Class 12
English Core

CBSE Sample Paper 2019
(with solutions)

For March 2019 Board Exam
CLASS XII
ENGLISH CORE
Sample Question Paper 2018-19

Time allowed: 3 hrs                                      Max Marks: 100

General Instructions:
1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C.
2. All the sections are compulsory.
3. Read the instructions very carefully given with each section and question and follow them faithfully.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION – A (READING)

1. Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below:
1. India has never subscribed to the doctrine of militarism and war in her history. Here war was never treated as an ideal. It was only tolerated as unavoidable and inevitable, and all attempts were made to check it and bring it under control. Inspite of the frequency of wars in ancient India, in spite of highly developed military organization, techniques of war and imperialism, and in spite of the open justification of war as national policy, the heart of India loved pacifisms as an ideal capable of realization. India’s symbolic role was that of a peacemaker and it sincerely pinned its faith on the principle of “Live and let live”. At least philosophically, India’s intelligence supported the cause of peace not only in national affairs but in international affairs also. All the great seers of the yore visualized the unity of life, permeating all beings, animate or inanimate, which ruled out killing and suicidal wars.

2. This doctrine of philosophical pacifisms was practiced by ancient Aryans is, no doubt, a question of controversial nature. Certainly, the great Indian teachers and savants stuck to this doctrine tenaciously and in their personal life they translated it into practice and preached it to masses and even to princes of military classes.

3. Another culture of those times, the existence of which has been proved by the excavations of Mohenjo-Daro, also enunciated the doctrine of pacifism and friendship to all. Strangely enough, the Indus Valley civilization has revealed no fortification and very few weapons.
4. Ahimsa or the doctrine of non-violence in thought, speech and action assumed a gigantic importance in the Buddhist and Jain period. By a constant practice of this virtue, man becomes unassailable by even wild beasts, who forgot their ferocity the moment they entered the circumference of his magnetic influence. The monks and nuns of these churches were apostles of peace, who reached every nook and corner of the world and delivered the message of love to war-weary humanity. The greatest votary was the royal monk Ashoka, who in reality was responsible for transforming Ahimsa as an act of personal virtue, to Ahimsa as an act of national virtue.

5. Many a historian recounting the causes of the downfall of the Mauryas, hold the pacific policy of Ashoka which had eschewed the aggressive militarism of his predecessors, responsible for an early decay of the military strength of the state and its consequent disintegration, leading to the rise of Sungas, Kanvas and Andhras. But, in reality the fault lies with the weak successors of Ashoka, who could not wield the weapon of non-violence with a skill and efficiency which required the strength of a spiritual giant like Ashoka. They failed due to their subjective weakness: Pacifism itself was no cause of their failure.

6. Besides the foregoing philosophical and religious school of thought, even many political authorities gave their unqualified support to the cause of pacifisms. They recognized the right of rivals to exist, not mainly as enemies, but as collaborators in the building of a civilization operation. Thus, for centuries, in the pre-Mauryan India, scores of small independent republics existed and flourished without coming in clash with each other.  

7. With regard to Kautilya, the much maligned militarist and the so called Machiavelli of India, He thinks that the object of diplomacy is to avoid war. 

8. The Mahabharata observes in the connection, “A wise man should be content with what can be obtained by the expedients of conciliation, gift and dissention.” It denounces the warring world of men by comparing it to a dog-kennel. “First there comes the wagging of tails, then turning of one round to other, then the show of teeth, then the roaring and then comes the commencement of the fights. It is the same with men; there is no difference whatever.” Yajnavalkya adds: “War is the last expedient to be used when all others have failed.” Likewise, Sri Krishna who’s Bhagwad-Gita has been styled by some as “a song of the battle”, should not be considered out and out militarist. When all the three expedients were exhausted, then alone the fourth was resorted to.
9. All possible avenues of peace such as negotiation, conciliation through conference, meditation and so on, were explored before the war was resorted to. This proves that the heart of ancient India was sound and it longed for peace, although war also was not treated as an anathema, which was to be avoided as far as possible. 
(Extract from ‘Culture India-Pacifism has been the Ideal’ by Sri Indra)

1.1 Answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

(i) The heart of India loved ____
   a) a highly developed military organization
   b) techniques of wars and imperialism
   c) loans
   d) pacifism

(ii) Principle of “Live and let live” means
   a) imperialism
   b) militarism
   c) frequency of wars among nations
   d) role of peace makers

(iii) Aryans preached and practiced this to the masses
   a) non-violence
   b) freedom of speech and action
   c) philosophical pacifisms
   d) practice of military organization

