn't want to read with her father.

- (c) She didn't want to stop reading with her father.
- (d) She didn't want to read with her teacher.

Answer:

- (c) She didn't want to stop reading with her father.

Question 2.

How did Atticus, her father, react to her outburst?

- (a) He was angry.
- (b) He was patient.
- (c) He was annoyed.
- (d) He was sad.

Answer:

- (b) He was patient.

Question 3.

What little advice did Atticus give to his little girl to cope up with situations that might upset her?

- (a) to know and understand that life isn't fair.
- (b) to stay calm and then run away from the problem.
- (c) to try and see from the other person's point of view.
- (d) to face her fears by expressing how she felt.

Answer:

- (c) to try and see from the other person's point of view.

Question 4.

How was the matter eventually resolved?

- (a) Atticus agreed to allow her to learn from home.
- (b) Atticus agreed to continue reading as before.
- (c) Atticus agreed to speak to her teacher.
- (d) Atticus agreed to allow only the teacher to teach her.

Answer:

- (b) Atticus agreed to continue reading as before.

Question 5.

"I'm afraid our activities would be received with considerable disapprobation by the more learned authorities." In this context, the word 'disapprobation' might mean

_____.

- (a) disapproval
- (b) disturbance
- (c) disgrace
- (d) disorientation

Answer:

- (a) disapproval

Question 6.

Atticus decided to come to a compromise and to read to Scout but asked her not to mention it to her teacher because _____.

- (a) he respected the wishes of the teacher yet didn't want to disappoint his daughter.
- (b) he might get into trouble with the teacher who might come after him.
- (c) he only cared for his daughter and thought the teacher was incorrect.
- (d) he was afraid that the teacher may not like it and Scout might get into trouble.

Answer:

- (d) he was afraid that the teacher may not like it and Scout might get into trouble.

Question 7.

The word 'reinforce' means the following – fortify, brace, stiffen, strengthen, underpin.

Find the contextual meaning of 'reinforce' in the passage.

Answer:

Strengthen

Text – II

Read the poem and answer the questions given below. You can recite too to appreciate the idea in the poem.

Poem at Thirty-Nine:

How I miss my father.

I wish he had not been

so tired

when I was born.

Writing deposit slips and cheques

I think of him.

He taught me how.

This is the form,

he must have said:
the way it is done.
I learned to see
bits of paper
as a way
to escape
the life he knew
and even in high school
had a savings
account.
He taught me
that telling the truth
did not always mean
a beating;
though many of my truths
must have grieved him
before the end.
How I miss my father!
He cooked like a person
dancing
in a yoga meditation
and craved the voluptuous
sharing
of good food.
Now I look and cook just like him:
my brain light;
tossing this and that
into the pot;
seasoning none of my life
the same way twice; happy to feed
whoever strays my way.
He would have grown
to admire
the woman I've become:
cooking, writing, chopping wood,
staring into the fire.
– Alice Walker

Question 1.

What made Alice Walker open a savings account in High School?

Answer:

Alice Walker had a savings account in high school unlike other young people, because she had seen her father always saving money for future use. So she also saved money and had a saving account.

Question 2.

What lesson did her father give her on telling the truth?

Answer:

Her father told her if a truth was hard to tell or hard for someone to hear, didn't mean that it should not be told.

Question 3.

Tick (/) the correct answer.

What does 'dancing in yoga meditation' mean in the poem?

- (a) To cook relaxedly and with full concentration.
- (b) To cook while doing yoga exercises.
- (c) To cook food after doing yoga meditation.
- (d) Take lessons in cooking by joining class on yoga meditation.

Answer:

- (a) To cook relaxedly and with full concentration.

Question 4.

Fill in the blank to complete the following statement.

Alice Walker becomes nostalgic for her father and wishes, had he been alive he would have admired her for _____.

Answer:

cooking by using his methods, writing like him and chopping wood like him. In all he would have admired her for the woman she has become.

Question 5.

Why do you think the title of the poem is 'Poem at Thirty-Nine'?

Answer:

The title of this poem refers to Walker's age when she wrote it. This age is significant to her because she has realized something about her father and the poem is an expression of this realization.

