



Unit

2

Prose

A Nice Cup of Tea

George Orwell



Warm Up

a) Here are a few varieties of tea. How many of these have you tasted?
Tick the boxes.



Herbal Tea

☐

Ice Tea

☐

Lemon Tea

☐

Green Tea

☐

Black Tea

☐

Tea with Milk

☐

b) You would have seen lovely packets of tea on the shelves in supermarkets and shops. Have you ever wondered how tea powder is obtained from the plants? Look at the pictures and describe the process.





Read the following essay in which George Orwell highlights the distinctive features of preparing a nice cup of tea.

If you look up 'tea' in the first cookery book that comes to hand you will probably find that it is unmentioned; or at most you will find a few lines of sketchy instructions which give no ruling on several of the most important points.

This is **curious**, not only because tea is one of the mainstays of civilization in this country, as well as in Eire, Australia and New Zealand, but because the best manner of making it is the subject of violent disputes.

When I look through my own recipe for the perfect cup of tea, I find no fewer than eleven outstanding points. On perhaps two of them there would be pretty general agreement, but at least four others are acutely **controversial**. Here are my own eleven rules, every one of which I regard as golden:

First of all, one should use Indian or Ceylonese tea. China tea has **virtues** which are not to be **despised** nowadays - it is economical, and one can drink it without milk - but there is not much **stimulation** in it. One does not feel wiser, braver or more **optimistic** after drinking it. Anyone who has used that comforting phrase 'a nice cup of tea' invariably means Indian tea.

Secondly, tea should be made in small quantities - that is, in a teapot. Tea out of an urn is always tasteless, while army tea, made in a **cauldron**, tastes of grease and whitewash. The teapot should

be made of china or earthenware. Silver or Britannia ware teapots produce inferior tea and enamel pots are worse; though curiously enough a pewter teapot (a rarity nowadays) is not so bad.

Thirdly, the pot should be warmed beforehand. This is better done by placing it on the hob than by the usual method of swilling it out with hot water.

Fourthly, the tea should be strong. For a pot holding a quart, if you are going to fill it nearly to the brim, six heaped teaspoons would be about right. In a time of **rationing**, this is not an idea that can be realized on every day of the week, but I maintain that one strong cup of tea is better than twenty weak ones. All true tea lovers not only like their tea strong, but like it a little stronger with each year that passes - a fact which is recognized in the extra ration issued to old-age pensioners.

Fifthly, the tea should be put straight into the pot. No strainers, muslin bags or other devices to imprison the tea. In some countries teapots are fitted with little **dangling** baskets under the **spout** to catch the stray leaves, which are supposed to be harmful. Actually one can swallow tea-leaves in considerable quantities without ill effect, and if the tea is not loose in the pot it never infuses properly.

Sixthly, one should take the teapot to the kettle and not the other way about. The water should be actually boiling at the moment of impact, which means that one should keep it on the flame while one pours. Some people add that one should only use water that has been freshly



TEA TIME DICTIONARY

	<h3>Cream Tea</h3> <p>A simple tea service consisting of scones, clotted cream, marmalade or lemon curd and tea.</p>
	<h3>Elevensies</h3> <p>Morning coffee hour in England.</p>
	<h3>Afternoon Tea</h3> <p>What we imagine all British teas to be. An afternoon meal, served typically from 2 – 4 pm, which includes the tiers of smart little crustless sandwiches, scones, clotted cream, curd, 2-3 sweets and heaps of tea.</p>
	<h3>Low Tea</h3> <p>This is still an afternoon tea, but called “low tea” because guests are seated in low armchairs with low side-tables on which to place their cups and saucers.</p>
	<h3>Royale Tea</h3> <p>A social tea served with champagne at the beginning, or sherry at the end.</p>
	<h3>Celebration Tea</h3> <p>Another variation of afternoon tea with a celebratory cake which is also served alongside the other sweets.</p>
	<h3>High Tea</h3> <p>A meal eaten in the late afternoon or early evening, consisting of a cooked dish, bread & butter, & tea. Families with servants often took high tea on Sundays to allow the maids & butlers time to go to church & not worry about cooking.</p>

brought to the boil, but I have never noticed that it makes any difference.

Seventhly, after making the tea, one should stir it, or better, give the pot a good shake, afterwards allowing the leaves to settle.

Eighthly, one should drink out of a good breakfast cup — that is, the cylindrical type of cup, not the flat, shallow type. The breakfast cup holds more, and with the other kind one's tea is always half cold before one has well started on it.

Ninthly, one should pour the cream off the milk before using it for tea. Milk that is too creamy always gives tea a sickly taste.

Tenthly, one should pour tea into the cup first. This is one of the most controversial points of all; indeed in every family in Britain there are probably two schools of thought on the subject. The milk-first school can bring forward some fairly strong arguments, but I maintain that my own argument is unanswerable. This is that, by putting the tea in first and stirring as one pours, one can exactly regulate the amount of milk whereas one is **liable** to put in too much milk if one does it the other way round.

Lastly, tea — unless one is drinking it in the Russian style — should be drunk *without sugar*. I know very well that I am in a minority here. But still, how can you call yourself a true tea lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very unlikely that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

These are not the only controversial points to arise in connexion with tea drinking, but they are sufficient to show how subtilized the whole business has become. There is also the **mysterious** social **etiquette** surrounding the teapot (why is it considered vulgar to drink out of your saucer, for instance?) and much might be written about the subsidiary uses of tea leaves, such as telling fortunes, predicting the arrival of visitors, feeding rabbits, healing burns and sweeping the carpet. It is worth paying attention to such details as warming the pot and using water that is really boiling, so as to make quite sure of wringing out of one's ration the twenty good, strong cups of that two ounces, properly handled, ought to represent.

(Taken from *The Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters of George Orwell*, Volume 3, 1943-45, Penguin ISBN, 0-14-00-3153-7)

About the Author

Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903–21 January 1950), better known by his pen name George Orwell, was an English novelist, essayist, journalist



and critic whose work is marked by clear prose, awareness of social iniquity, opposition to totalitarianism and candid

support of democratic socialism.

Orwell wrote literary criticism, poetry, fiction and polemical journalism. He is best known for the allegorical novella *Animal Farm* (1945) and the dystopian novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). In 2008, *The Times* ranked him second on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".



Glossary

curious	- interesting
controversial	- arguable, disputable
virtues	- admirable qualities
despised	- hated
stimulation	- excitement
optimistic	- positive, hopeful
cauldron	- a big pot used for boiling
rationing	- restricting the consumption of a scarce commodity during war
dangling	- hanging freely, suspended

spout	- the pipe-like opening in a teapot through which tea is poured out
liable	- responsible
mysterious	- incomprehensible
etiquette	- socially acceptable behaviour

1. Based on your understanding of the text, answer each of the following questions in one or two sentences.

- What seems 'curious' to the author?
- Why does the author say that it is important to include a tea recipe in cookery books?



- c) Mention the countries in which tea is a part of civilization.
- d) Which tea does the author prefer—China tea or Indian tea?
- e) According to the author, what does the phrase ‘a nice cup of tea’ refer to?
- f) What is the second golden rule in the preparation of tea?
- g) How does army tea taste?
- h) Do tea lovers generally like strong tea or weak tea?
- i) Why should tea be directly added to the pot?
- j) Why does the author prefer the cylindrical cup to a flat cup?
- k) What should be poured into the cup first—tea or milk?
- l) Why does the author advise removing cream from the milk?
- m) Does the author like drinking tea with sugar? Give reasons.
- n) Why does the author refer to himself as being in ‘a minority’?
- o) Whom does the author call ‘misguided people’? What is his advice to them?