(iv) Mahabharata compares the warring world with
   a) wise men
   b) dog kennel
   c) song of the battle
   d) militarist

(v) Unearthing Mohan-jo-Daro reinforced the following of Pacifism
   a) there was no fortification and very few weapons
   b) they delivered the message of love
   c) they were apostles of peace
   d) thinks that the object of diplomacy is to avoid war
1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: \((1 \times 6 = 6)\)
(i) How was war treated in India?
(ii) Describe India’s preparedness for war in spite of their belief in Pacifism.
(iii) How did the Aryans practice the Doctrine of Pacifism?
(iv) What is Ahimsa?
(v) What is the meaning of co-existence with rivals?
(vi) Why should Bhagvad-Gita not be considered as “A song of the battle”?

1.3 Answer any three of the following questions in 25-30 words: \((2 \times 3 = 6)\)
(i) What kind of unity did all the seers visualize?
(ii) By some, Ashoka was considered as the cause of the downfall of the Mauryas. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
(iii) Which options were explored by Sri Krishna before resorting to war?
(iv) Throw some light on the thinking of Kautilya regarding war.

1.4 Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: \((1 \times 3 = 3)\)
(i) express in definite and clear terms (para 3)
(ii) defensive wall (para 3)
(iii) the beginning (para 8)

2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:
1. There is a clear dichotomy between Jayashankar Prasad’s daily life and the one that found expression in his literature. In his literary formulations, Prasad advocated an escape- from- personality ideal and categorically stated: “An artist’s art, and not his person, is the touchstone to assess his work . . . it is only after losing his personality that he emerges in his art as an artist”.
2. In Prasad’s works – his poems, short stories, novels, dramas etc. – what emerges is life as shaped in the writer’s inner self by his emotions, fancies, dreams, reveries . . . His writings are a record not of outer reality, but of the artist’s inner world. As such, of a proper appreciation and understanding of his works more emphasis needs to be placed on the working of his mind, than the events of his day to-day life.
3. Prasad was born in a renowned family of Varansi. His grand-father Shiv Ratan Sahu, a dealer in high quality perfumed tobacco (snuff). Besides being an astute businessman, he was endowed with a marked cultural taste. His home was the meeting place of the local poets, singers, artists, scholars and men of religion. Prasad’s father Devi Prasad Sahu carried forward this high tradition of family. Prasad, therefore, had a chance to study the various phases of human nature in the light of the business traditions, artistic taste and religious background of his family.

4. When the business had somewhat recovered, Prasad planned the publication of a literary journal. Prasad started the “Indu”. The inaugural number appeared in July 1909. By this time Prasad’s notions of literature had crystalized into a credo. In the first issue of Indu, he proclaimed, “Literature has no fixed aim; it is not slave to rules; it is free and all-embracing genius, gives birth to genuine literature which is subservient to none. Whatever in the world is true and beautiful is its subject matter. By the dealing with the True and Beautiful it establishes the one and affects the full flowering of the others. Its force can be measured by the degree of pleasure it gives to the reader’s mind as also by criticism which is free of all prejudice”. The words sound like the manifesto of romanticism in literature.

5. Even while recognizing the social relevance of literature, Prasad insisted, “The poet is a creator . . . he is not conditioned by his milieu; rather it is he who moulds it and gives it a new shape; he conjures up a new world of beauty where the reader for the time being, becomes oblivious of the outer world and passes his time in an eternal spring garden where golden lotuses blossom and the air is thick and pollen”. Thus, the chief aim of literature according to Prasad is to give joy to the reader and to create a state of bliss in him. Later under the impact of Shaivadvaitism, this faith of Prasad got further strengthened.

(Extract from ‘Jayashankar Prasad- His mind and Art’ by Dr. Nagendra)

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

2.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 100 words. (5)
SECTION – B  
(ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

3. You are Simar / Smriti of Lotus International School, Jodhpur. Your school is organizing a workshop on “Prevention of Drug Abuse” in the coming week. Prepare a poster with complete information for the students of class X-XII.  