Vocabulary:

Question 1.

Look at the words – see, watch, look at, view, observe, catch, glimpse. These are all synonyms. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. You can change the tense where it is required.

- (a) We a television programme on tourism in India. It was very informative.
- (b) Somebody is keeping a over the tower.
- (c) The from the cliff is panoramic.
- (d) You can't afford to fall sick again, your diet.
- (e) She the amazing view and drew a picture.
- (f) If you are able to a of dancing dolphins, you are lucky.

Answer:

- (a) saw
- (b) watch
- (c) view
- (d) look at
- (e) observed
- (f) catch, glimpse.

Question 2.

Look at the following sentence:

By that time he had his spectacles on and looked at her over them...

Here, look means lay one's eye on or to direct one's gaze in a specified direction.

Use appropriate words from the synonyms given below in the following sentences.
glance, gaze, stare, peep, watch, see, observe

- (a) Ginny _____ at her watch.
(take a brief or hurried look)
- (b) The door was ajar and she couldn't resist _____ in.
(look quickly and furtively at something)
- (c) Lucy _____ him playing.
(look at or observe attentively over a period of time)
- (d) He could only _____ her in astonishment.
(look steadily and intently, especially in admiration, surprise or thought)

(e) She _____ that all the seats were already occupied. (notice or perceive something)

(f) In the distance, she could _____ the blue horizon. (perceive with the eyes)

(g) He _____ at her in amazement.

(look fixedly or vacantly at someone or something with one's eyes wide open)

Answer:

(a) glanced

(b) peeping

(c) watched

(d) gaze

(e) observed

(f) see

(g) stared.

Question 3.

Study the use of the word 'little' in the following sentence:

To the little girl he was a figure to be feared. Here, little means small in size.

Now, consult a dictionary and find out the meaning of little in the following sentences. The first one has been done for you.

My little sister – young or younger sister

(a) I was a bodyguard for a little while : _____.

(b) This little car does have a few problems : _____.

(c) We got a little help from a training scheme : _____.

(d) I have little doubt of their identity : _____.

Answer:

(a) Short period of time

(b) Size is small

(c) Some, Meagre

(d) Partial

Grammar:

Question 1.

Read the following passage and underline the reporting verbs.

(i) Anu's mother agreed that Anu could go to the party but cautioned her not to have too many sweets. The dentist has advised her not to eat too many sweets.

(ii) Anita reminded Leena to buy milk and keep it in the fridge because Vrinda wanted to have coffee in the evening. Leena insisted that she would only make coffee. Anita agreed to her request.

(iii) We decided to go to our village near Goa on holiday. Mona recommended going to the beach. The coast guard advised us against going into the water. He also warned us about the weak bridge. He warned the children not to cross the bridge there. We thanked him and went back.

(iv) The teacher explained the functioning of the heart with the help of a model. He wished us good luck for our practical exam. He also reminded us that the classes would resume from Tuesday.

Answer:

(i) Agreed, cautioned, has advised

(ii) Reminded, insisted, agreed

(iii) Decided, recommended, advised, warned, thanked.

(iv) Explained, wished, reminded.

Question 2.

Read the following sentences and choose the correct reporting verb from the options given against each sentence.

(i) He _____ me against eating junk food.

(A) advised

(B) told

(C) suggested

Answer:

(A) advised

(ii) The teacher me to telephone my mother.

(A) informed

(B) advised

(C) reminded

Answer:

(A) informed

(iii) He to get me a cup of tea.

(A) offered

(B) said

(C) invited

Answer:

(A) offered

(iv) She Ruchi of stealing her book.

(A) told

(B) accused

(C) admitted

Answer:

(B) accused

(v) The host _____ for the delay.

(A) said

(B) apologised

(C) regretted

Answer:

(B) apologised

(vi) The Police later _____ that one of the convicts had been arrested.

(A) convinced

(B) declared

(C) confirmed

Answer:

(C) confirmed

(vii) The little girl to wear the sweater.

(A) refused

(B) denied

(C) said no

Answer:

(A) refused

(viii) He _____ taking the train as the road was terrible.