2. Based on your understanding of the text, answer each of the following questions in four or five sentences.

- a) What are the author’s views on China tea?
- b) How does adding sugar affect the taste of tea?
- c) Elucidate the author’s ideas about teapots.

3. Answer each of the following questions in a paragraph of 100–150 words.

- a) Summarise George Orwell’s distinctive ideas in “A Nice Cup of Tea”.
- b) Discuss how the essay reveals the factual points and the author’s personal opinions on the preparation of tea.
- c) What are the aspects that contribute to humour in the essay?

4. Based on your understanding of the text, complete the chart given below by choosing the appropriate words or phrases given in brackets.

Golden Rules of Tea Preparation

(add sugar, shaken, milk, infused properly, strainers, without cream, taken to the kettle, small quantities, China or earthenware, stirred, warmed)

Tea should be made in _____ in a teapot.
↓
The teapot should be made of _____
↓
The pot should be _____ beforehand.
↓
The pot should not have _____
↓
While pouring water the teapot should be _____
↓
The tea leaves should be _____
↓
After making tea, it should be _____ or the pot should be _____
↓
The milk for the tea should be _____
↓
The author does not like to _____ to tea.

Aa Vocabulary

a) Find out the synonym of the underlined word in each of the following sentences.

1. But because the best manner of making it is the subject of violent disputes.
a) agreements b) applauses
c) conflicts d) discussions
2. ...tea is one of the mainstays of civilization in the country.
a) a society in an advanced state of social development
b) a society that has slow progress
c) a society that has no progress
d) a society in an average state of social development
3. ...that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated.
a) motivated b) discouraged
c) passive d) admired
4. ...under the spout to catch the stray leaves.
a) fresh b) loose
c) gathered d) harmful

5. One is liable to put in too much milk.
a) likely b) certain
c) eager d) responsible

b) Find out the antonym of the underlined word in each of the following sentences.

1. ...which are not to be despised.
a) hated b) liked
c) respected d) defeated
2. One does not feel wise, braver or more optimistic.
a) opportunistic b) cheerful
c) realistic d) pessimistic
3. Not the flat, shallow type...
a) narrow b) wide
c) deep d) direct
4. Predicting the arrival of visitors...
a) journey b) departure
c) migration d) perusal
5. ...but they are sufficient to show how subtilized the whole business has become.
a) enough b) suffocative
c) inadequate d) submissive

c) Fill in the boxes with the correct answers. The first one has been done for you.

S. No	Word with meaning and part of speech	Sentence	Noun/Verb/Adj. form	Sentence
1	Word : wise meaning : clever part of speech : adjective	My brother is wise.	wisdom	My brother showed great wisdom in business.
2	harm			
3	stimulate			
4	argue			
5	strong			
6	destroy			



Listening

Listen to the passage about the 'Significance of Tea' and answer the questions.

Questions

1. Which country is the largest tea producer in the world?
2. _____ percent of the tea produced in India is exported.
3. What is the role of antioxidants in tea?
4. Drinking tea strengthens one's _____, _____ and _____.
5. How does drinking tea help a diabetic?



'Cup of tea' is an idiom which means one's favourite activity. One may say "Teaching English is my cup of tea."



Speaking

Read the story silently.

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed that just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on high flame. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter moaned and

impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the boiled eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and poured it in a cup. Turning to her he asked, "Daughter, what do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied, "Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After peeling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face. "Father, what does this mean?" she asked. He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity – the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato was strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the eggs became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique.

After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new. "Which are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean? Things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us. Which one are you?"

This story shows how people react to different situations in life. Some become weak and soft like the potatoes and some others harden like the egg. The best way to face difficulties is illustrated by the coffee beans which change their colour and add flavour.

Now use these ideas and prepare a speech on the topic 'The importance of developing a positive attitude' and deliver the speech in the school assembly.



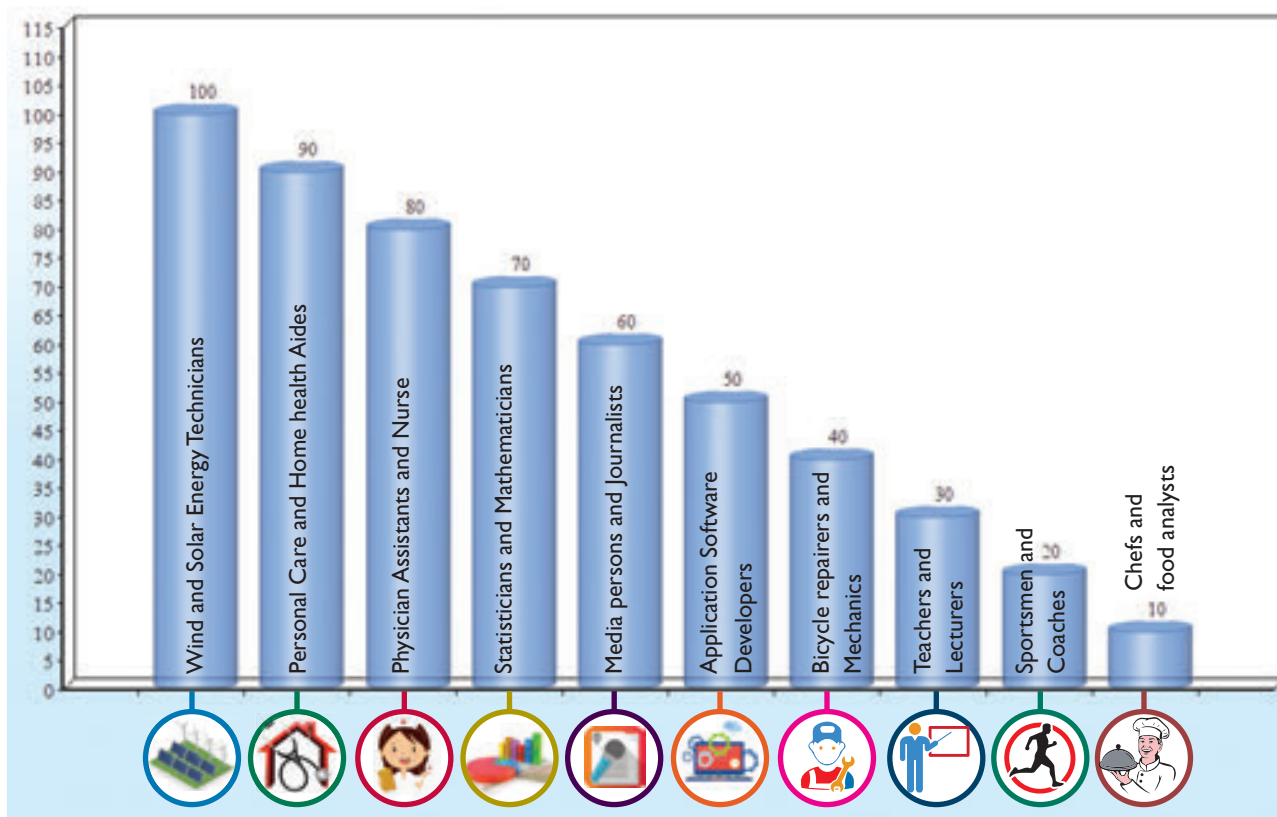
Reading

Non-verbal Representations

Presenting information using tables, graphs and charts is a common practice in scientific and technical writing. This is because through graphs and charts, scientific data can be presented in a clear and precise manner. Bar charts, graphs, tree diagrams, organizational charts, flow charts and pie charts are the frequently used pictorial or non-verbal representations. The table is the simplest and the most common direct graphic form used for presenting information.

Look at the following non-verbal representation. Based on your understanding and inference, write a paragraph on career trends in the next decade.