OR  
You are Simar / Smriti of Lotus International School, Jodhpur. Your school has decided to contribute in controlling traffic near your school and requires the names of volunteers from IX to XII. Write a notice to be displayed on the notice board. (50 words)

4. Public demonstration causes a lot of disturbance in daily routine of common man. You almost missed your important entrance examination as people blocked the highway. As Tarun / Taruna, a student aspiring to be a doctor, write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India highlighting the need to discourage such demonstrations and disturbance by public on highways which cause a great loss of time and opportunity for many. (100-125 words)

OR  
You are Tarun / Taruna who bought a new Luminous Inverter for your home from R.K. Electronics, Noida but found many functional problems as the charging is not done properly and battery water is getting leaked. Write a letter of complaint to the proprietor to take care of the same. (100-125 words)

5. You are Mukul / Mahima of Alps Public School. Your school has organized a debate on “Social Media and Its Effects” and you will be participating from your school. Prepare your views against or in favour of the motion. (150-200 words)

OR  
As Mukul / Mahima of Alps Public School, write a speech to be delivered in school assembly highlighting the importance of cleanliness suggesting that the state of cleanliness reflects the character of its citizens. (150-200 words)
6. By 2050, India will be amongst the countries which will face acute water shortage. You are highly alarmed and terrified of the future world without water. So, write an article on “Save water- are we doing enough?” for the local daily in 150-200 words.

OR

You are Karan / Kirti of L.M. Memorial Public School, Dwarka. Your school has adopted a village as a social responsibility. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis. Write a report, for your school magazine, on the various other programmes organized there in 150-200 words.

SECTION – B
(LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS and LONG READING TEXT)

7. Read the following extract and answer the following questions briefly:

What I want should not be confused with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.

(i) Name the poem and the poet of the above stanza.
(ii) What does the poet mean by “inactivity“?
(iii) Explain what life is all about, according to the poet?
(iv) What is the ultimate expectation of the poet from all human beings?

OR

When aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

(i) Name the poem and the poet of the above stanza.
(ii) What lies in store for the Aunt?
(iii) Explain “ringed with ordeals“.
(iv) Identify and name the poetic device used in the last line of the above stanza.

8. Answer any four the following questions in 30-40 words:  
   (3 × 4 = 12)
   (i) “We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with” said M.Hamel. Refer to the context and explain what he wanted to convey to his students.
   (ii) Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?
   (iii) When Gandhi got the whole-hearted support of the lawyers, he said, “The battle of Champaran is won”. What was the essence behind his statement?
   (iv) Did the prophecy of the astrologer come true at the end of the story? How?
   (v) What were the indignities that Zitkala-Sa had to suffer for being from a marginalized community?
   (vi) What story did Jo want to hear the next day and why? What was father’s reaction to it?

9. Answer any one of the following questions in 120-125 words:  
   (6)
   (i) Mukesh is not like the others. His “dreams loom like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad”. Justify the statement in the light of contrast in the mindsets of Mukesh and the people of Firozabad.
   (ii) Unrealistic dreams often lead to a great deal of unhappiness. Justify the statement on the basis of the story “Going Places”.  
   (iii) The childhood experience of terror of Douglas made him stronger and more determined. Elucidate the above statement supporting it with evidences from the text.

10. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words:  
    (6)
    (i) The servants of Sadao and Hana reflect a particular mindset of the general public in society towards the thinking and broad-minded human beings.
    (ii) Optimism in one’s attitude helps deal with all the challenges in life. Prove the statement by referring to the character Mr. Lamb from the chapter “On the Face of It”.

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(iii) Give a detailed account of the preparations made by the Governor for Evans James to write his examination.

11. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words:  
(i) “I do not agree to this. Why dream of playing a game against the race. How can you hope to gain happiness? Do not be a lone wolf. Publish your results, take the world-take the nation at least-into your confidence”, said Dr. Kemp. These words sum up, to a large extent, the downfall of a genius like Griffin. Elucidate from the novel “The Invisible Man”.
(ii) Mr. Hall is a carefree man as he has a typical working life-partner in Mrs. Hall. Such persons are found in every society. Give a peep into both their characters. (The Invisible Man)
(iii) How are the weavers treated differently from the farmers by the locals of Raveloe? (Silas Marner)
(iv) Describe in your own words, the village of Raveloe. List some of the differences between Raveloe and Lanter Yard.

12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words:  
(i) The unveiling of the stranger was as unplanned and sudden for himself as for the people of Iping. Explain the reason, incident and consequence of his unveiling.
(ii) Describe and analyse the contribution of rustic characters in the development of plot of the novel, “The Invisible Man”.
(iii) What is the significance of Gold in the novel, Silas Marner.
(iv) In the war between love and luxury, love has priority. Justify on the basis of Silas Marner.