(A) invited

(B) claimed

(C) suggested

Answer:

(C) suggested

Editing:

Question 1.

Use capital letters, full-stops, commas and inverted commas wherever necessary in the following paragraph. Rewrite the paragraph in the space given below.

My little 10 years daughter Sarah was born with a muscle missing in her foot and wears a brace all the time, she came home jumping up and down one beautiful spring day to tell me that she had competed in "field day" - that's where they have lots of races and other competitive events.

because of her leg support my mind raced as I tried to think of encouragement for my sarah i wanted to tell some hard facts of life not letting this to get her down But, before I could get my word out, she said, Daddy, I won two of the races! I couldn't believe that! and then Sarah came out with a declaration, I had an advantage.

Ah, i knew it. i thought she must have been given a head start, some kind of physical advantage, but again, before I could say anything, she said, Daddy, i didn't get a head start... my advantage was that i didn't give in i had to try harder!

That's my Sarah.

(Steps to English, Workbook for Class X, NCERT, 2003, PP. 39-40

[An extract from Chicken Soup for the Soul, by Stan Frager])

Answer:

My little 10-year old daughter, Sarah, was born with a muscle missing in her foot and wears a brace all the time. She came home jumping up and down one beautiful spring day to tell me she had competed in "field day" – that's where they have lots of races and other competitive events.

Because of her leg support, my mind raced as I tried to think of words of encouragement for my Sarah, I wanted to tell some hard facts of life, not letting this to get her down. But, before I could get my word out, she said, "Daddy, I won two of the races!" I couldn't believe that! And then Sarah came out with a declaration, "I had an advantage."

Ah, I knew it. I thought she must have been given a head start, some kind of physical advantage. But again, before I could say anything, she said, "Daddy, I didn't get a head start... my advantage was that I had to try harder!"

That's my Sarah.

Question 2.

Rearrange each set of words to make sentences. Use appropriate punctuation marks.

- (a) a resident of Noida near Delhi/is visually impaired/ George Abraham.
- (b) confidence and competitive spirit/and infuses discipline among the participants/ it provides
- (c) he has helped/the brain behind the World Cup Cricket/the disable to dream
- (d) to the blind school in Delhi/it was a chance visit/ that changed his life

Answer:

- (a) George Abraham, a resident of Noida, near Delhi, is visually impaired.
- (b) It provides confidence and competitive spirit and infuses discipline among the participants.
- (c) He has helped the disable to dream, the brain behind the World Cup Cricket.
- (d) It was a chance visit to the blind school in Delhi, that changed his life.

Listening:

Listen to the song twice. Answer the questions that follow. Then sing the song together.

Que Sera, Sera
When I was just a little girl
I asked my mother
What will I be
Will I be pretty?
Will I be rich?
Here's what she said to me
Que sera, sera
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Que sera, sera

What will be, will be
When I grew up and fell in love
I asked my sweetheart
What lies ahead
Will we have rainbows?
Day after day
Here's what my sweetheart said
Que sera, sera

Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Que sera, sera
What will be, will be
Now I have Children of my own
They ask their mother
What will I be?
Will I be handsome?
Will I be rich?
I tell them tenderly
Que sera, sera
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Que sera, sera
What will be, will be
Que Sera, Sera
(It is a popular song written by the song writing team of Jay Livingston and Ray Evans in 1956.)

Question 1.

What are the questions the poet asked her mother when she was a little girl?

Answer:

Questions are : What will I be.
Will I be pretty ?
Will I be rich ?

Question 2.

What was her mother's reply?

Answer:

Her mother's reply was that whatever was destined for them will happen and nobody was in a position to see his/her future.

Question 3.

She asked a question to her sweetheart. What was it?

Answer:

She asked her sweetheart what kind of future they would have. Will there be happiness and festivities day after day ?

Question 4.

What was his answer ? Was it similar to that of her mother's?

Answer:

His answer was the same as her mother's. He also said that no body could predict or see future.

Question 5.

Now the poet has become a mother. What questions do her children ask her?

Answer:

The poet's children asked her the same questions that she used to ask her mother: what they would be, if they would be handsome ? They would be rich.

Question 6.