Fastest -Growing Occupations





Task

Now read the following article on the emerging career options in the modern era and answer the questions that follow.

The students at the higher secondary level in schools start thinking of suitable courses to take up at the university level based on their aptitude, ability and interests. While considering the higher education options, they should also plan the career path they wish to take. In today's complex job scenario, there is a mismatch between demand and supply on one hand we have qualified professionals desperately trying to find a job, while on the other hand, there are many professions that need suitable talented employees. But such skilled employees are unavailable. Therefore, the need of the hour is that students have an understanding of the emerging career options.

Schools should take the initiative to organise career guidance and counselling sessions for students. However, students need to remember that to build a strong career, they must understand the prospective field and their primary interest. It is also important for students to focus on overall personality development and hone their communication skills as these are important for the success of their career. Students are also advised that in order to build a solid career foundation, they need to qualify suitably by pursuing a degree course in the chosen area of interest and also consider post graduate education. Diploma/Short-term courses may help one find a job in the short run but may not promise career progression. Rapid advancement in science and technology

and globalisation has widened the scope of career options in the twenty-first century. Let us consider some popular careers.

Fashion Designing

The current cosmopolitan and fashion-conscious wave that has taken over our country has opened up a huge arena for careers in fashion. These careers encompass designing clothes, costumes, jewellery, footwear, wardrobe, costumes, accessories and the like.

Culinary Arts

With food and cookery shows being a major trend across the world, culinary arts, a sub-domain of the hospitality sector, has now become the most sought after career.

Paramedical sciences

In recent times, there has been a great demand in the health care industry. Paramedical professionals who support medical practitioners in areas such as optometry, pathology, nursing, physiotherapy, and dentistry are much sought after.

Media, Journalism and Advertising

In this information era, print and entertainment media have become a force to reckon with. This arena has become a huge career playground because youngsters are attracted to it as the exposure and reach is greater through such mass media. We notice that radio and TV channels, internet companies and advertising agencies are increasingly recruiting qualified professionals.

Hotel Management

The hotel industry is the fastest growing industry in India. The number of international travellers (both for business and leisure) is increasing. The hospitality and service industry offers career options such as house keeping, front-desk executives, tourism management, etc.

Sports Management

With multinational companies supporting sports, careers in sports offer enormous scope. One need not be a player or an athlete to shine in a sports career because the field of sports offers various career options such as technical trainers, commentators, sports journalists, dieticians, referees, etc. Conducting sports events successfully, organizing the event laudably, preparing the ground for the event are all part of sports management.

- When do students start thinking about their career path?
- How can students build a strong career?
- What are the integral aspects of a successful career?
- What is meant by 'culinary art'?
- Why is media a popular career option?
- Name some paramedical courses mentioned in the passage.
- Why is the hotel industry seen as the fastest growing in India?
- Does one have to be a player to opt for a career in the field of sports? Answer giving reasons.
- Pick one word from the passage which is the opposite of 'modern'.

- Which word in the passage means 'composed of people from many parts of the country'?



Prepositions

The underlined words in the following sentences from the text are the examples of prepositions.

- If you look up 'tea' in the first cookery book,
- Fifthly, the tea should be put straight into the pot.

- ◆ 'in' is used for the placement of noun inside another noun.
- ◆ 'into' is used for the movement of a noun from one status to an other status.

A preposition is a word or a phrase that is used to show the relationship between a noun and another noun.

List of Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

A	C	N	T
about	<u>concerning</u>	near	than
above	<u>D</u>	<u>next to</u>	through
across	despite	<u>O</u>	till
after	down	of	to
against	<u>during</u>	off	<u>towards</u>
ahead of	<u>E</u>	on	<u>U</u>
along	<u>except for</u>	on behalf	under
amid	<u>F</u>	of	unlike
amidst	following	on top of	until
among	for	onto	up
around	<u>from</u>	opposite	<u>upon</u>
as far as	<u>I</u>	out	<u>V</u>
aside from	in	out of	versus
at	in case of	outside	via
<u>B</u>	in front of	<u>over</u>	<u>W</u>
barring	in place of	<u>P</u>	with
behind	in spite of	past	within
before	including	<u>plus</u>	<u>without</u>
below	inside	<u>R</u>	
beneath	instead of	regarding	
beside	<u>into</u>	regardless	
besides	<u>L</u>	<u>of</u>	
between	<u>like</u>		
beyond	<u>M</u>	<u>S</u>	
by	<u>minus</u>	<u>since</u>	



Here are a few prepositions which cause confusion. The examples illustrate the correct usage.

since/for

since → for an action continuing from the past to the present time

- ❖ Yuvan has been playing badminton well **since** 2014.

for → the total duration of an action/existence from the past to the present time

- ❖ Yuvan has been playing badminton **for** the past four years.

above/over

above → when one thing is not directly over the other

- ❖ My brother lived in the mountains **above** the lake.

over → for horizontal movement at a higher level

- ❖ I saw a helicopter fly **over** a lake.

below/under

below → 'Below' is the opposite of 'above'

- ❖ Her head was **below** the level of the table. So, nobody noticed her.

under → 'under' is the opposite of 'over'; for horizontal movement at a lower level

- ❖ A child places his toys **under** a blanket.
- ❖ A boy ran **under** the bridge when the river was dry.

along/through

along → for following a line of specific movement

- ❖ A man walked **along** the side of the river.

through → for movement in a three dimensional space from one side to the other

- ❖ Hunters walked **through** the forest.

between/among

between → used for two nouns/adverbials, when there is 'and' in the sentence

- ❖ There was amity **between** Jessie Owens and Luz Long in the Berlin Olympics.

among → used for more than two nouns, when there is the use of 'and' in the sentence

- ❖ There was a healthy discussion about communal harmony **among** Ramesh, Abdul and John.

before/after

before → used for the second action in a phrase when we mention two actions

- ❖ **Before** eating food, we clean our hands.

after → used for the first action in a phrase when we mention two actions

- ❖ **After** eating food, children love playing.

Task 1

Recall your learning of basic prepositions and complete the sentences using the prepositions given in brackets.

over	under	on	between
among	into	with	since
in front of		near/beside	

- a) The boy jumped _____ a narrow stream.
- b) Afsar will meet me _____ Friday morning.
- c) The temple is _____ the bank.
- d) My friend will meet me _____ his brother tomorrow.
- e) There is usually a garden _____ a bungalow.
- f) Yuvan has been studying well _____ childhood.
- g) A trekker climbed _____ a mountain meticulously.
- h) There was a skirmish _____ my brother and sister.
- i) The laudable thoughts were apparent _____ many scholars in a conference.
- j) It is easy to work _____ the aegis of visionary leader.

Task 2

Complete the following passages using the prepositions given in brackets.

(among, for, at, to, in,)

- i) When Lakshmi was (1) _____ school, she practised music from Monday (2) _____ Friday. She involved herself (3) _____ the school orchestra. She was responsible

(4) _____ conducting many programmes. She was very popular (5) _____ her schoolmates, as she was kind, friendly and helpful.

(after, with, on, before, of, in, for)

- ii) (1) _____ the interview, Solomon was confident (2) _____ getting the job. He knew that he was qualified (3) _____ the job. He was interested (4) _____ discharging his duty perfectly. The interview panel was impressed (5) _____ his attitude and skills. So (6) _____ the interview, he was (7) _____ cloud nine.

Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase is made up of a preposition and a noun phrase.

Task 1

Underline the prepositional phrases. The first two examples have been done for you.

