

English Main Course Book

for

Class X

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ਇਹ ਪੁਸਤਕ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਮੁਫਤ
ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਣੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਕਾਊ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ।



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FOREWORD

This textbook, based on the new syllabus, is a part of the package meant for Class X students. It comprises a Main Course Book for intensive study, A Literature Book (Supplementary Book) for extensive study and development of Reading skills and A Practice Book of English Grammar and Composition for further developing different language skills. These books aim at making the teaching and learning of English an interesting exercise by presenting a variety of real-life situations. The main objectives of teaching English at this stage are:

- 1 to develop communicative skills to enable the learners to perform different language functions.
- 2 to help them develop their cognitive and affective faculties.
- 3 to promote the skill of reading a text intelligently and imaginatively.
- 4 to enrich the learner's vocabulary, both active and passive.

The course is learner-centred. The learner is also encouraged to think creatively through questions given in each lesson. There are different types of exercises : Comprehension, Vocabulary, Grammar and Usage, Pronunciation and Composition:

- 1 Comprehension exercises are meant to develop factual, inferential and global comprehension which will deepen students' understanding of lesson.
- 2 Vocabulary exercises are meant for vocabulary enrichment and development of reference skills.
- 3 Grammar and Usage sections contain a wide variety of exercises of different areas of functional grammar.
- 4 Composition section is used to help learners communicate and express themselves effectively.
- 5 Some practice in the Pronunciation of words is given in each lesson to enable the students to speak correct English.

The book in hand has been prepared by Dr D.V. Jindal, External Faculty Member, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad and vetted by Dr (Mrs) Pushpinder Syal, Reader, Department of English, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

It is hoped that the textbook would meet the learners' need and help them develop the important language skills and use English effectively and meaningfully for the purpose of communication.

We would gratefully welcome comments and suggestions from teachers, experts and students as well, to improve this book further.

Chairman

Punjab School Education Board

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1 The Happy Prince

[The Happy Prince was a beautiful statue. He was covered with gold. He had sapphires for eyes, and a ruby in his sword. Why did he want to part with all the gold and the precious stones that he had ?]

1. High above the city, on a tall *column*, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold ; for eyes he had two bright sapphires, and a large red ruby glowed on his sword hilt.

One night there flew over the city a little Swallow. His friends had gone away to Egypt six weeks before, but he had stayed behind ; then he decided to go to Egypt too.

All day long he flew, and at night time he arrived at the city.

“Where shall I put up ?” he said, “I hope the town has made preparations.”

Then he saw the statue on the tall column.

“I will put up there”, he cried. “It is a fine position with plenty of fresh air.” So he alighted just between the feet of the Happy Prince.

2. “I have a golden bedroom”, he said softly to himself as he looked around, and he prepared to go to sleep ; but just as he was putting his head under his wing a large drop of water fell on him. “What a curious thing !” he cried “There is not a single cloud in the sky, the stars are quite clear and bright, and yet it is raining.”

Then another drop fell.

“What is the use of a statue if it cannot keep the rain off ?” he said. “I must look for a good chimney pot”, and he determined to fly away.

But before he had opened his wings, a third drop fell, and he looked up, and saw Ah ! What did he see ?

The eyes of the Happy Prince were filled with tears, and tears were running down his golden cheeks. His face was so beautiful in the moonlight that the little Swallow was filled with pity.

“Who are you ?” he said.

“I am the Happy Prince.”

“Why are you weeping then ?” asked the Swallow. “You have quite drenched me.”

“When I was alive and had a human heart,” answered the statue, “I did not know what tears were, for I lived in the Palace, where sorrow is not allowed to enter. My courtiers called me the Happy Prince, and happy indeed I was. So I lived, and so I died. And now that I am dead they have set me up here so high that I can see the ugliness and all the misery of my city, and though my heart is made of lead yet I cannot choose but weep.”

“What ! Is he not solid gold ?” said the Swallow to himself. He was too polite to make any personal remarks.

3. “Far away,” continued the statue in a low musical voice, “far away in a little street there is a poor house. One of the windows is open, and through it I can see a woman seated at a table. Her face is thin and worn, and she has coarse, red hands, all pricked by the needle, for she is a seamstress. She is embroidering flowers on a satin gown for the loveliest of the Queen’s maids of honour, to wear at the next Court ball. In a bed in the corner of the room her little boy is lying ill. He has fever, and is asking his mother to give him oranges. His mother has nothing to give him but river water, so he is crying. Swallow, little Swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword hilt ? My feet are fastened to this pedestal and I cannot move.”

“I am waited for in Egypt,” said the Swallow. “My friends are flying up and down the Nile, and talking to the lotus flowers. Soon they will go to sleep.”

The prince asked the Swallow to stay with him for one night and be his messenger. “The boy is so thirsty, and the mother so sad,” he said.

“I don’t think I like boys,” answered the Swallow. “I want to go to Egypt.”

But the Happy Prince looked so sad that the little Swallow was sorry. “It is very cold here,” he said. But he agreed to stay with him for one night and be his messenger.

“Thank you, little Swallow,” said the Prince.

The Swallow picked out the great ruby from the Prince’s sword, and flew away with it in his beak over the roofs of the town.

4. He passed by the cathedral tower, where the white marble angels were sculptured. He passed by the palace and heard the sound of dancing. A beautiful girl came out on the balcony with her lover.

“I hope my dress will be ready in time for the State ball,” she said. “I have ordered flowers to be embroidered on it, but the seamstresses are so lazy.”

He passed over the river, and saw the lanterns hanging on the masts of the ships. At last he came to the poor house and looked in. The boy was tossing feverishly on his bed, and the mother had fallen asleep, she was so tired. In he hopped, and laid the great ruby on the table beside the woman’s thimble. Then he flew gently round the bed, fanning the boy’s forehead with his wings. “How cool I feel!”, said the boy, “I must be getting better” ; and he sank into a delicious slumber.

Then the Swallow flew back to the Happy Prince, and told him what he had done. “It is curious” he remarked, “but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold.”

5. “That is because you have done a good action,” said the Prince. And the little Swallow began to think, and then fell asleep. Thinking always made him sleepy.

When the moon rose, he flew back to the Happy Prince. “Have you any commissions for Egypt ?” he cried. “I am just starting.”

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “will you stay with me one night longer ?”

“I am waited for in Egypt,” answered the Swallow.

6. “Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “far away across the city I see a young man in a garret. He is leaning over a desk covered with papers, and in the glass by his side here is a bunch of withered violets. His hair is brown and crisp and his lips are red as a pomegranate, and he has large and dreamy eyes. He is trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theatre, but he is too cold to write any more. There is no fire in the grate, and hunger has made him faint.”

“I will wait with you one night longer,” said the Swallow, who really had a good heart. He asked if he should take another ruby to the young playwright.

7. “Alas ! I have no ruby now,” said the Prince. “My eyes are all that I have left. They are made of rare sapphires, which were brought out of India a thousand years ago.” He ordered the Swallow to pluck out one of them and take it to the playwright. ‘He will sell it to the jeweller, and buy firewood, and finish his play,” he said.

“Dear Prince,” said the Swallow, “I cannot do that,” and he began to weep.

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “do as I command you.”

So the Swallow plucked out the Prince's eye, and flew away to the student's garret. It was easy enough to get in, as there was a hole in the roof. Through this he darted, and came into the room. The young man had his head buried in his hands, so he did not hear the flutter of the bird's wings, and when he looked up, he found the beautiful sapphire lying on the withered violets.