What is her answer to her children?

Answer:

Her answer was that nobody could predict future.

Speaking:

Look at the questions given below. Discuss with your partner. Jot down the points and make an oral presentation in the class.

1. Do you have questions about your future?
2. Whom do you discuss them with?
3. How often do you discuss your worries or queries with your parents?
4. Whom do you feel most comfortable sharing them with?

Your points.

Hint. The word "future" is somewhere so much deep embedded in our sub-conscious mind that all our actions are rather based on the fact – what our future will be.

During teenage we are so much in our friends' influence that they are the first one to discuss our futuristic goals. This is a kind of good practice because our friends are the ones who know our strengths and weaknesses. After friends we discuss things with our elder siblings who are much experienced and more often they are pursuing the same career that we will like to pursue.

Sometimes it just not about our dreams, it is about correct choice, our financial condition and our aptitude. I feel we need to talk to our parents regarding financial aspect because ultimately, they are the ones who have to look into all the financial matters. Moreover, they have seen so many ups and downs in their life, so they have much more experience. And parents are the ones who can guide us and lead us to our goals.

Writing:

Write a letter to your parents appreciating them for all the little things they do. You appreciate them, but have never had or taken the time to express it to them.

Your address _____

Date: _____

My Dear _____ (Salutation)
(Introduction)

(Body of the letter)

(Closing statement)

Yours affectionately,

Answer:

A-12,
Gulmohar Greens,
Delhi-110036
11-07-20

My Dear Mom and Dad,

Thank you for everything you have done for me the entire life.

You have given me so much and I, in return, have done nothing. Life, food, shelter, clothes, toys, education; I could literally go on forever.

There is no way for me to express my utmost gratitude and thanks to both of you.

Through the good times and the bad, you have always been there for me guiding me on the right path.

The thing, that I am most grateful for, is your love. Without your love, my life would be meaningless. Sometimes, when I'm feeling down, the only thing that is able to put a smile on my face is the knowledge that I have wonderful parents who love and care about me. You are the best role-models and parents I could have ever asked for.

Thank you for giving me this life. Thank you for giving me your love. Thank you for

everything.
Yours affectionately,
XYZ.

Project:

Question 1.

Conduct an interview with your parents and find out how things have changed over time. Your project must contain a minimum of 10 questions.

Sortie ideas/topics you could include in the questionnaire are:

- (i) What they thought was a really fun thing to do.
- (ii) The music they listened to.
- (iii) The movies they liked.
- (iv) And the television shows they enjoyed.
- (v) Why they liked these things back then?
- (vi) When my parents were my age, what were they not allowed to do?
- (vii) Why were they not allowed to do those things?
- (viii) What did their parents believe in?
- (ix) What did they disagree with their parents about?
- (x) How much money did they have for themselves as pocket money?
- (xi) What was the maximum amount they were allowed to spend on ?
- (xii) In what ways are your parents like their parents? In what ways are they different?
- (xiii) Who were the people your parents admired when they were teenagers?
- (xiv) What were some things they worried about?

Answer:

Introduction

It is true that with the change of time, thinking and attitude of people change. One day when I was sitting on the veranda, one idea flashed over my mind : how my parents' childhood was! So, I came up with an idea that I should prepare a questionnaire and ask them about their childhood. And when I got to know about their childhood, I could relate how things and circumstances were at that time. Let me share my questions and their answers with you.

Interview with My Parents:

- Myself : Good morning, Mother and Father!
- Father : Very good morning, my son/daughter.