- a) With reference to your advertisement in a local newspaper, I am applying for the post of a salesman.
- b) The assignment will be completed in a few weeks.
- c) Ravi was appreciated by his teachers.
- d) We feel sorry for our mistakes.
- e) The boy studied well in spite of many obstacles.
- f) Our nation is famous for its glorious culture.
- g) We are proud of our children.
- h) My brother will return home in the evening.

Task 2

Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositional phrase given in brackets.

(in favour of, in case of, according to, on the whole, on account of, on behalf of, in spite of, instead of)

- a) ----- Kiran, Rajesh may attend a programme.
- b) Many tourists visited Ooty ----- heavy rains.
- c) Expressing gratitude ----- others is common in a vote of thanks.
- d) -----, I had a happy childhood.
- e) Our teacher always acts ----- her students.
- f) ----- his laziness, the boy remained passive for a long time.
- g) ----- Gandhiji, ahimsa means infinite love.
- h) ----- rain, take an umbrella.

CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction is a word that joins together words, phrases, clauses or sentences. There are two types of conjunctions, namely coordinating conjunctions and subordinating conjunctions.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating conjunctions are used in compound sentences. They help in joining sentences and independent clauses of equal rank.

Cumulative conjunctions	and, also, as well as
Choice conjunctions	or, or else, otherwise
Contrast conjunctions	yet, but, still, nevertheless, whereas, while
Consequence conjunctions	so, and so, therefore, consequently, for

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Subordinating conjunctions are words that join two clauses, one being subordinate to the other. They are used to join complex sentences.

Subordinating conjunctions express:

time	before, after, when while, till
place	where, wherever, whether, whither
manner	as, as if, as though
comparison	as, than
cause/reason	because, since, for
result/ consequence	that, so that
purpose	so that, in order that
condition/ concession	if, unless, provided, even if
contrast	though, even though, although

Correlative conjunctions are words that are always used in pairs to join sentences.

both.....and, eitheror, neither.....nor, whether.....or, not only.....but also, such... that, scarcely...when, no sooner...than, as...as, so...that, rather than...

CONNECTIVES OR LINKERS

Connectives are words that join or link ideas in a sentence. They can also be used to connect ideas together in separate sentences and to link ideas between paragraphs.

Connectives help in facilitating the flow of language in construction of proper structures while writing or speaking. They help to connect ideas so as to smoothly link one point or a paragraph to the next to make our writing or speaking more powerful.

Adding connectives as well as, moreover, too, also, besides, furthermore, in addition, etc.	Sequencing connectives first, second, third, after, eventually, finally, meanwhile, now, subsequently, next, etc.	Conditional connectives if, unless
Comparing connectives similarly, likewise, like, whereas, equally, in the same way, etc.	Contrasting connectives unlike, instead of, otherwise, whereas, on the other hand, nevertheless, in spite of, despite, notwithstanding, etc.	Cause and effect connectives consequently, therefore, thus, because, due to, as a result of
Qualifying connectives but, however, unless, although, if, except	Illustrating connectives such as, for example, for instance, in the case of	Place connectives beneath, near, beyond, below
Temporal connectives during, earlier, later, meanwhile, whenever	Emphasizing connectives especially, in particular	

Task 1

Choose the appropriate linker from within the brackets and complete the sentences.

- I could not complete my paper in the examination _____ (because, but) I was slow in answering the questions.
- It started raining, _____ (yet, so) we could not play.
- _____ (As, If) I got up early, I managed to reach school on time.



- d) _____ (Though/Whereas) he committed a mistake, he apologised _____ (and/since) promised that he would not repeat it.
- e) This is _____ (how/what) it must be done.
- f) The vendor saw the train moving slowly from the platform, _____ (therefore/until) he got in.
- g) I was not well, _____ (but/so) I did not attend the class.
- h) (If, Although) _____ she can drive, she travels by bus.
- i) (If/Unless) _____ you register your name, you cannot participate in the competitions.
- j) (As soon as/Besides) _____ my father arrived home, I narrated the incident.
- k) Be quick to hear _____ (then/and) slow to speak.
- l) I am _____ (neither/either) an ascetic in theory _____ (nor/or) in practice.
- m) We fail to harness the rain water, _____ (consequently, nevertheless) we suffer.
- n) My brother will certainly clear GRE; _____ (yet/for) he works very hard.

Task2

Combine the sentences and rewrite them using the words given in the brackets.

- a) The well was deep. Therefore, the fox could not get out of the well. (because)

- b) The work was over. We went home. (when)
- c) A library is a public place. We see a number of books kept there for reading. (where)
- d) The culprit was caught. Immediately, he was taken to the police station. (as soon as)
- e) The boys were stealing mangoes from a grove. At that time, the owner of the grove came in. (while)
- f) Artificially flavoured juices are hazardous to health. Moreover, they lead to kidney problems. (and)
- g) Adit has been promoted. Ranjan has been promoted. (as well as)
- h) Caesar was declared emperor. The conspirators killed him. (After)

Task 3

Fill in the blanks with appropriate correlative conjunctions.

- a) She is _____ an understanding person _____ everybody likes to be with her.
- b) Suraj owns _____ a typewriter _____ a computer.
- c) Vani is _____ a good singer _____ a good dancer.
- d) Amit did not know _____ his father met his class teacher _____ not.
- e) I would _____ starve _____ beg.



Writing

Article Writing

An article is a piece of writing penned for a large group of readers, usually intended for publication in newspapers or magazines. Therefore, the objective of writing an article should be to attract the attention of the readers and to retain their interest as well. The author of an article should be well informed about the subject and should have a wide knowledge of the same. He/She should be creative and should possess good vocabulary. He/She should develop the skill to organise and present ideas in a coherent and logical manner.



An article is a written work published in a print or electronic medium for propagating news, research, analysis, etc.

e.g. Scientific papers, blogs, usenets, e-papers and news articles

Salient points to remember while writing an article.

- ◆ Provide a catchy or captivating title or heading. The first letter of every content word in the caption should begin with a capital letter.
- ◆ The title should give an idea of the subject to being dealt with.
- ◆ The title should be followed by the name of the author. [by]
- ◆ Try to conform to the prescribed word limit.
- ◆ The language should be simple and formal.
- ◆ Grammatical accuracy should be ensured.
- ◆ Relevant value points should be gathered.
- ◆ Expand the ideas into 3 or 4 paragraphs.

Structure of the article.

The First Paragraph

- ◆ Define and introduce the topic.
- ◆ Begin the article with an interesting adage, a slogan, an amazing fact or with some statistics, facts and figures.

The Second Paragraph

- ◆ Give a detailed explanation of the topic.
- ◆ Include the causes and effects.
- ◆ Refer to examples, anecdotes, experiences and present state of affairs.
- ◆ Talk about merits and demerits/ advantages and disadvantages

The Third Paragraph

- ◆ Suggest suitable solutions for the problem discussed.
- ◆ Give a proper conclusion.

TASK 1

The Government of Tamil nadu has imposed a ban on the use of plastic. Effective implementation of this ban depends on public awareness and individual responsibility.



Write an article of 150 words for your school magazine to create an awareness of the dangers posed by indiscriminate use of plastic. Expand the ideas given below as notes.

Notes:

a. Introduction

- (i) Plastic – synthetic material – doesn't decompose in soil
- (ii) Inevitable role of plastic – man's day-to-day life

b. Human Health Hazard

- (i) Leeching of plastic into food – micro plastic entering food chain
- (ii) Human body's inability to deal with this unnatural substance
- (iii) Reaction of micro plastic in human body and ill effects

c. Adverse effects on plants and animals

- (i) Plastic particles choking waterways – affect aquatic animals
- (ii) Ingestion by aquatic and terrestrial animals – blocking of intestines and respiratory passages

d. Environmental Degradation

- (i) Manufacturing process and burning of plastics – pollute atmosphere
- (ii) Plastic – non-biodegradable – interferes with soil microorganisms – affects soil fertility

e. Conclusion

- (i) Suggestions for restricted use – alternatives for one-time use of plastics
- (ii) Segregation of plastic waste – for recycling

TASK 2

Urban living brings with it a possibility of various communicable diseases.