"I am beginning to be appreciated," he cried. "This is from some great admirer. Now I can finish my play," and he looked quite happy.

8. The next day the Swallow flew down on the harbour. He sat on the mast of a large vessel and watched the sailors working. "I am going to Egypt," cried the Swallow, but nobody minded, and when the moon rose he flew back to the Happy Prince.

"I have come to bid you goodbye," he cried.

"Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow," said the Prince, "will you not stay with me one night longer?"

"It is winter," answered the Swallow, "and the snow will soon be here. In Egypt the sun is warm on the green palm trees, and the crocodiles lie in the mud and look lazily about them."

"In the square below," said the Happy Prince, "there stands a little match girl. She has let her matches fall in the gutter, and they are all spoiled. Her father will beat her if she does not bring home some money, and she is crying. She has no shoes or stocking, and her little head is bare. Pluck out my other eye, and give it to her, and her father will not beat her."

"I will stay with you one night longer", said the Swallow, "but I cannot pluck out your eye. You would be quite blind then."

"Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow," said the Prince, "do as I command you."

So he plucked out the Prince's other eye, and darted down

with it. He swooped past the match girl, and slipped the jewel into the palm of her hand.

“What a lovely bit of glass !” cried the little girl ; and she ran home, laughing.

9. Then the Swallow came back to the Prince. “You are blind now,” he said “so I will stay with you always.”

“No, little Swallow,” said the poor Prince, “you must go away to Egypt.”

“No, I will stay with you always,” said the Swallow, and he slept at the Prince’s feet.

All the next day he sat on the Prince’s shoulder, and told him stories of what he had seen in strange lands.

10. “Dear little Swallow,” said the Prince,” You tell me of marvellous things, but more marvellous than anything is the suffering of men and of women. There is no Mystery so great as Misery. Fly over my city, little Swallow, and tell me what you see there.”

So the Swallow flew over the great city, and saw the rich making merry in their beautiful houses, while the beggars were sitting at the gates. He flew into dark lanes, and saw the white faces of starving children looking out listlessly at the black streets. Under the archway of the bridge two little boys were lying in each other’s arms to try and keep themselves warm. “How hungry we are !” they said. “You must not lie here,” shouted the watchman, and they wandered out into the rain.

Then he flew back and told the Prince what he had seen.

“I am covered with fine gold,” said the Prince. “You must take it off leaf by leaf, and give it to the poor ; the living always think that gold can make them happy.”

Leaf after leaf of the fine gold the Swallow picked off, till the happy Prince looked quite dull and grey. Leaf after leaf of the

fine gold he brought to the poor, and the children's faces grew rosier, and they laughed and played in the street. "We have bread now !" they cried.

Then the snow came, and after the snow came the frost. The streets looked as if they were made of silver. Everybody went about in furs, and the little boys wore scarlet caps and skated on the ice.

11. The poor little Swallow grew colder and colder, but he would not leave the Prince, he loved him too well. He picked up crumbs outside the baker's door when the baker was not looking, and tried to keep himself warm by flapping his wings.

But at last he knew that he was going to die. He had just enough strength to fly up to the Prince's shoulder once more. "Goodbye, dear Prince !" he murmured, "Will you let me kiss your hand ?"

"I am glad that you are going to Egypt at last, little Swallow," said the Prince. "You have stayed too long here but you must kiss me on the lips, for I love you."

"It is not to Egypt that I am going," said the Swallow. "I am going to the House of Death. Death is the brother of sleep, is he not ?"

And he kissed the Happy Prince on the lips, and fell down dead at his feet.

12. At that moment a curious crack sounded inside the statue, as if something had broken. The fact is that the leaden heart had snapped right in two. It certainly was dreadfully hard frost.

13. Early the next morning the Mayor was walking in the square below in company with the Town Councillors. As they passed the column he looked up at the statue. "Dear me ! How shabby the Happy Prince looks !" he said.

“How shabby, indeed !” cried the Town Councillors, who always agreed with the Mayor and they went up to look at it.

“The ruby has fallen out of his sword, his eyes are gone, and he is golden no longer,” said the Mayor, “in fact, he is little better than a beggar !”

“Little better than the beggar,” said the Town Councillors.

“And here is actually a dead bird at his feet !” continued the Mayor. “We must really issue a proclamation that birds are not to be allowed to die here.” And the Town clerk made a note of the suggestion.

So they pulled down the statue of the Happy Prince. “As he is no longer beautiful he is no longer useful,” said the Art Professor at the University.

Then they melted the statue in a furnace. “What a strange thing !” said the overseer of the workmen at the foundry. “This broken lead heart will not melt in the furnace. We must throw it away.” So they threw it on a dust heap where the dead Swallow was also lying.

“Bring me the two most precious things in the city,” said God to one of His Angels ; and the Angel brought Him the lead heart and the dead bird.

“You have rightly chosen,” said God, “for in my garden of Paradise this little bird shall sing for ever more and in my City of Gold the Happy Prince shall praise me.”

(Oscar Wilde)

Glossary :

gilded : (adj) covered with gold

The golden sunlight *gilded* the Sun.

column : (noun) pillar, a solid vertical post that supports a building.

The temple was supported by marble *columns*.

drenched : (verb) completely wet

The rain *drenched* her clothes.

court ball : (noun) dance

The princess invited the youth of the city for a *court ball*.

coarse : (adj) rough

The skin becomes *coarse* in winters.

seamstress : (n) a woman who earns her living by stitching clothes

This *seamstress* can no longer stitch clothes since her eyesight is almost gone.

hop : (verb) to move by jumping on one foot, move in short jumps

The children *hopped* in the park.

pedestal : (n) a base or platform for a statue

A strong *pedestal* is required for this heavy metal statue.

slumber : (noun) sleep

The kid was in a deep *slumber*.

garret : (noun) a small dark room at the top of a house

She shifted the broken furniture to the *garret*.

commissions : (n) some special business or duty

She was given some special *commissions* when she was sent to U.K. as an ambassador.

grate : (noun) metal frame for holding wood or coal in a fireplace

There was no fire in the *grate*.

swoop : (verb) to fly quickly downwards

The aircraft *swooped* down over the buildings.

dart : (v) to fly straight like an arrow

The bird *darted* through the open window and reached the cupboard straight.

listlessly : (adverb) without energy

He walked *listlessly* after he lost the game to his opponent.

crumbs : (noun) small pieces of bread or cake

The sweeper threw the *crumbs* into the waste basket.

proclamation : (noun) an official order, announcement

The Mayor issued a *proclamation* to ban smoking at public places.

foundry : (n) a factory where metals are moulded into different shapes

They tried to make this metal into an oval shaped figure in their *foundry*.

LANGUAGE EXERCISES

A. Comprehension questions

(i) Answer the following questions :

1. Where did the statue of the Happy Prince stand ?
2. How was the statue decorated ?
3. Where was the Swallow going ?
4. Why did the swallow put up between the feet of the Happy Prince?
5. Where were the drops coming from ?
6. Why was the Happy Prince crying ?
7. Describe the seamstress in the words of the prince.
8. Why was the seamstress' little boy crying ?
9. How did both the Happy Prince and the Swallow help the seamstress ?
10. Why did the Swallow feel warm ?
11. What troubled the young man in the garret ?
12. How was the young man helped ?
13. Why was the match girl crying ?
14. The Swallow said to the prince, "I will stay with you always." Why ?
15. How did the poor Swallow manage to live in so much cold ?