***
SOLUTIONS

1. 1.1
   (i) d. pacifism
   (ii) d. Role of peace makers
   (iii) c. philosophical pacifisms
   (iv) b. dog kennel
   (v) a. there was no fortification and very few weapons

1.2
   (i) The war was never treated as an ideal in India. It was only tolerated as unavoidable and inevitable. All attempts were made to check it and control it.
   (ii) India has highly developed military organization and in spite of their belief in Pacifism it has developed several techniques of war and imperialism. It has openly justified war as a national policy.
   (iii) The doctrine of philosophical pacifism was practiced by ancient Aryans. The great Indian teachers and savants stuck to this doctrine tenaciously, practiced and preached it to the masses and royals.
   (iv) Ahimsa is the doctrine of non-violence in thought, speech and action/ it is an act of personal virtue.
   (v) The meaning of co-existence with rivals is the right of the rivals to exist, not mainly as enemies but as collaborators in the building of our civilization operation. It also means coming in clash with each other.
   (vi) Bhagvad-Gita should not be considered as “A song of the battle” because it considers expedients of conciliation, gift and dissention and denounces war, when all these three expedients were exhausted, then only the fourth was resorted to.

1.3
   (i) The seers visualize the unity of life, permeating all beings, animate or inanimate, which ruled out killing and suicidal wars.
   (ii) By some, Ashoka was considered as the cause of the downfall of the Mauryas. The fault lies with the weak successors of Ashoka, who could not wield the weapon of non-violence with skill and efficiency which required the strength of a spiritual giant like Ashoka. They failed due to their subjective weakness. Pacifism itself was no cause of their failure.
(iii) Sri Krishna before resorting to war explored various options like negotiation, conciliation through conference and meditation. This proves that the heart of ancient India was sound and it longed for peace.

(iv) Kautilya who was said to be the maligned militarist and the Machiavelli of India thought that the object of diplomacy was to avoid war.

1.4
(i) enunciated
Enunciated means to say or pronounce clearly.
(ii) fortification
Fortification means a defensive wall or other reinforcement built to strengthen a place against attack.
(iii) commencement
Commencement means the starting point of something.

2.  2.1
Jayashankar Prasad- A glimpse of his life
1. His expn in lit.:
   1.1 an escape
   1.2 lose your personality
   1.3 record of writer’s inner world
   1.4 more emph.z on mind than body
2. Personal life:
   2.1 renowned family of Varanasi
   2.2 home- meeting place of the local poets, singers
   2.3 grandfather – an astute business man
   2.4 had a chance to study phases of human nature
3. Started the “Indu”
   3.1 in July 1909
   3.2 proclaimed
   3.2.1 lit. has no fixed aim
3.2.2 is free and all embra’g genius
3.2.3 gives birth to genuine lit.
4. Social relevance of literature
4.1 poet is a creator
4.2 moulds it
4.3 conjures up a new world of beauty
4.4 becomes oblivious of the outer world
5. Chief aim of lit.
5.1 give joy to the reader
5.2 create a state of bliss
Abbreviations:
Lit. – literature
Emph.z – emphasize
Exp.n – expression
Embra’g – embracing

2.2 Summary
Jayshankar Prasad is a well-known name in the field of literature. He conducted experiments in literature. He believed that it was only after losing his personality that one emerges in his art as an artist. His write-ups are a record of the writer’s inner world. He belonged to a renowned family in Varanasi. His home was a meeting place for local poets and singers. His grandfather was an astute businessman. He therefore had a chance to study phases of human nature. He started with the publication of a literary journal named “Indu” which appeared first in July 1909. He proclaimed that literature had no fixed aim. It was free and for all embracing genius. He was the one who gave birth to genuine literature. He found the social relevance of literature and said that a poet is a creator who moulds it and conjures up a new world of beauty and becomes oblivious of the outer world. The chief aim of literature was to give joy to the readers and create a state of bliss.
3.

**DRUGS DRAG YOU DOWN**

Don’t Drug Yourself Down

Don’t Fall into the Death Trap

Workshop on prevention of drug abuse

Date: 10\textsuperscript{th} February

Time: 10 A.M. onwards

Venue: G.D. Goenka Auditorium

All students of class 10 to 12 are requested to attend the workshop.

Lotus International School, Jodhpur

Smriti Khanna

Head Girl

OR

NOTICE

Lotus International School
Traffic Control Volunteers

Date: 04.02.2019

The Lotus International School Youth Association is proud to announce its support for traffic control. This is to inform all students to support us through active participation as we are looking for volunteers. Details for the volunteers are mentioned below:

Start date: 10\textsuperscript{th} February 2019

Time: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Area to be managed: School lane

We would like you to step forward and enrol yourself for this noble cause. Seeking your kind cooperation. For further details kindly contact 9876......

Simar Sharma

(Member of the youth association)
Sir/Madam,

Subject: Inconvenience caused to public due to protest and demonstration.