Now write an article of about 150 words for a leading newspaper on the various ways of maintaining personal hygiene and sanitation in order to ensure a healthy living. Make use of the hints given below.

Hints:

a) Introduction – 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness' – brief explanation

b) Personal hygiene

- (i) Frequent washing of hands and regular bathing
- (ii) Brushing of teeth, trimming of nails and hair
- (iii) Wearing clean clothes

c) Keeping diseases at bay

- (i) Avoid street food
- (ii) Keep food containers covered
- (iii) Drink boiled water
- (iv) Wash fruits and vegetables in flowing water

d) Keeping living areas, surroundings and the environment clean

- (i) Disposal of domestic organic waste on a daily basis and hazardous waste in designated places
- (ii) Regular sweeping, mopping and dusting
- (iii) Disinfection of toilets and bathing areas
- (iv) Avoid littering of public places
- (v) Avoid spitting, urinating and defecating in public places

- e) **Conclusion** – hygiene – a collective exercise – everyone's involvement and practice, a must – ensure community health and happiness – celebrate life

Suggested Topics:

- ◆ Importance of Physical Exercises / Sports and Games
- ◆ Travel and its Benefits
- ◆ Water Conservation
- ◆ Child Labour
- ◆ Mobile Phone – Advantages and Disadvantages
- ◆ Consumerism – Wants and Needs
- ◆ Value of Education
- ◆ Value based Education

Essay Writing

An essay is an attempt or a trial in writing a piece of composition.

An essay should have

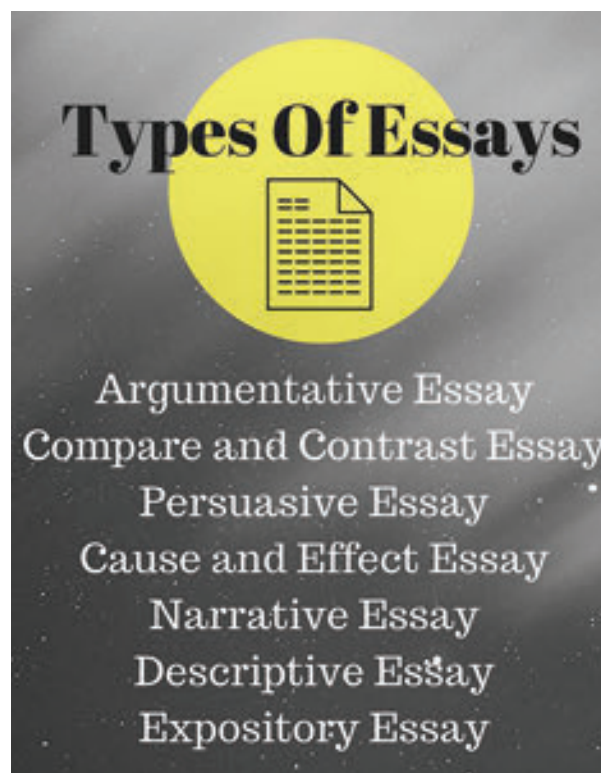
- ◆ a definite theme or purpose
- ◆ a logical order and coherence
- ◆ a good objective and style

Structure of an essay.

- ◆ Catchy introduction
- ◆ Main text – divided into paragraphs
- ◆ Good conclusion – summing up the main idea

Before writing an essay.

- ◆ Read a lot in order to be well informed.
- ◆ Gather information from various sources – internet, books, magazines, etc.



- ◆ Collect anecdotes, quotes, proverbs that would come in handy.

While Writing

- ◆ Jot down main points and sub points
- ◆ Sketch the first draft
- ◆ Read, revise, edit, correct and proof – readit
- ◆ Make a fair draft

“A Nice Cup of Tea” is an essay by George Orwell. There are famous essayists like Francis Bacon, Charles Lamb, J. Krishnamurthi whose essays will inspire you to write more.

Task 1

Write an essay of about 200 words each.

1. The profession you would like to choose
2. The importance of a balanced diet
3. A memorable journey



Unit

2

Poem

OUR CASUARINA TREE

Toru Dutt



Warm Up

You visit your school after several years. As you cross the banyan tree at the entrance, cheerful memories fill your mind. Fill the bubbles with your memories.



LIKE a huge Python, winding round and round
The rugged trunk, indented deep with scars,
Up to its very summit near the stars,
A creeper climbs, in whose embraces bound
No other tree could live. But **gallantly**
The giant wears the scarf, and flowers are hung
In crimson clusters all the boughs among,
Whereon all day are gathered bird and bee;
And oft at nights the garden overflows
With one sweet song that seems to have no close,
Sung darkling from our tree, while men **repose**.

When first my **casement** is wide open thrown
At dawn, my eyes delighted on it rest;
Sometimes, and most in winter, - on its crest
A gray **baboon** sits statue-like alone
Watching the sunrise; while on lower boughs
His puny offspring leap about and play;
And far and near **kokilas** hail the day;
And to their pastures **wend** our sleepy cows;
And in the shadow, on the broad tank cast
By that **hoar** tree, so beautiful and vast,
The water-lilies spring, like snow **enmassed**.





But not because of its magnificence
Dear is the Casuarina to my soul:
Beneath it we have played; though years may roll,
O sweet companions, loved with love intense,
For your sakes, shall the tree be ever dear.
Blent with your images, it shall arise
In memory, till the hot tears blind mine eyes!
What is that dirge-like murmur that I hear
Like the sea breaking on a **shingle**-beach?
It is the tree's lament, an eerie speech,
That haply to the unknown land may reach.

Unknown, yet well-known to the eye of faith!
Ah, I have heard that wail far, far away
In distant lands, by many a sheltered bay,
When slumbered in his cave the water-**wraith**
And the waves gently kissed the classic shore
Of France or Italy, beneath the moon,
When earth lay **trancèd** in a dreamless swoon:
And every time the music rose, - before
Mine inner vision rose a form **sublime**,
Thy form, O Tree, as in my happy prime
I saw thee, in my own loved native clime.

Therefore I **fain** would **consecrate** a **lay**
Unto thy honor, Tree, beloved of those
Who now in blessed sleep for aye repose, -
Dearer than life to me, alas, were they!
Mayst thou be numbered when my days are done
With deathless trees - like those in Borrowdale,
Under whose awful branches lingered pale
“Fear, trembling Hope, and Death, the skeleton,
And Time the shadow;” and though weak the verse
That would thy beauty fain, oh, fain **rehearse**,
May Love defend thee from **oblivion's** curse.



About The Author



Toru Dutt (1856 - 1877) was a Bengali poet from the Indian subcontinent, who wrote in English and French. She was the third daughter of the family. The Dutt family was a family of distinguished intellectuals and poets. She also had the advantage of being taught by excellent English tutors at home and later on of the long stay in Europe and England. Toru, with all her exposure to and involvement in Western life and culture loved the land of her birth and remained thoroughly Indian in her consciousness and sensibility. Besides her well-known collection of poems with the title 'Ancient Ballads' and 'Legends of Hindustan' (1882) she has to her credit a volume of poems in French titled 'Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields' (1875). 'Our Casuarina Tree', the most well-known of Toru's poems, was included in her 'Miscellaneous Poems'.