16. Why was the statue of the Happy Prince pulled down?
17. What were the two most precious things in the city ?

(ii) Answer the following in about 50 words each :

1. Why was the prince called the Happy Prince ?
2. “I cannot choose but weep.” Why did the Happy Prince say so ?
3. Comment on the remark – ‘The living always think that gold can make them happy.’
4. Why did the Mayor dislike the statue so much ?
5. Write a short note on the sufferings of the poor people in the city.
6. What is the message conveyed by the author ?

B. Vocabulary Exercises

(i) Look at the following sentence :

“It is a *fine* position with plenty of fresh air.”

The word *fine* means good. But have you ever heard this word elsewhere ? What are you supposed to pay when you are late for school ? That money paid by you as punishment is also called *fine*.

Words like these which are identical in form but have more than one meaning are called *homonyms*.

Now fill in the blanks with words meaning both A and B,
for example :

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|
| a. | A. gift | <i>present</i> |
| | B. the time now passing | <i>present</i> |

- b. A. riverside
 B. a financial institution
 where money is deposited
- c. A. solid and reliable
 B. noise
- d. A. portray
 B. pull out
- e. A. cause to pass down
 one's throat, gulp
 B. a small migratory bird
- f. A. shut
 B. near
- g. A. fireplace, framework of metal
 bars for holding fuel
 B. rub into small pieces
- h. A. try to win the love of
 B. the place where legal trials
 take place
- ii. **Students are liable to confuse and misuse words that appear similar in sound but are different in meaning. There are many such words in this lesson. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct word from the following sets :**
- a. You have drenched me.
 The patient is sleeping, please keep.... quiet/quite

- b. The poet's was filled with joy.
Do not hunt the You can be punished for it.
hart/heart
- c. Winter dryness makes her skin
You need good marks to get into this university
coarse/course
- d. There is no fire in the
She takes care of her kids. grate/great
- e. Do not in the rain.
The Pyramids are a great wonder/wander
- f. They pulled down the of the happy prince.
Penalties are laid down in the statue/statute
- g. nature is the same everywhere
All nations believe in the treatment of the
prisoners of war. humane/human
- h. They held their meeting on Tuesday.
I will bear your in mind. council/counsel
- i. A bird in hand is than two in the bush.
..... the mixture into a thick paste. batter/better
- j. He wrote an letter.
His manner made him many enemies.
official/officious

(iii) Match the following words with their antonyms :

above	destroy
plenty	hostile
bright	vanish
sorrow	happiness
entrance	disagree
personal	reject

coarse	devil
delicious	health
strange	departure
shabby	below
friendly	scarcity
arrival	dull
disease	joy
angel	public
accept	smooth
agree	exit
misery	insipid
appear	familiar
create	neat

C. Grammar Exercises

(i) Look at these sentences

1. What is the use *of* a statue if it cannot keep the rain *off*?
2. Leaf after leaf *of* the fine gold the Swallow picked *off*.

Now do you understand the difference between *of* and *off* ?

Fill in the blanks using these two prepositions :

1. Send me a cup tea.
2. I washed the dirt my hands.
3. Get the bus at the next stop.
4. Send me a copy this story.
5. Did you get a day this week ?
6. She died heart failure.
7. It was nice you to send me flowers.
8. He fell the bed and broke his leg.

9. He is a member the Parliament.
10. She is better without him.

(ii) Rewrite the following sentences in their past perfect and past perfect continuous form :

(Past perfect tells us about action begun and completed in the past. We use 'had' before the verb. Past perfect continuous tells us that the action began in the past, continued for some time, then stopped. e.g. The town had been making all preparations.)

1. The town has made all preparations.
2. He passed by the cathedral tower.
3. You have done a good action.
4. I have come to bid you goodbye.
5. He slept at the prince's feet.
6. The Swallow flew over the great city.
7. They pulled down the statue of the Happy Prince.
8. He picked up crumbs outside the baker's door.
9. They melted the statue in a furnace.
10. The poor little Swallow grew colder and colder.

(iii) Punctuate the following paragraph :

jack shouted back at his accuser you want to massacre 150000 people for nothing spitting out his words with fury roger the senior officer in the room shouted I have never seen such a gutsless general like you jack.

(iv) Given below is the list of adverbs used in this lesson.

Make adjectives and use them in sentences.

1. brilliantly
2. quickly

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 3. nervously | 4. brightly |
| 5. eagerly | 6. carefully |
| 7. critically | 8. simply |
| 9. suddenly | 10. lovingly |

D. Pronunciation Practice

Say the following words aloud :

(The pairs of words given below differ in *one* sound only in the *initial* position. The words on the right start with /s/ sound (as in the word *seat*) while the words on the left start with the sound that appears in the beginning of the word *ship* :

self	-	shelf	sin	-	shin
sign	-	shine	socks	-	shocks
sip	-	ship	sift	-	shift
sour	-	shower	sort	-	short
sun	-	shun	seek	-	chic (<i>meaning</i> very fashionable and elegant)

E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. Imagine yourself to be the Happy Prince. Write your autobiography.
2. Imagine yourself to be the Mayor of the city. Write your experiences vis-à-vis the statue of the Happy Prince.
3. Prepare a speech on the topic :
Service of Mankind is the Best Service
4. Discuss the topic : “What Constitutes Real Happiness?” with your class-fellows in the light of your study of the story ‘The Happy Prince.’

5. Every good short-story has a message in it. Read at least 5 short stories written by different authors. Try to find the message contained in each story.

6. Write about :

- What you feel when you see the statue of a person.
- What it would say if it had life
- What you think about the life of the person whose statue it is.

Just a little fun :-

Ned calls his wife his counter-part
With truth as well as whim ;
Since every impulse of her heart
Runs counter still to him.



2 Where is Science Taking Us ?

(If the aim of science is the conquest of man's environment, what should be its ultimate goal ?)

When man first began to think, he asked himself the deepest of all questions – a question which you have undoubtedly asked yourself many times : What is the Meaning of Life ? What is it all about ? Where are we all going ? What drives men ever forward to work and worry ?

And now there's an other big question – a newer question which is beginning to force itself into our notice. One that is not ages old that has not been with us since man first began to think. It is : Where is Science Taking Us ?

First, where is science taking us with regard to ethical and spiritual values ? We know what it is doing with regard to material things, for material things are its daily business ; but what is it doing with regard to non-material things ? If the answer were 'nothing at all,' that would be bad enough ; but the actual answer is 'less than nothing.' Here science is actually doing less than nothing. Its material teachings have been so over-emphasized that many people are floundering and wondering whether after all man is but a machine animated by forces over which he has no control.

Let's concentrate on material things, the things that form the very stronghold of science. Look at the machine, for instance.

This is the age of the machine. Machines are everywhere – in the fields, in the factory, in the home, in the street, in the city, in the country, everywhere. To fly, it is not necessary to have wings ; there are machines. To swim under the sea it is not necessary to have gills, there are machines. To kill our fellow men in overwhelming numbers, there are machines. Petrol machines alone provide ten times more power than all human beings in the world.

In the busiest countries, each individual has six hundred human slaves in his machines.

