

SOUTH DELHI MURDER

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A. Work in small groups and answer these questions:

1. Why are old people compelled to live alone nowadays?
2. Do old people feel safe to live in big cities? Why or why not?
3. What would you do if you happen to be the first person to have come to know about the occurrence of any accident or crime?

SOUTH DELHI MURDER

For three days she took it for **spilled** red ink
Or nail-polish. Then a **scab** of flies
Peeled to hint at the wounds shut
Behind that door. Her head **buzzed**

As she called the police. Such a sweet boy, 5
 She later *gasp*ed to Mrs Guha, a little dense
 But smiling and so-sweet, to think he bottle up
 In himself the range of 26 stabs, twen - tee - six,
 You never can tell with these people, no, *not* ever.
 To which Mrs Guha sadly shook her gold earrings. 10
 The officer who turned up with two policemen
 Also shook his head when told of the old couple
 Who had lived in that flat with one serving boy
 And presents from guilt-stricken sons in the US.
 Having broken the door and located the crime, 15
 He came out holding a large hanky to his nose,
 Spat and asked, Nepali boy, no? *Bihari Chokkra*?

B.1. Answer the following questions briefly:

1. Who is 'she' referred to in the poem?
2. What did 'she' think for three days?
3. Whom did 'she' call and why?
4. What did 'she' tell Mrs Guha?
5. Who lived with the old couple?

Some clues are so obvious they don't have to be pinned:
 The **incision** of murder is always the outsider's choice.
 Someone on the edge of life, driven by ghostly **scalpels**. 20
 Sometime in the **morphia** of night when the roads of Delhi
 Were white **swatches** of loneliness and **smog**, sometime
 Three or more nights ago when the occasional truck's
 Back lights faded to wavering bandages of yellow,
 Sometime in a gauzed **silence** broken by yapping 25
 Street dogs so-sweet Shyam had crept to the locked
 Front door and let his **accomplices** in Steel rods
 Had been used, and knives; the old man clubbed in bed.
 His wife surgically stabbed later. A cousin was asked
 By the officer to make an **inventory** of missing items. 30
 Which was long two TV sets, radio, Banarasi saris

All the **inherited** silver, jewellery, cash in fact everything
Of value except the laptop, which had been left behind
In panic or ignorance of its value. *Bihari chokkras*.
Scoffed the officer, what do they know of computers.
Or alphabets for that matter. It turned out that this time
The *chokkra* in question had been filmed, holding
Loaded trays in parties, and his address noted.
Justice was clinical, sweet Shyam **nabbed** in his village
With fifty rupees on him and a sari for his mother.

35

40

**B.2. Answer the following questions briefly:**

1. When was the murder committed?
2. Who was accused of committing the murder?
3. What were the weapons used for the murder?
4. Who made the inventory of missing items?
5. Which items were found missing?
6. Why did the killers not take away the laptop?
7. How was Shyam identified by the police?
8. How and when was Shyam nabbed?

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

spilled (v): spread to the other areas

scab: a hard layer of dry blood that forms when a cut on your skin is getting better

peeled (v): to suggest about

buzzed (v): humming sound made

- gasped** (v): taken short breath
incision (n): a cut made into the body with a knife
morphia (n): in a drugged state; powerful drug used for reducing pain
scalpels (n): small sharp knives used by doctors
swatches (n): a small piece of cloth used as an example of a larger piece
smog (n): polluted air, that is a mixture of smoke and fog
gauged (v): measured with accuracy
accomplices (n): who helped in the murder
inventory (n): a list giving the details of all the things in a place
inherited (v): received as heir, got from ancestors

C. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How could 'she' make out that the murder was committed?
2. What was her opinion about Shyam? Which words or phrases suggest this? Does her opinion change after the murder of the old couple?
3. Whom did the police suspect to have committed the crime? How did they come to the conclusion?
4. How did the police investigate the murder? Was it a proper investigation?
5. How does the poem bring out the predicament of the old people living alone in big cities?
6. Narrate the poem in your own words.
7. The moment the police officer comes out of the room he asks, Nepali boy, no? *Bihari Chokkra*? (lines 16-17). What light does it throw on his attitude?

C. 2. GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the following in **groups** or **pairs**:

- a. Should the old parents be left alone?
- b. Law and order should be the priority of the government

C. 3. COMPOSITION

Ex.1. Despite the fact that people from Bihar have excelled in all fields, a negative attitude towards Bihar and Biharis seems to prevail in several other parts of the country. What could be the possible reasons? Write an article in

about 200 words to be published in your school magazine, suggesting ways to overcome such negative attitude towards Bihar and Biharis.

D. WORD STUDY

D.1. Dictionary Use

Ex. 1. Correct the spelling of the following words:

Smilling

incison

ghostily

inventory

jewelery

alhabates

Ex. 2. Look up a dictionary and write two meanings of each of the following words – the one in which it is used in the lesson and the other which is more common:

head

present lock

polish

gasp

lock

D.2. Word-meaning

Ex. 1. Find from the lesson words the meanings of which have been given on the left hand side. The last part of each word is given on the right hand side:

moved along a surface

.....ept

companion or helper

.....lices

through surgical method

.....cally

received as heir

.....rited

sharp barking

.....ping

Ex. 2. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the list given below:

ignore

laptop

cousin

guilt

edge

a. The Of the accused man was in doubt.

b. He had knife with a sharp

c. She is a distant of mine.

d. He completely his teacher's suggestions.

e. is an easily portable computer.

D. 4. Phrases

Ex.1. Use the following phrases in sentences of your own, making their meanings clear:

take for	turn up	turn out	come out
know of	bottle up	tell of	

E. GRAMMAR

Read the following line from the poem:

For three days she took it for spilled red ink

Mark the use of preposition in the given line.

Ex. 1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions

1. He has been working here _____ three years.
2. They fell love.
3. We met him _____ station.
4. The criminals were nabbed _____ the police.
5. Gulu has been living here _____ February.

F. Activity**Ex.1. Registers**

Choose from the options, given on the right side, the field to which the words listed on the left side are related to:

Words	Options
(i) Wounds bandage gauzed clinical Hospital Incision scalpels morphia surgically	Agriculture Painting Singing
(ii) accomplice inventory clues murder knives clubbed stabbed nabbed officer	Crime Worship Library Fishing
(iii) nail polish earrings saris jewellery	Cricket Cookery Court Woman fashion
(iv) computers radio sets film television sets laptop	Electronics Agriculture Library Film