Glossary

gallantly	- bravely or heroically
repose	- a state of rest
casement	- a type of window that is fixed on one side and opens like a door
baboon	- a type of large monkey found in Africa and Asia
kokilas	- a type of bird similar to the cuckoo
wend	- stroll
hoar	- white frost deposits on the tree
enmassed	- amassed
shingle	- rocky
wraith	- apparition
tranced	- dreamy condition, hypnotised
sublime	- glorious, grand
fain	- eagerly
consecrate	- to officially make something holy
lay	- amateur
rehearse	- repeat
oblivion	- a state of forgetfulness

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

The casuarina tree is tall and strong, with a creeper winding around it like a (1) _____. The tree stands like a (2) _____ with a colourful scarf of flowers. Birds surround the garden and the sweet song of the birds is heard. The poet is delighted to see the casuarina tree through her (3) _____. She sees a grey monkey sitting like a (4) _____ on top of the tree, the cows grazing and the water lilies (5) _____ in the pond. The poet feels that the tree is dear to her not for its (6) _____ appearance but for the (7) _____ memories of her happy childhood that it brings to her. She strongly believes that (8) _____ communicates with human beings. The poet could communicate with the tree even when she was in a far-off land as she could hear the tree (9) _____ her absence. The poet (10) _____ the tree's memory to her loved ones, who are not alive. She immortalizes the tree through her poem like the poet Wordsworth who (11) _____



_____ the yew tree of Borrowdale in verse. She expresses her wish that the tree should be remembered out of love and not just because it cannot be (12) _____.

[python, statue, nature, casement, nostalgic, lamenting, impressive, forgotten, giant, consecrates, springing, sanctified]

2. Based on your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.

- a) What is the creeper compared to?
- b) How does the creeper appear on the tree?
- c) Describe the garden during the night.
- d) How does the poet spend her winter?
- e) Name the bird that sings in the poet's garden.
- f) Why is the casuarina tree dear to poet's heart?
- g) Does nature communicate with human beings?
- h) What has Wordsworth sanctified in his poem?
- i) To whom does Toru Dutt want to consecrate the tree's memory?
- j) The casuarina tree will be remembered for ever. Why?

3. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow.

a) *A creeper climbs, in whose embraces bound
No other tree could live.*

- i) Which tree is referred to in the above lines?
- ii) How does the tree survive the tight hold of the creeper?
- iii) Why does Toru Dutt use the expression 'a creeper climbs'?

b) *The giant wears the scarf, and flowers are hung
In crimson clusters all the bough among!*

- i) Who is the giant here?
- ii) Why is the scarf colourful?

c) *"Fear, trembling Hope, and Death, the skeleton,
And Time the shadow", and though weak the verse
That would thy beauty fain, oh, fain rehearse,
May Love defend thee from oblivion's curse.*

- i) What does the poet mean by the expression 'May love defend thee from oblivion's curse'?
- ii) What does the expression 'fain' convey?
- iii) What does the poet convey through the expression 'Fear, trembling hope'?

4. Explain the following lines with reference to the context.

- a) *Dear is the Casuarina to my soul;*
- b) *It is the tree's lament, an eerie speech,...*
- c) *Unto thy honor, Tree, beloved of those
Who now in blessed sleep for aye repose,*

5. Identify the figure of speech used in each of the extracts given below and write down the answer in the space given below. The first one is done for you.

- a) "LIKE a huge Python, winding round and round
The rugged trunk, indented deep with scars",
- b) "A creeper climbs, in whose embraces bound
No other tree could live. But gallantly
The giant wears the scarf, and flowers are hung....."
- c) "A gray baboon sits statue-like alone"
- d) "The water-lilies spring, like snow enmassed."
- e) "What is that dirge - like murmur that I hear
Like the sea breaking on a shingle -beach?"

- a) **Zoomorphism / Simile** b)-----
c)----- d)----- e)-----

Zoomorphism

Describing the vine in animal terms (as a python). This is used to illustrate movement, making the tree seem more actively alive and also implying movement. This is a subtle indication of the process of life.

6. Answer each of the following questions in a paragraph of 100–150 words.

- a. Describe the reminiscences of the poet, when she sees the casuarina tree.
- b) How does nature communicate with the poet?
- c) The poet immortalizes the tree. Elucidate.



Listening

First read the questions given below, then listen to the poem, read aloud by the teacher or played on an audio player. Then answer the questions based on your listening of the poem.

- 1. The poet was tossing in the bed awake because _____.
 - a) he was worried
 - b) he was struggling to sleep
 - c) it was day time
 - d) he was tired
- 2. The _____ were 'sparkling as pearls'.
 - a) moon
 - b) sun
 - c) stars
 - d) meteoroids



3. The _____ gave the poet a motherly smile.
a) sun b) stars
c) moon d) sky
4. _____ made the poet's eyelids droop.
a) nature b) rosy lips
c) songs d) tiredness
5. _____ is the title of the poem.
a) Wonders
b) Midnight Wonders
c) Nature
d) Midnight dreams

Parallel Reading

Nature's Way

Is there anything as tranquil
As a brightly glowing jonquil
That stands in sweet serenity,
A part of nature's tapestry?

A flower that never questions why,
The rivers flow and birds will fly,
Content to fill part of the plan,
To beautify the world of man.

If we would only realize
We, too, can help to glorify,
To find within each passing day
A happiness along the way.

A loving hug or cheerful smile
Can help to make a life worthwhile.
If all would lend a helping hand,
We soon would have a world so grand.

Alora M.Knight

(slightly edited)

Unit

2

Supplementary

Life of Pi

Yann Martel



Warm Up



Imagine you are going on a trek or an adventure. It requires grit and a strong will to survive the odds and emerge unscathed. Most importantly, you should carry an emergency kit.

Choose the ten most essential items from the box below and complete the table.

Non-Perishable Food News Paper Bean Bags
Tab **Flashlights** Whistle to Signal For Help
 Fruits Can Opener Shampoo Utensils
 Head Phones Soap **Camera** Paper Plates, Plastic Cups
First Aid Kit Goggles Radio Matches **Charger**
 Candles Local Maps Magazines Books **Knife**
 Money Paper Towels Batteries Slippers Mobile Phone
 Tube Tent / Bivvy Bag Lighter Candy Pen and Notepad Mouth Wash
 Deodorant Water Bottles Umbrella
 Tooth Brush and Toothpaste Warm Blanket

First-Aid Kit				

Share your list with your friend.



Here is an abridged version of the famous Canadian fantasy adventure novel titled *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel published in 2001. The protagonist is Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.



I was alone and orphaned, in the middle of the Pacific, hanging on to an oar, an adult tiger in front of me, sharks beneath me, a storm raging about me. Had I considered my prospects in the light of reason, I surely would have given up and let go of the oar, hoping that I might drown before being eaten. But I don't recall that I had a single thought during those first minutes of relative safety. I didn't even notice daybreak. I held on to the oar, I just held on, God only knows why?

The elements allowed me to go on living. The lifeboat did not sink. Richard Parker kept out of sight. The sharks prowled but did not attack. The waves splashed me but did not pull me off. I watched the ship as it disappeared with much burbling and **belching**. Lights flickered and went out. I looked about for my family, for survivors, for another lifeboat, for anything that might bring me hope. There was nothing. Only rain, marauding waves of black ocean and the **flotsam** of tragedy. The darkness melted

away from the sky. The rain stopped, I could not stay in the position I was in forever. I was cold. My neck was sore from holding up my head and from all the craning I had been doing. My back hurt from leaning against the lifebuoy. And I needed to be higher up if I were to see other lifeboats.

In the morning I could not move. I was pinned by weakness to the **tarpaulin**. Even thinking was exhausting. I applied myself to thinking straight. At length, as slowly as a caravan of camels crossing a desert, some thoughts came together.