What are the consequences of this abnormal power ? Before the war, it looked as though it might be possible, for the first time in history, to provide food and clothing and shelter for the teeming population of the world – every man, woman and child. This would have been one of the greatest triumphs of science. And yet, many a time especially during the war we have seen the world crammed full of food and people hungry. For that's the way of science and the machine age. Science produces the goods, it makes the goods, but has no control over the consequences.

The machine age gives us year by year more hours of leisure but it fails to teach us how to use them. It gives us mechanical habits of mind and represses the spirit of adventure – except along machine-made lines. We will need all our creative powers to think our way out of the social problems which science has created for us.

It is science that has given us the unexpected redistribution of the age groups. Almost every year, some modern drug adds a little more to the average span of life, until the upper group is overcrowded. In the United States, for instance, there are already nine million people over the age of sixty. This talk was delivered around the 1950's. In fifteen years' time, this number will reach the astonishing figure of forty-five million. Who is to keep them ? It will need some readjustment.

And so science goes on raising its problems. Compared with our fundamental question-What is Life ? – these problems may seem to be of less importance. But they are not really so.

What is happening is that science is creating problems faster than they can be solved. Man is struggling in a sort of vicious circle, always striving to catch up and never getting nearer. And there are no signs that the glut of discoveries is coming to an end.

War is the worst example ; science has pushed it so far forward that ethics and morals are floundering hopelessly behind.

It makes one sometimes ask : What is science really after? What are its aims ? What is its goal ?

Its aims seem to be obvious. They are material, of course. One aim is the complete understanding, indeed the conquest, of man's environment ; the conquest of everything material, big or small, bringing all powers within man's reach.

The other aim is the understanding of all the mysteries that lie within the human body – the material mysteries, the innumerable chemical and physical actions that make the body work.

If these are the apparent aims of science, surely they cannot represent the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal, if there is such a thing, must be the understanding of everything that makes life worthwhile, the enrichment of all that life means. That goes beyond material things ; for man needs more than food and shelter and clothing and the understanding of what goes on within his stomach.

What is really needed in the world today, perhaps more than ever before, is not some new world-shattering discovery in nuclear physics, or some breath-taking discovery in chemistry or medicine. The advance for which the world is waiting ; beyond any doubt, is a small advance-a slight advance-in charity, in understanding, forbearance, tolerance, justice and mercy. That is what the world is waiting for, and waiting rather anxiously.

But charity, and tolerance, and forbearance, and the understanding of one another are non-material matters. And in non-material things-in the simplest social things-science has been helpless. It cannot even help us to distinguish good from evil.

May be this will not always be so. Who knows ? It is quite probable that some day science will effect an improvement in the human brain itself. Not a structural improvement, for in structure

the human brain is the greatest miracle of all ; its understanding will come last. But there might well be a functional improvement. That is far from fantastic. The advances in science might one day well increase the capacity and reasoning power of the human brain.

I should say there is little doubt that man will one day improve on the natural man, raise his intellectual status, and give him greater power of reasoning and understanding. He might have sufficient reason and understanding to abolish war. Whether that will be so, whether and when he will have a better understanding of his fellow men that remains to be seen.

It brings us back to the question : Where is Science Taking Us ? Despite the present vicissitudes, we are going somewhere. There are troublesome times ahead. But those who fear for the future are the craven (*cowardly*) in spirit ; for life is becoming more and more interesting, intriguing and exciting. I wish I had another hundred years.

Dr. S.W. Pennycuik

From a Broadcast Talk from ADELAIDE, Australia

Glossary :

ethical : (adj) connected with beliefs and principles about what is right and wrong

Is it *ethical* to promote smoking through advertising?

spiritual : (adj) connected with the human spirit

People have set aside *spiritual* values and do what they feel like.

animated : (adj) : full of life and activity

In the TV show, the cartoons were quite *animated*.

overwhelming : (adj) very good or very strong

She felt an *overwhelming* desire to go home.

flounder : (v) to struggle to say something

When he was asked difficult questions at the interview, he began to *flounder* helplessly.

forbearance : (n) being patient and sympathetic

I thanked him for his *forbearance*.

vicissitude : (n) change in circumstances

We all have to go through all the *vicissitudes* of our lives.

intriguing : (adj) unusual but interesting, secret and suspicious

The expedition to the Mars has raised *intriguing* questions.

LANGUAGE EXERCISES

A. Comprehension Questions

(i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. Why does the author of 'Where is Science Taking US' say that Science is doing less than nothing ?
2. What are machines doing for the humans ?
3. What is the greatest triumph of Science ?
4. What are the consequences of war ?
5. "Today the upper age group is overcrowded." Why ?
6. What has happened to the ethics and morals in the modern world ?
7. What is really needed in the world today ?
8. Why does the author of 'Where is Science Taking Us' wish to live another hundred years ?

(ii) Answer the following questions in about 50 words each :

1. List the material triumphs of Science and the non-material necessities to make the world a better place.
2. What should be the ultimate aim of Science ?

B. Vocabulary Exercises

- (i) A synonym is a word which is either identical in sense or has the same meaning as the other word. In the exercise which follows, some words have been taken from this lesson. The synonym of each word under column A rhymes with the other word given under column C. Try to fill up the blanks in column B with the synonyms of words under A. The first one is done for you.

	A	B	C
1.	fury	rage	page
2.	began	.....	parted
3.	consequence	.....	insult
4.	conquest	.....	history
5.	ethical	.....	oral
6.	apparent	.....	tedious
7.	tolerate	.....	tear
8.	charity	.....	nation
9.	sufficient	.....	rough
10.	abolish	.....	mend

- (ii) Match the words under A with their antonyms under B:

A	B
material	destructive
forward	defeat
necessary	more
creative	unnecessary
triumph	spiritual
less	backward
obvious	injustice
ultimate	dull

justice	initial
improvement	unclear
exciting	deterioration

(iii) Look at the italicized words in the following sentences:

1. To kill our fellowmen in *overwhelming* numbers, there are machines.
2. Material teachings have been *over-emphasized*.
3. What is needed today is not some new *world-shattering* discovery in nuclear Physics or some *breath-taking* discovery in chemistry or medicine

These are compound words. They are formed by joining two simple words. An addition to the beginning of the word is a *prefix* and an addition to the ending is a *suffix*.

See if you can make some more meaningful words by using *over* and *under* as prefix or suffix.

..... come	..... arm
..... line	..... do
..... estimate	..... ground
..... statement	pull
..... current	..... age
	..... pants
	..... charge

C. Grammar Exercises

(i) Rewrite the following in Direct speech :

- a. The minister said that he had spoken about the rights of the citizens in a democracy. He went on to say that he must speak about the citizen's responsibilities too.

- b. My mother advised me not to waste my time during the holidays but to do some useful reading.
- c. The school inspector said that he had been very pleased with the school. He added that he wished to congratulate the principal and the staff.
- d. The boys said to the teacher that they hadn't understood the question and they requested her to explain it once more.

(ii) Change the voice in the following sentences :

- 1. He has passed the examination.
- 2. You must speak the truth.
- 3. You should follow your uncle's advice.
- 4. She can sing a song now.
- 5. Ram will pass the test.
- 6. Why did you abuse him ?
- 7. I have to do it.
- 8. He will be arrested soon.
- 9. She cannot tell a lie.
- 10. This must be accepted.

(iii) Put the words in the brackets into the 'be-going to' form (Present Tense)

- a. You (miss) your bus.

Ans. You *are going to miss* your bus.