It has come to our notice that in recent time’s public demonstration causes a lot of disturbance in the daily routine of the common man. Today I am writing to you to highlight the need to discourage such demonstrations and disturbance by the public on highways which cause a great loss of time and opportunity for many.

It is just last week that I had to reach my examination centre which was quite away from the city and because some people blocked the highway I almost missed my entrance examination. I am a student who aspires to become a doctor and I know how important even a minute can be for one. Not only it causes harassment but also the loss of public property, time and missing of important assignments. It also affects emergency services such as ambulance due to road blockage which at times costs lives of many. Strikes affect the production of essential goods and services and people who earn their livelihood on a daily basis. Due to protests and demonstration schools, colleges and universities are shut down and exams are postponed.

Through the medium of your esteemed daily I appeal to people and the Government to join hands against protests and demonstrations. There are other ways of showing support for or against something which doesn’t include violence and damage to public property. Hereby, I urge the department to take action.

Thanking You,
Yours sincerely,
Tarun Roy
19 Wood Street
New Delhi
2nd February 2019
The Proprietor
R.K. Electronics
Lake Town
New Delhi – 400002
Sir/Madam

Subject: Complaint against Luminous inverter MW021

I bought a Luminous Inverter MW021 from your showroom – Cash Memo Number CM/BV/1725 dated 26th January 2019 with a guarantee card number – J2646.
The inverter worked well for approximately a week after installation. However, all of a sudden, I found a number of functional problems as the charging is not done properly and battery water is getting leaked. It’s been a fortnight since this problem has started and is giving us a lot of trouble. The inverter is within the guarantee period and so we hope you will replace the defected piece at an early date.
Looking forward to early action in this regard.
Yours sincerely,
Tarun Roy

5. Social Media and Its Effects (For the motion)
Social media is a good thing or a bad thing? That is the most frequently asked question today. Well, there are always two sides to everything; it depends on your perspective on how you perceive it. The same goes for social media, most people admire it as a revolutionary invention and some seem to take it as a negative impact on society. Today I speak in favour of the motion.
Keeping aside all the negative views and comments regarding social media, I believe it has brought about a revolutionary change in the lives of people. I would like to enlist a few of its positive aspects. Social networks started as a place to connect with your friends in an easy convenient way.
With social networks we are able to communicate our thoughts and perceptions over different topics with a large number of audiences, and raise our voice. Social networks have become a crucial part of many of us. We don't even notice this but as soon as we open our desktops or laptops to access the web, we sub-consciously open our favourite social network just to see about the updates received. Businesses have noticed the value of social networks in our life, and they are using different techniques to promote their products. There are a number of customized applications being made on the social platforms, whose main purpose is to promote the product or brand. As social marketing is cost-effective and brands have a huge audience, they are shifting more towards social marketing.

Social media is a rapidly evolving platform for younger people lately to communicate, express themselves and share content of all kinds. It has given rise to a new cultural paradigm that drives technology and businesses while changing the way people interact.

Social Media and Its Effects (Against the motion)
Social media is a good thing or a bad thing? That is the most frequently asked question today. Well, there are always two sides to everything; it depends on your perspective on how you perceive it. The same goes for social media, most people admire it as a revolutionary invention and some seem to take it as a negative impact on society. Today I speak against the motion.

I would like to enlist a few negative aspects of using social media. Many studies have shown that the extensive use of social media can actually cause addiction to users. Throughout their day, they feel to post something on their pages or check other posts as it has become an important part of our life. Extreme usage of social media has reduced the level of human interaction. Face to face communication and meetings has been reduced and many of us have lost the flavour and charm to be together under one roof. Most businesses use social media to find and communicate with clients. Before social media, bullying was something only done face-to-face. However, now, someone can be bullied online anonymously. This one probably comes as no surprise, but social media helps you to form unrealistic expectations of life and friendships. On top of increased rates of anxiety and depression, spending too much time on social media can lead to poor sleep.
If you can’t imagine your life without social media, that’s a sign that you’ve fallen victim to the evil power of social networking. As a tool, social media is a double-edged sword; while it has many benefits, it can also influence youngsters in unhealthy ways.

OR

Good morning respected sir, madam and my dear friends. My name is Mahima Duggar and I study in class 12. Today, I will recite a speech on cleanliness. I have specially selected this topic because of its importance in our daily lives. Cleanliness means the complete absence of dirt, dust, stains, and bad smells at home, working places or surrounding areas. The most important purpose of maintaining cleanliness is to get health, beauty, remove offensive odour as well as avoid the spread of dirt and contaminants. We clean our teeth, clothes, body, hair on a daily basis in order to get freshness and achieving cleanliness.