I thought of sustenance for the first time. I had not had a drop to drink or a bite to eat or a minute of sleep in three days. Finding this obvious explanation for my weakness brought me a little strength.

Richard Parker was still on board. In fact, he was directly beneath me. **Incredible** that such a thing should need consent to be true, but it was only after much deliberation, upon assessing various mental items and points of view, that I concluded that it was not a dream or a delusion or a misplaced memory or a fancy or any other such falsity, but a solid, true thing witnessed while in a weakened, highly agitated state. The truth of it would be confirmed as soon as I felt well enough to investigate. How I had failed to notice for two-and-a-half days a 450-pound Bengal tiger in a lifeboat twenty-six feet long was a **conundrum** I would have to try to solve later, when I had more energy. The feat surely made Richard Parker the largest stowaway, proportionally speaking, in the history of navigation. From tip of nose to tip of tail he took up over a third of the length of the ship he was on.



You might think I lost all hope at that point. I did. And as a result I perked up and felt much better. We see that in sports all the time, don't we? The tennis challenger starts strong but soon loses confidence in his playing. The champion racks up the games. But in the final set, when the challenger has nothing left to lose, he becomes relaxed again, insouciant, daring. Suddenly he's playing like the devil and the champion must work hard to get those last points. So it was with me. To cope with a hyena seemed remotely possible, but I was so obviously outmatched by Richard Parker that it wasn't even worth worrying about. With a tiger aboard, my life was over. That being settled, why not do something about my parched throat?

I believe it was this that saved my life that morning that I was quite literally dying of thirst. Now that the word had popped into my head I couldn't think of anything else, as if the word itself were salty and the more I thought of it, the worse the effect. I have heard that the hunger for air exceeds as a compelling sensation the thirst for water. Only for a few minutes, I say. After a few minutes you die and the discomfort of **asphyxiation** goes away. Whereas thirst is a drawn-out affair. Look: Christ on the Cross died of suffocation, but His only complaint was of thirst. If thirst can be so taxing that

even God Incarnate complains about it, imagine the effect on an ordinary human. It was enough to make me go raving mad. I have never known a worse physical hell than this **putrid** taste and pasty feeling in the mouth, this unbearable pressure at the back of the throat, this sensation that my blood was turning to thick syrup that barely flowed. Truly, by comparison, a tiger was nothing, and so I pushed aside all thoughts of Richard Parker and fearlessly went exploring for fresh water.

The divining rod in my mind dipped sharply and a spring gushed water when I remembered that I was on a genuine, regulation lifeboat and that such a lifeboat was surely outfitted with supplies. That seemed like a perfectly reasonable proposition. What captain would fail in so elementary a way to ensure the safety of his crew?

What ship chandler would not think of making a little extra money under the noble **guise** of saving lives? It was settled. There was water aboard. All I had to do was find it, which meant I had to move. I made it to the middle of the boat, to the edge of the tarpaulin. It was a hard crawl. I felt I was climbing the side of a volcano and I was about to look over the rim into a boiling **cauldron** of orange lava. I lay flat. I carefully brought my head over. I did not look over any more than I had to. I did not see Richard Parker. The hyena was plainly visible, though. It was back behind what was left of the zebra. It was looking at me.

I was no longer afraid of it. It wasn't ten feet away, yet my heart didn't skip a beat. Richard Parker's presence had at least that useful aspect. To be afraid of this ridiculous dog when there was a tiger about was like being afraid of **splinters**



when trees are falling down. I became very angry at the animal. “You ugly, foul creature,” I muttered. The only reason I didn’t stand up and beat it off the lifeboat with a stick was lack of strength and stick, not lack of heart. Did the hyena sense something of my mastery? Did it say to itself, “Super alpha is watching me—I better not move”? I don’t know. At any rate, it didn’t move. In fact, in the way it ducked its head it seemed to want to hide from me. But it was no use hiding. It would get its just dessert soon enough.



Richard Parker also explained the animals’ strange behavior. Now it was clear why the hyena had confined itself to such an absurdly small space behind the zebra and why it had waited so long before killing it. It was fear of the greater beast and fear of touching the greater beast’s food. The strained, temporary peace between Orange Juice and the hyena, and my reprieve, were no doubt due to the same reason: in the face of such a superior predator, all of us were prey, and normal ways of preying were affected. It seemed the presence of a tiger had saved me from a hyena— surely a textbook example of jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

But the great beast was not behaving like a great beast, to such an extent that the hyena had taken liberties. Richard Parker’s passivity, and for three

long days, needed explaining. Only in two ways could I account for it: sedation and seasickness. Father regularly sedated a number of the animals to lessen their stress. Might he have sedated Richard Parker shortly before the ship sank? Had the shock of the shipwreck—the noises, the falling into the sea, the terrible struggle to swim to the lifeboat—increased the effect of the sedative? Had seasickness taken over after that? These were the only **plausible** explanations I could come up with. I lost interest in the question. Only water interested me.

I took stock of the lifeboat. It was three-and-a-half feet deep, eight feet wide and twenty-six feet long, exactly. I know because it was printed on one of the side benches in black letters. It also said that the lifeboat was designed to accommodate a maximum of thirty-two people. Wouldn’t that have been merry, sharing it with so many? Instead we were three and it was awfully crowded.

It seems orange is the color of survival because the whole inside of the boat and the tarpaulin and the life jackets and the lifebuoy and the oars and most every other significant object aboard was orange. Even the plastic, headless whistles were orange.

The words Tsimtsum and Panama were printed on each side of the bow in stark, black, roman capitals. I did not grasp all these details — and many more — right away. They came to my notice with time and as a result of necessity. I would be in the direst of dire straits, facing a bleak future, when some small thing, some detail, would transform itself and appear in my mind in a new light. It



would no longer be the small thing it was before, but the most important thing in the world, the thing that would save my life. This happened time and again. How true it is that necessity is the mother of invention, how very true.

And what if the supplies were at the bow, beneath the tarpaulin? I turned and crawled back. I felt like a dried-out lizard. I pushed down on the tarpaulin. It was tautly stretched. If I unrolled it, I would give myself access to what supplies might be stored below. But that meant creating an opening onto Richard Parker's den.

There was no question. Thirst pushed me on. I unrolled it a little. Immediately I was rewarded. The bow was like the stern; it had an end bench. And upon it, just a few inches from the stem, a hasp glittered like a diamond. There was the outline of a lid. My heart began to pound. I unrolled the tarpaulin further. I peeked under. The lid was shaped like a rounded-out triangle, three feet wide and two feet deep. At that moment I perceived an orange mass. I jerked my head back. But the orange wasn't moving and didn't look right. I looked again. It wasn't a tiger. It was a life jacket. There were a number of life jackets at the back of Richard Parker's den.

A shiver went through my body. Between the life jackets, partially, as if through some leaves, I had my first, **unambiguous**, clear-headed glimpse of Richard Parker. It was his haunches I could see, and part of his back. Tawny, striped and simply enormous. He was facing the stern, lying flat on his stomach. He was still except for the breathing motion of his sides. I blinked in disbelief at how close he was. He was right there, two feet beneath

me. Stretching, I could have pinched his bottom. And between us there was nothing but a thin tarpaulin, easily got round.

"God preserve me!" No **supplication** was ever more passionate yet more gently carried by the breath. I lay absolutely motionless. I had to have water, I brought my hand down and quietly undid the hasp. I pulled on the lid. It opened onto a locker, I looked down between my legs. I thought I would faint for joy. The open locker **glistened** with shiny new things. Oh, the delight of the manufactured good, the man-made device, the created thing! That moment of material revelation brought an intensity of pleasure – a heady mix of hope, surprise, disbelief, thrill, gratitude, all crushed into one – unequalled in my life by any Christmas, birthday, wedding, Diwali or other gift-giving occasion. I was positively giddy with happiness.