- b. The man with a brick in his hand (throw) it at the dog.
- c. We are wearing red clothes and the bull (attack) us.
- d. I (not sleep) in this room, it is dirty.
- e. Due to some technical fault, the aeroplane (crash).
- f. They (make) a lot of money out of this deal.

- g. I (collect) my new dress this evening.
- h. I've reminded you once ; I (not do) it again.
- i. He (smuggle) this gold out of the country.
- j. Look at the clouds. It (rain)

D. Pronunciation Practice

Note that the words given below contain the vowel sound /i :/, long vowel sound as in *beat, seat, heat, keep* etc. Say these words aloud :

each	weep	receive	police	foetus
lead	keep	brief	ravine	people
sea	tree	siege	ski	quay

(pronounced like **key**)

Note that the *same sound* has *different spellings* in different words.

E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. Write a short essay on any one of the following topics :
 - a. Science and Human Happiness
 - b. Advantages and Disadvantages of Science
 - c. Your Idea of Happiness
2. Discuss the following topics with some of your class-fellows under the guidance of your teacher.
 - a. Is man really happier today than his forefathers?
 - b. Man today is not a master, but a slave of the machines.

3. Put together your ideas on the following topic with the help of a table :

Science	
Advantages	Disadvantages

4. On the basis of the above ideas, sum up the topic “Science and Human Happiness”. You have to consider : how much has science added to human happiness ?
5. (a) With another classmate, make a chart showing what man can do and what machines can do. Later compare this chart with those made by other classmates.
- (b) Divide your class into two groups. One group can *prepare to speak “for” and the other “against” the topic.*
‘We are happier than our forefathers.’
6. See some pictures of World Wars on the Internet. What do you see about the weapons, machines etc. used in these wars ? Some of you can tell the class about the use/misuse of Science in wars.

Just a little fun :

Doctor Bell fell down the well And broke his collar-bone. Doctors should attend the sick And leave the well alone.



(i) Character of a Happy Man

[The idea conveyed in this poem is that those who have lesser cares and ambitions in life are the most contented people. Those who are truthful and modest and do not fall a prey to pride and vices and have faith in God and honesty are truly happy.]

How happy is he born or taught
That serveth not another's will ;
Whose armour is his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill !
Whose passions not his masters are, 5
Whose soul is still prepared for death ;
Untied unto the world with care
Of public fame or private breath ;
Who envies none whom chance doth raise
Nor vice ; who never understood. 10
How deepest wounds are given with praise ;
Nor rules of state, but rules of good :
Who God doth late and early pray
More of His grace than gifts to lend ;
Who entertains the harmless day 15
With a religious book or friend ;
This man is free from servile bonds
Of hope to rise, or fear to fall ;
Lord of himself, though not of lands ;
And having nothing, yet hath all. 20

Sir Henry Wotton

[*Sir Henry Wotton was born in 1568 in Kent (UK). He was a famous poet and diplomat. Wotton studied at Winchester and Oxford. In 1595 he was engaged by the Earl of Essex as agent and secretary. His poems and other writings were collected in 1651.*]

Glossary :

<i>armour</i>	– defensive covering, protection
<i>still</i>	– always
<i>ruin</i>	– downfall
<i>state</i>	– estate
<i>entertains</i>	– occupies agreeably, utilises
<i>servile</i>	– slavish
<i>fame</i>	– a state of being known by many people
<i>bond</i>	– something that binds or holds together

Enjoying the Poem

1. What does the poet want to say in the poem ?
2. Write a note on the central idea of the poem.
3. Write a summary of the poem in your own words.
4. Explain the lines.
“Whose armour is his honest thought
And simple truth his utmost skill !”
5. How does a man become really happy ?
6. How does ‘a religious book or a friend’ give happiness?
7. How does a contented man have all without having anything?

8. A 'synonym' means a word with a similar meaning. Write down the synonyms of the following words from the poem.

passions	.....
fame	.....
grace	.....
service	.....
vice	.....

9. Life is not made difficult by a hostile fate but because of our own dreamy, unrealistic desires. Alexander Pope's poem "The Quiet Life" conveys the same idea. Compare the two poems.



3 Secret of Happiness

[N.V.Peale is an author with a positive message in life. He has written several books in an attempt to teach people the Art of Living. The present extract has been culled from his book The New Art of Living.]

I

Dynamics of Self-Realization

The greatest day in any individual's life is when he begins for the first time to realize himself.

It happened to a college student friend of mine once with dramatic suddenness. He was as unsuccessful in his studies as he was efficient upon the athletic field.

Destiny, however, has its own strange ways. One day in a class of Psychology, our student friend suddenly became enthralled as the professor described how the average man fails because he does not learn to control and consolidate his powers. He used the familiar illustration of the burning glass. The rays of the sun, falling upon a piece of paper, have little effect. Let them, however, be drawn by the burning glass to a focus and they create an intense heat which will quickly burn a hole in the paper.

The professor pointed out that the man who succeeds is the one who can draw his dissipated and therefore futile powers to a focus. Our student said that in a flashing illumination he saw the cause of his own failure and oblivious of all in the room and under the spell of a veritable new birth leaped to his feet, crying, "I see it ; I see it" What had happened ? He had met himself, a *new* self, his *real* self, which he never before had seen and the

revelation changed him from a failure to a potential success, the possibilities of which were later abundantly realized. He was now a grand success in whatever he chose to do.

II

You are Greater than you Think

In his famous address on “The Energies of Men” William James, a great psychologist, said, “Men habitually use only a small part of the powers which they possess and which they might use under appropriate circumstances.” A scientist is reported recently to have said that an average man uses but twenty per cent of his brain power. When you think of some people, that sounds like optimism. Think of it—you are using, if you are an average person, only one fifth of your mental capacity.

Consider what you could make of life if you increased that by only fifty per cent. In the personality of every individual there is a great reservoir of unused power. But in many of us just a miserable little trickle is getting through, and on that we live and do our work. The great secret of life is to put a key into the lock, turn back the sluice gates and let that power, like a terrific stream, flow into your mind and personality. It will transform you into a person of strength and effectiveness, well able to meet and master all circumstances. The important thing to emphasize is that it is a source of inward power by which weak personalities can become strong ; divided personalities can become unified ; hurt minds can be healed ; and the secret of peace and poise attained.

III

The Escape from Fear

A British publishing house issued, some years ago, a volume of sermons, under the title, *If I Could Preach Only Once*.

One of these sermons was by Gilbert Chesterton. “If I had only one sermon to preach.” Chesterton declared, “it would be sermon against fear.”

Why should this eminent man of letters single out so ordinary an adversary ? First of all, because fear is one of man’s most common enemies. It touches every one of us in some way. Many people, for example, have financial fears. We have fears of ill health, anticipating the direful consequences of being overtaken by some bodily affliction. We allow ourselves to be made miserable by fear of what the future holds or fears of the consequences of past acts and decisions. Fears of one kind and another haunt us and cast a shadow over our happiness.

No person is at his best or in full control of his powers if he is the victim of fear. In many ways fear lays its paralyzing hand upon an individual and becomes a chief obstacle to the full development of personality and to the achievement of success in life. The person who wishes to become adept in the art of living must learn to conquer and subdue his fears.

This is a problem common to us all, and I want to state at the outset the encouraging fact that any and every individual can escape from fear. Remember this, however—only *you* can conquer your fears. Others may help you but ultimately *you* must do it *yourself*.