Cleanliness attracts positive energies towards it and it can impress anyone. Cleanliness level becomes generally high in the developed countries because of the good citizens, strict government rules, high education level and proper understanding of the people. A person with good habits can change the environment of home however a country with good citizens can change its future as well as the environment of whole planet. In order to show our real potential all through the world, we have to maintain cleanliness all across the country. It is the only thing which can earn respect because a big land, power, and rich natural resources do not matter in the lack of cleanliness.

The maintenance of cleanliness in any country depends on the education level, poverty, and population of the country. The most important factor is education as good education can reduce the poverty level and provide relief from the overpopulation. If the citizens of the country will be educated they can well maintain the cleanliness all through the country. They can pass good habits for the next generation also. A number of cleanliness drives has been run by the government of India however never get much success because of high-level illiteracy. The most recent cleanliness drive named as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan run the Indian PM, Narendra Modi, is quite successful. As being a citizen of the country, we all are responsible for cleaning any dirty place we see. We should keep our roads, tourist places, historical places, schools, colleges, office buildings, etc very neat and clean.
The state of cleanliness reflects the character of its citizens.
Thankyou

6. Save water - are we doing enough?
Earth is the only known planet in this universe where life is possible only because of the availability of water and oxygen. Water is the most important necessity of life for all the living beings on the earth. Without water no one can exist even for a day. We also know that there is very less percentage of clean water means drinking water available on the earth. So, we should not waste clean water and save it for future generations.
People working in different fields need water for different purposes such as farmers need water to grow crops, gardeners to water plants, industrialists for industry work, electricity plants to generate hydro-electricity, etc. So, we should save clean water for the wellness of our future generations and healthy life of water and wildlife animals. People at many places of the world are suffering water scarcity or completely lack water in their regions. By 2050, India will be amongst the countries which will face acute water shortage. India is one of the countries worldwide facing huge level water scarcity today. Places in India like Rajasthan and some parts of Gujarat are facing water scarcity where women and girls of the houses cover a long distance on barefoot to just get a pot of water. In some cities like Bangalore people have to buy water bottles worth Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 to drink clean water. People face more problems during summer months when the daily need for water increases. Recently, it is studied that around 25% of the urban population lacks availability to clean drinking water. In some areas, the privatization of water bodies is the main reason for water scarcity.
There are different methods we can follow to save clean drinking water to deal with the water scarcity. Rainwater harvesting is one of the most effective and suitable methods to saving water techniques. Afforestation is also the best method as it reduces surface runoff and recharges the groundwater. It promotes underground water conservation. By practicing such methods we can conserve more water naturally and ensure the availability of it for future generations. We should take a pledge and make a lifelong motto of “Save water, save a life, save the earth”.

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We should teach simple methods of water saving to our children, women and other members of the family like turning off all the taps tightly after each use, using sprinklers to water the lawn, giving bath to pets in the lawn, repair of all the leaking pipes, harvesting rainwater for purposes like watering plant, washing clothes, etc. We should also practice keeping the river (especially Ganga) water clean and safe for future use and safety of water animals.

OR

Hands towards Needy Ones
Our very own L.M. Memorial Public School adopted a village recently as a part of the celebration on the 50th anniversary of the school. It is located two hours away from our school. In that we are assigned to teach the children of that village. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis.

We go to that village by the transportation provided by our school. There we choose a tree or a library to make the children sit under the tree, and the students of higher classes teach the kindergarten and primary students about basic words, numbers, calculations, etc., and it is a great experience. The feeling of satisfaction that you get when you teach somebody and the fact that you could use your education to the benefit of others is all worth the hard work. We give them some social activities like cleaning the lakes, removing the plastic papers and cups on the road and explain to them the importance of cleanliness and hygiene and how if each one of them keeps their own surroundings clean one day we would make a big difference. Students teach them to save the earth, save trees and save water. Each one of us carries some fruits or biscuits for the children as a ‘mid-day meal’. This also acts as a motivator for them.

The children are very eager and keen on learning new things and the interest that they show makes you even fonder of teaching them.

Contributed by,
Kirti Mehta

7. (i) This extract is taken from the poem ‘keeping Quiet’ written by ‘Pablo Neruda’.
(ii) This poem emphasizes the importance of being calm and keeping quiet. The poet feels that all our problems exist because of the rush in our life.
But his view shouldn’t be confused with total inactivity. His perception of ‘keeping quiet’ is of silence and not inactivity, lethargy and idleness. He wants active life but it must be calm and peaceful. He advises all to take a break from the world frenzy activity. He believes that observing stillness once in a while helps people to spring back in action, rejuvenated.