My eyes immediately fell upon what I was looking for. Whether in a bottle, a tin can or a carton, water is unmistakably packaged. On this lifeboat, the wine of life was served in pale golden cans that fit nicely in the hand. 'Drinking Water' said the vintage label in black letters. HP Foods Ltd. were the vintners. 500 ml were the contents. There were stacks of these cans, too many to count at a glance.



With a shaking hand I reached down and picked one up. It was cool to the touch and heavy. I shook it. The bubble of air inside made a dull glub glub glub sound. I was about to be delivered from my hellish thirst. My pulse raced at the thought. I only had to open the can. I paused. How would I do that?

I had a can – surely I had a can opener? I looked in the locker. There was a great quantity of things. I rummaged about. I was losing patience. Aching expectation had run its fruitful course. I had to drink now – or I would die. I could not find the desired instrument. But there was no time for useless distress. Action was needed. Could I prise it open with my fingernails? I tried. I couldn't. My teeth? It wasn't worth trying. I looked over the gunnel. The tarpaulin hooks. Short, blunt, solid. I kneeled on the bench and leaned over. Holding the can with both my hands, I sharply brought it up against a hook. A good dint. I did it again. Another dint next to the first. By dint of dinting, I managed the trick. A pearl of water appeared. I licked it off. I turned the can and banged the opposite side of the top against the hook to make another hole. I worked like a fiend. I made a larger hole. I sat back on the **gunnel**. I held the can up to my face. I opened my mouth. I tilted the can.

My feelings can perhaps be imagined, but they can hardly be described.

To the **gurgling** beat of my greedy throat, pure, delicious, beautiful, crystalline water flowed into my system. Liquid life, it was. I drained that golden cup to the very last drop, sucking at the hole to catch any remaining moisture. I went, "Ahhhhhhh!" tossed the can overboard and got another one. I opened it the way I had the first and its contents vanished just as quickly. That can sailed overboard too, and I opened the next one. Which, shortly, also ended up in the ocean. Another can was dispatched. I drank four cans, two liters of that most exquisite of nectars, before I stopped. *You* might think such a rapid intake of water after prolonged thirst might upset my system. Nonsense! I never felt better in my life. Why, feel my brow! My forehead was wet with fresh, clean, refreshing perspiration. Everything in me, right down to the pores of my skin, was expressing joy.

A sense of well-being quickly overcame me. My mouth became moist and soft. I forgot about the back of my throat. My skin relaxed. My joints moved with greater ease. My heart began to beat like a merry drum and blood started flowing through my veins like cars from a wedding party honking their way through town. Strength and suppleness came back to my muscles. My head became clearer. Truly, I was coming back to life from the dead. It was glorious. I tell you to be drunk on alcohol is disgraceful, but to be drunk on water is noble and ecstatic basked in bliss and plenitude for several minutes.

I had water rations to last me 124 days. Never had simple arithmetic brought such a smile to my face. It was Richard Parker who calmed me down. It is the

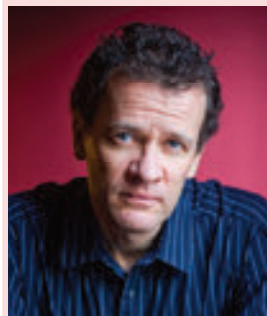
irony of this story that the one who scared me witless to start with was the very same who brought me peace, purpose, I dare say even wholeness.

I had to tame him. It was at that moment that I realized this necessity. It was not a question of him or me, but of him and me. We were, literally and figuratively, in the same boat. We would live – or we would die – together. He might be killed in an accident, or he could die shortly of natural causes, but it would be foolish to count on such an eventuality. More likely the worst would happen: the simple passage of time, in which his animal toughness would easily outlast my human frailty. Only if I tamed him could I possibly trick him into dying first, if we had to come to that sorry business.

But there's more to it. I will come clean. I will tell you a secret: a part of me was glad about Richard Parker. A part of me did not want Richard Parker to die at all, because *if he died I would be left alone with despair*, a foe even more formidable than a tiger. If I still had the will to live, it was thanks to Richard Parker. He kept me from thinking too much about my family and my tragic circumstances. He pushed me to go on living. I hated him for it, yet at the same time I was grateful. I am grateful. It's the plain truth: without Richard Parker, I wouldn't be alive today to tell you my story.

I left Richard Parker in a jungle and waited for a ship. It pained me to see the animal without even turning his head to have a last glimpse. A ship did find me and I am now reunited with my family.

About The Author



Yann Martel was born in Spain to French Canadian parents. Martel's father worked as a diplomat and the family moved to Costa Rica, France, Mexico and Canada during Martel's childhood. He grew up speaking both French and English.

Martel studied philosophy at Trent University in Ontario, and later spent a year in India visiting religious sisters and zoos. His first three books received little critical or popular attention but with the publication of *Life of Pi* in 2001, Martel became internationally famous and he was awarded the Man Booker Prize in 2002.



Glossary

belch	- expel air noisily
flotsam	- debris floating in a river or sea
tarpaulin	- a heavy waterproof sheet
incredible	- unbelievable
conundrum	- a riddle
asphyxiation	- death due to lack of oxygen
putrid	- rotting
guise	- pretence
cauldron	- a large bowl or pot
splinters	- a long sharp fragment of material, often wood



plausible	- probable, likely,
unambiguous	- clear
supplication	- a humble request, prayer
glistened	- shone
gunnel	- upper edge of the side of a boat
gurgling	- a kind of sound when water is drunk fast

1. Answer the following questions in a sentence or two each, based on your understanding of the story.

- Describe the pathetic condition of Pi in the middle of the ocean.
- Who was Richard Parker?
- Richard Parker's survival seemed incredible to Pi. Why?
- Why was the great beast not behaving naturally?
- Why was Pi not afraid of the hyena?
- Describe Pi's struggle to find drinking water.
- What was Pi's reaction when he discovered drinking water?
- Why did Pi want to tame Parker?
- What saved Pi's life?
- How did Pi reunite with this family?

2. Answer the following questions in about 50 words.

- How did the presence of Richard Parker help Pi?
- Describe the lifeboat.
- How did Pi feel after drinking water?
- Did Pi want Richard Parker to die? Answer, giving reasons.

3. Answer in a paragraph.

- How did the presence of Richard Parker influence the attitude of Pi during his

- Water is the elixir of life. Substantiate the statement with reference to the story of 'Life Of Pi'.
- If you were lost at sea for as long as Pi was, what is the one item you would want with you? Write a diary entry in which you identify the item and explain why it is the one thing you would want with you.

4. Sequence the following incidents logically to write the summary of the story 'Life of Pi'.

- ◆ As he looked around, he was shocked to find Richard Parker on board.
- ◆ His search for water took him dangerously close to Richard Parker but nothing could stop him – neither Richard Parker nor the hyena.
- ◆ Pi left Richard Parker in a jungle and reunited with his family.
- ◆ Pi came back to life and his senses after drinking the elixir of life.
- ◆ He understood that it was Richard Parker who helped him survive for 227 days.
- ◆ He was pinned by weakness having had no food, water or even sleep for nearly three days.
- ◆ Strangely his thirst overpowered his fear of Richard Parker and he went about exploring for fresh water.
- ◆ A little later, he succeeded in his search, when he found stacks of cans of drinking water.
- ◆ Pi was stranded in the Pacific on a lifeboat.
- ◆ Then, he realized that Parker who scared him earlier brought him peace, purpose and wholeness.