The first step and, for that matter, a large part of the campaign against one’s fears is to get a complete and thorough-going knowledge of them. Bring them out into the light of day and watch them shrivel up.

A fear is not unlike a ghost. It frightens you in the gloom, but there isn’t much to it when you get it into the light. Most of the things one fears never happen ; at least they do not amount to anything. As one frog in a pond may sound like a hundred when one is trying to sleep, so one little fact may be enlarged by mental

fear and distorted imaging out of all proportion to its real size.

Once in a lonely cabin on a dark night, deep in the North Woods, I heard on the porch noises that sent a shiver up my spine. It sounded like the cautious approach of several intruders. I sat transfixed, rooted to my chair, with every hair seemingly standing on end. Newspaper accounts of a recent murder in that section flashed across my mind. This is the end, I thought, but I was far from being prepared to die. I didn't want to die ; I wanted to get out of there. Finally, unable to stand the suspense longer and desperation lending bravado, I leaped to the door and flung it open, expecting to see a whole array of gangsters with machine guns and pistols. Instead, a little chipmunk scurried off into the darkness, leaving me limp and mortified but yet the learner of a great lesson, namely, that it is very salutary to get a good look at your fears, and that when you do, they are much less impressive than you had imagined them to be.

IV

Faith in Him

A great Japanese, Kagawa, a preacher and social worker, once visited our country. Everyone noted that he carried about himself a sense of peace and poise, an inner strength and confidence that was truly remarkable. Kagawa had discovered a priceless secret, and he gave us his secret by saying that if *you* does as he did, "immerse him self over a long period in the grace of God," he will enter into a profound calm that nothing can destroy. Kagawa said that encountering mobs, threatened by soldiers, hurt by opponents, the calm never left him. His eyesight was threatened ; disease afflicted him : but he never lost his calm. He testified that he was often amazed by the depth of this peace. This he assured us he had found in God. In that relationship he lost his fears.

There is the real escape from fear. Get a deep, unshakable faith in the fact that you are not alone, but that God watches over you and cares for you and will bring you through all difficulties. Then you will have total peace of mind. Confidence, not fear, will be yours forever.

Norman Vincent Peale

Glossary :

I

enthralled (adj) : filled with wonder and delight

I was simply *enthralled* at her dance performance.

consolidate (v) : joined together into a whole

It is very necessary to *consolidate* your resources before embarking upon any ambitious project.

illustration (n) : example

Give me an *illustration* to explain your point.

familiar (adj) : well-known

The new boss is quite *familiar* with the state of affairs as he was here 3 years ago.

focus (n) : a central point, a rallying point

You must bring the rays of light to a *focus* to produce the desired effect.

dissipated (adj) : weakened

The sermon fired him to make use of his *dissipated* power to the full and he achieved success.

futile (adj) : useless

All his effort to win the game proved *futile*.

a flashing illumination : a sudden knowledge or realization

In a moment of *flashing illumination* Lord Buddha became alive to the Truth of the mystery of life.

revelation (n) : a new knowledge

It was a *revelation* to me that she was the daughter of the big boss.

potential (n) : having power and energy for something

I am sure of his *potential* ; he can do real wonders in this field.

abundantly (adv) : in a large measure

She was *abundantly* praised at the conclusion of her successful trip to the historic conference.

II

optimism (n) : looking at the bright side of things, a positive attitude of hope

It was his sheer *optimism* that won him success in the trial.

reservoir (n) : a store

Every human brain is a big *reservoir* of energy and power.

III

eminent (adj) : famous

He is an *eminent* personality in this part of the country.

a man of letters : a scholarly person

A *man of letters* like him should not commit such a minor error.

adversary (n) : enemy

Fear is man's greatest *adversary*.

direful consequences : bad, dangerous results

You must be prepared for the *direful consequences* if you insist on going against the stream.

obstacle (n) : obstruction, hindrance

Her father's objection became a great *obstacle* in the way of her marriage.

intruder (n) : one who comes unseen as an enemy, an unwelcome, uninvited person

The *intruders* from across the border generally attack the border villages and commit several crimes.

desperation (n) : a state of hopelessness

In a state of *desperation*, he decided to do or die and won the game.

bravado (n) : bravery

Desperation produced in him a sense of *bravado* and he attacked the enemy with all his might.

chipmunk (n) : a type of rodent or rat

It was nothing but a small *chipmunk* that scurried off.

mortified (adj) : ashamed

I felt badly *mortified* when I learnt of my folly.

IV

poise (n) : a state of balance, calmness

You must not lose your *poise*, especially in this hour of difficulty.

profound (adj) : deep

His *profound* thoughts impressed everyone.

afflicted (v) : caused pain and agony

Cholera *afflicted* the city in a big way last year.

LANGUAGE EXERCISES

A. Comprehension Questions

(i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. Which is the greatest day in any individual's life ?
2. What enthralled the student in the Psychology class ?

3. Did the boy change as a result of the realization ?
 4. What is there in the personality of every man ?
 5. How can weak personalities become strong ?
 6. What would Chesterton preach if he had just one sermon to deliver ?
 7. What are the different types of fear experienced by the people ?
 8. What did the author of 'Secret of Happiness' find when he flung open the door?
 9. How can one have a real escape from fear ?
 10. What was the priceless secret discovered by Mr. Kagawa?
- (ii) Answer the following questions in 50 words each :**
1. Describe, in your own words, how the professor changed the total attitude of the student.
 2. Write a small paragraph on 'The Proper use of Human Energy.'
 3. Relate the incident of North Woods in your own words.
 4. Write, in brief, the message given by Mr. Kagawa.

B. Vocabulary Exercises

(i) Give the synonyms of :

- a. eminent
- b. adversary
- c. profound
- d. poise
- e. obstacle
- f. illustration
- g. futile
- h. abundant
- i. conquer
- j. total

(ii) Give the antonyms of :

- a. destroy
- b. opponent
- c. shakable
- d. optimism
- e. strength
- f. ordinary
- g. ignorance
- h. real
- i. fact
- j. cautious

(iii) Give one word for each of the following expressions:

- a. a science that studies the working of the human mind
- b. a speech from the pulpit in a church
- c. one who believes in the bright side of things
- d. a daily or periodic paper that gives news and views
- e. one who does not believe in God.

(iv) Frame sentences to show distinction between the following pairs of words :

- a. birth-berth
- b. familiar-familial
- c. gate-gait
- d. adept-adapt
- e. mental-mantle
- f. root-route
- g. peace-piece

C. Grammar Exercises

(i) Fill in the blanks with suitable articles :

- 1. _____ dog is _____ faithful animal.

2. Tanuja is _____ honest girl.
3. I saw _____ American and _____ European at the market.
4. We visited _____ Golden Temple at Amritsar.
5. _____ Himalayas have many ranges.
6. I use _____ umbrella in the rainy season.
7. Chandigarh is _____ capital of Punjab.

(ii) Change the following sentences into passive voice:

1. I know him very well.
2. They sought my help.
3. It is time to say goodbye.
4. This jug contains milk.
5. Don't use foul language.
6. My father will receive me.
7. I annoyed her.