- Myself : What did you think about the fun to do in your childhood?
- Father : We used to play outdoor games and that was the only fun we used to have.
- Myself : What type of music did you listen to?
- Mother: We used to listen old songs of Lata Mangeskar, Kishore Kumar and Muhammad Rafi.
- Myself : What type of movie did you like?
- Father : We liked religious and comedy movies.
- Myself : What television shows did you enjoy?
- Mother: We used to enjoy all shows available on channels like DD-1 and DD-2 e.g. serials like Chitrahar, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, etc.
- Myself : Why did you like these things back then?
- Father : We liked those things as they were attached to our sentiments, ethics and entertainments.
- Myself : When you were of my age, what were you not allowed to do ?
- Father : We were not allowed to stay away without our parents consent, eat outside food, ask for costly toys as frequently as the children of these days ask for them.
- Myself : Why were you not allowed to do those things ?
- Father : My parents were strict disciplinarians and ethical people. They had low income and lots of familial and social responsibilities.
- Myself : What did your parents believe in ?
- Mother : My parents believed in hard work with moral values. They used to believe in curricular activities. They did not like to be devoted much time to extracurricular activities.
- Myself : What did you disagree with your parents about ?
- Father : We used to disagree with our parents on the issue of involving all the time in studies. They wished to involve us in household works in place of devoting much time to extra-curricular activities.
- Myself : How much money did you have for yourselves as pocket money ?
- Father : We did not have pocket money. We were supposed to ask everything from them.
- Myself : In what ways did you like your parents? In what ways were they different ?
- Father : Our parents devoted much time in the family and society. They fulfilled all their responsibilities in their little income. We loved and admired our parents. But we are very different from our parents as we are more open- minded.

In this way, we find that there is a difference of opinion between one generation and another regarding beliefs, attitudes and values.

Question 2.

Write the interview in the form of a newspaper article. You could submit it to your school's newspaper or website, or in audio or video form which can be posted on your school's website.

Answer:

Generation Gap

by Raman, Class-IX-A

The generation gap refers to a gap or difference of opinions between one generation and another regarding beliefs, attitudes, politics and values. In simple terms, it is a perceived gap between younger people and their parents or grandparents.

This is absolutely true that with the change of time, thinking and attitude of people change. What our parents used to do, eat and live, we are different from them. Even our thoughts do not match with them.

In their days, they led a difficult life, with low income and lots of responsibilities and limitations. But in the modern age, education, science and technology have changed our lifestyles. Today, we like watching movies, wearing modern outfits, eating fast food but, our parents do not like all these things.

They feel these things are a wastage of time, money and above all, a severe blow to our culture and tradition. Today, people have modern thoughts, influenced by the western culture. Generally they do not believe in joint family system, instead they believe in nuclear independent family. Men and women have equal way of living style. Our parents or grandparents are bound in their old customs and cultures which are not obeyed by the modern generation. Hence, this leads to the 'Generation Gap'.

Question 3.

Share key moments and insights from the interview, and then discuss ways to bridge the generation gap and find common ground.

Answer:

Unlike the present generation, life for previous generation was hard but simple with hardly any high ambition for material wealth. With the passage of time, the religiosity of the common people has changed into economic craving; becoming rich

overnight laced with unchallenged power has replaced the contentment that people in previous generation enjoyed. The man today dedicates all his time, money and energy for financial gain ignoring religious and ethical sentiments. Dressing sense too has 'changed drastically over the period of time. People enjoyed wearing new dresses covering almost every part of the body; concealment was the order of the day.

In present generation, on the contrary, revealing is in fashion. Cases with music and dance too has reached a place where previous generation finds itself helpless. Ipod, Iphones, mobile phones etc. play a pivotal role in promoting this trend. Ethics has completely been erased in this era. No one seems to be mindful of it. Machiavellis statement – 'Mind your ends; not your means seems to be taking shape. Instead of doing hard work, people believe in doing smart work filling their own pocket unmindful of the damage they cause to ecology, nature and environment.

This generational gap needs to be bridged. Yelling and honking by the elderly is not going to serve the purpose. It is rightly said that 'it takes two palms to create a clap'. The elderly people and the youths need to come on a compromising table to sort out the problem. The elderly people should understand that the youths of today have longer hours of duty; they have to wake up sometimes whole through the night to complete their assignments. They can hardly devote time to petty things like religious rituals or unnecessary sentiments of others.

On the other hand, youths should bow down to the level of their parents. They should consider the situations they were brought up in. Respecting each other's sentiments can easily patch up the differences. The youths can listen to music through headphones, they can dance in a club, they can wear clothes of their choice in office. These steps, I am sure, will remove differences. Youths should find time to attend to social and moral duties, religious rituals. Such steps will go a long way to pave the way for harmony between the two generations.