(iii) The title of the poem suggests the importance of silence. The poem is about the importance of self-examination and introspection. It is also an appeal for universal harmony. It conveys the message of peace and tranquillity to be acquired through leisurely introspection.

(iv) According to the poet, taking a break from our monotonous routine by ‘counting up to twelve’ and ‘keeping still’ will help us understand ourselves and those around us better. The quietness will aid our understanding of the significance of peace and tranquillity in this age of futile activities. Thus, they will help us in introspection and self-analysis.

OR

(i) This extract is taken from the poem ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tiger’ written by ‘Adrienne Rich’.

(ii) Women who are dominated by their husbands live their lives in a state of mental confinement. In the poem “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers” the poet Adrienne Rich expresses the life Aunt Jennifer wishes to lead through artistic creations as she is trapped in an abusive marriage. Her tapestries portray her inner feelings conveying the constant terror she’s living in. She would die as an oppressed and subdued woman and will remain caught in the ordeals of her marriage till her death.

(iii) Aunt Jennifer has been living her life in fear of her controlling husband. The massive weight of Uncles’ wedding band is not the actual ring that places this weight upon her, but the life that has become as a result of Aunt Jennifer’s accepting of the ring. Her ‘terrified hands’ shows how her husband terrorizes her. She is mastered by the ordeals as if she’s his prisoner under his control and ruling.

(iv) Alliteration is the poetic device used in the words ‘prancing, proud’. Alliteration is the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

8. (i) This line is taken from the chapter ‘The Last Lesson’ written by Alphanso Daudet. This line is spoken to his fellows Frenchmen during his last teaching session.
His country had lost districts of Alsace and Lorraine to the Prussians. According to M. Hamel no matter what injustice is imposed on their language they should tackle all situations and hold on to their language. As a result German had to be taught in the school. M. Hamel and the villagers were exceedingly regretful for having neglected the learning of the French language. M. Hamel blamed the inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine for their careless attitude for learning French. He even blamed himself for not teaching the French language seriously, as he gave holidays to his students when he wanted to enjoy leisure activities such as fishing and gardening.

(ii) Edla showed great trust in him by letting him stay at their manor on the Christmas eve. But the news about the robbery had left her dejected. So she was overjoyed when she reached home to find the package and the letter left by the peddler. Throughout his life, the peddler had never known respect. He was always treated coldly by the world. For the first time in his life, he was honoured and respected as if he were a captain. Even after the truth was exposed, the daughter continued to treat him in a similar way. The way he was treated encouraged him to behave in a like manner. He also signed the letter as Captain von Stahle so as to underline the impact of Edla’s goodness on him. This gesture of appreciation from the peddler made her happy.

(iii) After his arrival at Motihari, Gandhiji used a house as the headquarter so that he can have a complete investigation for the sharecroppers. At that time there came a report about maltreating a peasant. Next morning Gandhiji went to see him but he was overtaken by the police superintendent's messenger with an order to return back. When he reached home, Gandhiji was asked to quit Champaran at once. Gandhiji signed the order but wrote to disobey the order. Next day Gandhiji appeared in the court. That night Gandhiji telegraphed Rajendra Prasad to come with the influential friends. When the peasants knew that Gandhiji was in trouble with the authorities, the court ground of Motihari became black with peasants. The officials felt powerless and they had to seek his help. The trial was postponed but Gandhiji protested the delay. In between he was left at liberty. Now Gandhiji asked the prominent lawyers what they would do in case he was sent to jail. They told that they would follow Gandhiji and give the court arrest. This made Gandhiji exclaim: “The battle of Champaran is won”.
(iv) The king of Pratibandapuram disapproves his prophecy seems to be the sole reason for the king’s existence. Except for killing a hundred tigers, everything else takes a back-seat for the king. The prophecy cannot be indisputably disproved as the king was ultimately killed by a tiger, though neither by a real one nor by the hundredth one. Looking at the weak, old and almost lifeless tiger that was the hundredth one, no one would have thought that it would escape the king’s bullet by fainting at the shock of the bullet whizzing past. It was the “tiny little wooden tiger” from the toy shop that caused the death of Tiger King. He gifted his young son a wooden tiger. While playing, a silver from the unfinished wood of the tiger pierced the King’s hand. This caused infection in his hand which spread in his entire arm. Surgeons were called from Madras who operated on him but could not save him. Hence, the prophecy of the astrologer came true at the end of the story.