(iii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate comparatives or superlatives of the adjectives given in the brackets :

1. Milk is _____ than water. (thick)
2. Pen is _____ than the sword. (mighty)
3. Ludhiana is the _____ city of Punjab. (large)
4. It is _____ said than done. (easy)
5. The condition of the patient is much _____ now. (good)
6. _____ late than never. (good)

(iv) Fill in the blanks with a non-finite

(to-infinitive, gerund or participle) :

1. He used the illustration of the _____ glass (burn).

2. The great success of life lies in _____ (put) a key into the lock and releasing that terrific power.
3. If I had only one sermon _____ (preach), I would preach people _____ (shun) fear.
4. We allow ourselves _____ (make) miserable by fear.
5. The person who wishes _____ (become) adept in the art of _____ (live) must learn _____ (subdue) his fears.
6. I sat _____ (root) to my chair.
7. I wanted _____ (get) out of there.
8. I found the door _____ (break).
9. He did not learn the art of _____ (control) his powers.
10. _____ (have) faith in God gives a lot of strength.

D. Pronunciation Practice

Speakers of English should learn to distinguish between the sounds /v/ and /w/

/v/ is produced with the help of upper teeth and lower lips.

/w/ is produced by rounding the lips as in the vowel sound in *shoe* and then *immediately* spreading the lips as in the vowel in the initial position of the word *above*.

Now say the following words aloud :

vest – west	vile – while
vale – whale	vine – wine
vie – why	vend – wend
vent – went	vim - whim
verse – worse	vain – wane

E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. List out some pieces of advice for a man who wants to succeed in life.
2. Write a paragraph on :
 - i. Fear, Man's Worst Enemy
 - ii. Faith – Man's Saviour
 - iii. Self Realization as a Key to Success
3. Read any one of the books written by Norman Vincent Peale :
 - i. The Power of Positive Thinking
 - ii. Stay Alive All Your Life
 - iii. A Guide to Confident Living

Just a little fun

For years a secret shame destroyed my peace
I'd not read Eliot, Auden or MacNeice.
But now I think a thought that brings me hope :
Neither had Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope.

(ii) Death the Leveller

[The idea conveyed by the poet in this poem is that death is a great leveller and it does not have any prejudice for or against a king or a pauper, the mighty or the weak, the rich or the poor. All bow before Death's power. Everyone has to yield and submit before the might of Death. Hence man should not be proud of his great deeds.]

The glories of our blood and state Are shadows, not substantial things ; There is no armour against Fate ; Death lays his icy hand on kings :	4
Sceptre and Crown Must tumble down, And in the dust be equal made With the poor crooked scythe and spade.	8
Some men with swords may reap the field, And plant fresh laurels where they kill : But their strong nerves at last must yield ; They tame but one another still :	12
Early or late They stoop to fate, And must give up their murmuring breath When they, pale captives, creep to death.	16
The garlands wither on your brow ; Then boast no more your mighty deeds ! Upon Death's purple altar now See where the victor-victim bleeds.	20

Your heads must come
To the cold tomb :
Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet and blossom in their dust. 24

-James Shirley

[James Shirley was born in 1596 in London. Educated at Oxford and Cambridge, he worked as a schoolmaster most of his life. His reputation as a writer rests largely on his plays. He wrote about forty plays including tragedies, romantic comedies and comedies of manners. His famous songs and lyrics are found in his plays.]

Glossary :

blood – birth, parentage
sceptre – rod or staff carried by a ruler as a sign of power or authority.
laurels –emblem of the conqueror, symbols of victory
captives – prisoners
victor - victim – the conqueror as well as the vanquished.

Enjoying the poem :

1. What is the theme or the central idea of the poem ?
2. Write the summary of the poem in your own words.
3. What lesson do you get from this poem ?
4. What does the expression ‘scythe and spade’ stand for in line 8 ?
5. Do the conquerors tame death or the dead ?

6. Explain the lines
“Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet and blossom in their dust”.
7. Write true or false against the following sentences :
 - (a) There is no armour against fate.
 - (b) Death spares the mighty but punishes the weak.
 - (c) Death can even kill good deeds.
 - (d) Death lays his icy hand on kings.
8. This poem highlights the uselessness of human power and might. What is that cannot be snatched by death ?
9. Read John Donne’s poem ‘Death, Be not Proud’ and compare the two poems.



4. A Gift for Christmas

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time. Three times Della counted it. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing that Della could do except to throw herself on the dirty little couch and cry.

While Della is crying let us take a look at her home which is a furnished flat at \$8 a week. You see signs of poverty wherever you turn your eyes. What else can you expect when Della's husband, Mr. James Dillingham Young, earns just \$20 a week ?

Della finished crying. She went up to the looking-glass and began to powder her cheeks. Then she stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking on a grey fence in a grey backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Oh, the many happy hours she had spent planning for something nice for him ! Something fine and rare, worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim.

Suddenly Della turned away from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its colour all of a sudden. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took great pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair.

Della let fall her beautiful hair and it looked like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knees. Quickly and

nervously she combed it and did it up again. For a minute she faltered. Tears appeared in her eyes.

That was only for a moment. She put on her old brown jacket, she put on her old brown hat. With her eyes shining brightly she fluttered out of the door and down the stairs to the street.

She stopped at a shop with the sign 'M'me Sofronio. Hair Goods of All Kinds.' The shop was located on the second floor. Della ran up the stairs.

'Will you buy my hair ?' asked Della.

'I buy hair,' said Madame. 'Take your hat off and let me have a look at it.'

Down came the brown cascade.

'Twenty dollars,' said Madame, lifting the beautiful hair with her experienced hand.

'Give it to me quickly,' said Della.

Della spent the next two hours in the stores eagerly looking for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores. It was a platinum watch-chain, simple but well made. It was worthy of the watch. As soon as she saw it she decided that it was the right present for Jim. She paid twenty-one dollars for it and hurried home with the 87 cents that remained.

When Della reached home, pleased with the present, she grew nervous as she thought calmly about what she had done. She looked at the reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically. She brought out her curling irons and began to curl her hair carefully. The tiny curls made her look like a schoolboy. 'If Jim doesn't kill me,' she said to herself, 'before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a boy. But what could I do-Oh ! What could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents ?'

At seven o'clock the coffee was made and everything arranged to get dinner ready. Jim was never late. Della sat on the corner of the table near the door with the watch chain in her hand. Then she heard his step on the stairs. She turned white for just a moment. She prayed, 'Please God, make him think I am still pretty.'

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two-and he was burdened with a family ! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves. Jim's eyes were fixed on Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise. He simply stared at her with a strange expression on his face.

Della got off the table and moved towards him. 'Jim, darling,' she cried, 'don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold it because I had to buy a Christmas present for you. I just had to do it. My hair grows so fast-you don't mind, do you? Say "Merry Christmas ! Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice – what a beautiful present I've got for you.'

'You've cut off your hair ?' asked Jim, speaking with difficulty.

'Cut it off and sold it,' said Della. 'Don't you like me just as well, without my hair ?'

Jim looked about the room curiously.

'You say, your hair is gone ?' he said with an air almost of disbelief.

'You needn't look for it,' said Della. 'It's sold, I tell you - sold and gone. It's Christmas Eve, Jim. Be good to me, because I did it all for you.'

Jim seemed to wake up at last, and to understand. He

kissed Della. He suddenly remembered that he had bought something for Della too. He drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

‘Don’t make any mistake, Dell,’ he said, ‘about me. Whatever happens I shall always love you just the same. Now open the package and you will understand why I behaved as I did.’

Della’s white fingers quickly opened the package. And then at first a scream of joy followed by a quick feminine change to tears.

For there lay The Combs – the set of combs, side and back, that Della had seen in a Broadway window and liked so much. They were beautiful combs, so expensive and they were hers now. But alas, the hair in which she was to wear them was sold and gone ! She took them up lovingly, smiled through her tears and said, ‘My hair grows so fast, Jim !’

And then Della jumped up like a little cat and cried, ‘Oh, oh !’

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly on her open palm.

‘Isn’t it lovely, Jim ? I hunted all over town to find it. You’ll have to look at your watch a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it.’

Instead of obeying, Jim sat down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

‘Dell,’ said he, ‘let’s put our Christmas presents away and keep them awhile. They are too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now please get the dinner ready.’

Glossary :

expenses (noun) : operating cost

The salary he gets barely covers his *expenses*.

rare (adj) : uncommon

It is *rare* to find sincerity these days.

possession (noun) : owning something

The gang was caught in *possession* of cocaine.

cascade (v, noun) : flowing like a small waterfall

Water *cascaded* down the stairs. The cascade made a lovely scene.

falter (verb) : to become weak

His courage never *faltered*.

flutter (verb) : to move quickly

The flag *fluttered* in the breeze.

critically (adv) : with disapproval

She spoke *critically* of her sister.

feminine (adj) : qualities connected with women

This dress gives you a typical *feminine* look.

scream (verb) : loud cry

The boys were *screaming* with excitement.

LANGUAGE EXERCISES

A. Comprehension Questions

(i) Answer the following questions in your own words :

1. Why was Della crying ?
2. Describe the poverty of Della's house.
3. What type of present had Della planned for Jim ?
4. What were the two prized possessions of Jim ?

5. Describe the present Della bought for Jim.
6. How did Della manage to buy the gift ?
7. What did Della think when she looked at herself in the mirror?
8. What was Jim's reaction on seeing Della's hair gone ?
9. What explanation did Della give to Jim for getting her hair cut ?
10. What was in the package that Jim had brought for Della ?
11. How had Jim managed to bring the present for Della ?

(ii) Answer the following questions in about 50 words each :

1. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. Why ?
2. Describe the incident of Della's selling her hair in your own words.
3. Why was Della pleased with her selection of the present for Jim ?
4. Why does the storywriter call Jim 'a poor fellow' ?
5. What do you think about the expression in Jim's eyes? Was it shock, surprise or anger ? Why ?
6. Both of them gave each other the gift of rare love. How ? Explain.

(iii) Write true or false against the following statements :

1. Jim loved Della more than she loved him.
2. Della could easily buy a present for Jim without selling her hair.
3. Della was proud of being Jim's wife.
4. Both the gifts proved their true love for each other.
5. Jim and Della could do without gifts.

B. Vocabulary Exercises

(i) Look at the sentences :

She went up to the *looking glass*.

She brought out her *curling irons*.

The words *looking* and *curling* are the *verbs* ending in *-ing* and have the force of *noun* as well as *verb*. Such words are called 'gerunds'.

(ii) Supply suitable gerunds in the blanks :

1. I am not interested in a celebrity. (become)
2. I am used to by the phone. (sleep)
3. I feel like the mountains. (climb)
4. Your plants need (prune)
5. He didn't want to risk the boss. (annoy)
6. I am not interested in in luxury. (live)
7. Will it help if we try ... the cake back in the oven?
(put)
8. I feel like across the river. (swim)
9. I am not used to irregular hours. (work)
10. I am used to overtime. (do)

ii (a) Combine the nouns with gerunds in the table to form meaningful compound nouns.

fruit	lorry	bird	farming	picking
coal	weight	fish	lifting	mining
			watching	driving

(b) Now combine the gerunds with the nouns to form compound nouns :

waiting	diving	driving	committee	pool	rink
dining	swimming		licence	board	hall
housing	skating		room		

(iii) Fill in the blanks with the suitable word :

1. *Happiness* is to *sorrow* as *strength* is to
(muscle/lion/weakness/strong)
2. *Touch* is to *strike* as *whisper* is to
(shout/kill/quiet/anger)
3. *Snow* is to *white* as *honey* is to
(light/bee/sweet/tree)
4. *Deep* is to *shallow* as *bold* is to
(dull/strong/timid/loud)
5. *Bear* is to *cub* as *horse* is to
(lamb/fawn/foal/kid)
6. *Herd* is to *deer* as *bunch* is to
(people/chickens/cattle/keys)
7. *Horse* is to *neigh* as *lamb* is to
(bleat/screech/roar/yell)
8. *Haste* is to *delay* as *honour* is to
(king/judge/shame/prize)
9. *Puppy* is to *dog* as *fawn* is to
(bear/wolf/duck/deer)
10. *Victory* is to *defeat* as *vague* is to
(lose/definite/virtue/fame)

C. Grammar Exercises

(i) (c) Look at the sentences :

She *put on* her old brown hat.

Della *got off* the table and moved towards him.

When a preposition or an adverb is placed after a verb, the phrase so formed gives a variety of meanings.

Now fill in the blanks with the phrases given below :

put off	look ahead
put out	look after
put on	look out
put forward	look up

1. Will you my dog when I am away.
2. You should and make plans for your future.
3. While swimming in the sea, for sharks.
4. He was depressed after his accident, but with time, life began to
5. the light, I want to read.
6. the light, I want to sleep.
7. I shall my visit to Delhi till the weather is fine.
8. The new officers many new suggestions.

(ii) Correct the following sentences : (errors in the use of prepositions)

1. To save the child he jumped in the well.
2. You have to answer on your misbehaviour.
3. He did not agree with my proposal.

4. We should abide with the decision of the management.
5. He has been accused for theft.
6. You must apologize from the boss on your misbehaviour.
7. The student assured the teacher with his honesty.
8. Della was absorbed with her studies.
9. The nurse is attending near your father.
10. He is addicted from drugs.

(iii) Rewrite the following in the Indirect Form of Narration :

1. “You have cut off your hair ?” asked Jim, speaking with difficulty.
“Cut it off and sold it,” said Della. “Don’t you like me just as well, without my hair ?”
2. “You needn’t look for it,” said Della. “Be good to me, because I did it all for you.”
3. “Isn’t it lovely, Jim ? I hunted all over the town to find it. You will have to look at your watch a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it.” said Della to Jim.

D. Pronunciation Practice

Check up the pronunciation of the following words in the dictionary and say them aloud.

wool	onion	suite
lamb	oven	adjective
cough	potato	interrogative
ewe	quay	bury
hero	suggestion	exhibition

Don't you think you should learn some phonetic symbols to be able to read the correct pronunciation of words from the dictionary?

E. Creative Writing and Extended Reading

1. Continue an imaginary dialogue (started below) between Jim and Della while sitting over the dinner table on the Christmas Eve.

Jim: Della, how could you think of this gift ?

Della:

Jim: But, why did you not tell me anything about it ?

Della:

Jim: Couldn't we do without gifts this Christmas ?

Della: But you too did not disclose your plans. Why ?

Jim:

Della: Should we not put them away for the next Christmas?

Jim:

2. Write a short paragraph on :
The Practice of Exchanging Gifts on special occasions.
3. Discuss with your friends, the wisdom (or otherwise) of Jim and Della in matter of the practice of exchanging gifts on the Christmas eve.

Just a little fun :

Here lies my wife.

Here let her lie !

Now she's at rest

And so am I.