(v) The story ‘Memories of Childhood’ show sufferings and oppression faced by people from the marginalized community. The practice of social stratification is rebuked by both the authors. Zitkala Sa had been stared at, her blanket and moccasins had been taken from her; she had to wear tight-fitting clothes. Zitkala Sa’s hair was “shingled” at the behest of Europeans who considered themselves superior to the Native Americans. From a very young age she had started showing hints of protest and resistance in her own ways.

(vi) Jo was not convinced with the ending of the story and coaxed her father to retell the story the next day giving the story a predetermined path that she had set. According to her, neither Roger Skunk nor the wizard was wrong in the story. Jo refused to accept the ned where Roger Skunk’s mother hits the wizard and that too without being hit back. She wanted the story to end with the wizard hitting back the mother skunk with his magic wand. For Jo, the story could have ended comfortably with Roger Skunk relieved of his foul body-odour and accepted by other children as their playmate. However, Jack took the story to another level, which created a ruckus in the little and simple world of Jo.

9. (i) Mukesh belongs to a family of glass bangle makers in Firozabad. Even though the children of such families usually carry on their family profession, Mukesh wants to be a motor mechanic and drive a car. Unlike his family members, and others of his community, he has dared to dream.
His grandmother’s words about the unbreakable lineage represent the attitude they have towards their situation in life. They believe that it is their destiny to toil as bangle makers. Mukesh was different from the others of his community. His dreams look like a mirage amidst the dust of the street that fills his town Firozabad. By daring to dream, he has already taken the first step towards a big change. He wants to become a motor mechanic and drive a car. He can realise this dream with determination and hard work. There might be many obstacles on his way but strong willpower will help him move towards the way of success. The resolute boy is willing to walk a long distance from home to learn to be a mechanic.

(ii) Unrealistic dreams often lead to a great deal of unhappiness. One must learn to maintain a healthy balance between fantasies and reality. Fantasising based on realistic goals or the world around, provides a means to reach higher ambitions and dreams. Sophie is a daydreamer who likes to live in an imaginary world. She escapes the harsh reality of the world and dreams of opening a boutique as a side business. She dreamt of becoming a successful actress. Sophie’s hero worship and fantasizing were in a clash with her socio-economic background. She belonged to a family of meagre means and resources. However, her dreams and fantasizing were quite extreme. She could not afford to daydream and be lost in her reveries. In order to make her dreams become realities, she needed to work very hard, which she did not do. Not only she suffered from day-dreaming but also became prone to telling lies. As a consequence, nobody trusted her. She was expected to believe more sensibly by her father, Geoff and Jansie.

(iii) The childhood experience of terror of Douglas made him stronger and more determined. Douglas takes us through his near-death experience at the YMCA pool by detailing every little aspect associated with it. He details minutes of his emotional, mental and physical struggle with the paralyzing fear of being drowned in the water. His desperation to save himself kept him struggling until he went down the third time and blacked out. At first, he tried to overcome his fear of water on his own. But when this failed, he got an instructor for himself who worked on Douglas’ fear very methodically. With his help, Douglas began by learning to be at ease in the water. After this, he practiced exhaling-inhaling in water to eliminate the fear of putting his head inside the water.
Then, he moved on to master individual steps of swimming which were, finally integrated into a complete experience of swimming, by his instructor. After about 6 months, Douglas could not only swim well but was also free of his fear to a great extent. At this stage, Douglas’ journey of truly overcoming his fear to its tiniest vestiges began. He swam alone in the pool. He went to Lake Wentworth to dive. He tried every possible stroke he learnt. Finally, in his diving expedition, in the Warm Lake, he conquered his fear completely.

10. (i) The servants of Sadao and Hana reflect a particular mindset of the general public in society towards the thinking and broad-minded human beings. Their reaction to Tom’s presence in Sadao’s house was ordinary. They couldn’t tolerate their master helping Tom because they saw him as their enemy. The servants reflect the mindset of the poor, uneducated and narrow-minded section of the society. They were frightened on hearing about the wounded being an American soldier. The gardener felt that he should be left to die because if he would be saved the sea would take revenge. Yumi refused to wash the wounds of the enemy soldier and was angry with Sadao for putting his family in danger. Their cook felt that Sadao operated and saved the enemy because he was too proud of his skills. They even left their jobs in protest. They were unable to understand Sadao’s dilemma because they were afraid of the repercussions of helping an enemy soldier. On the contrary, Sadao and Hana showed unprecedented maturity, kindness and humanity. Sadao answered the call of humanity and treated the enemy.

(ii) Optimism in one’s attitude helps deal with all the challenges in life. Optimism is a great positive virtue coveted by all but possessed by only a few. In the story “on the face of it”, Mr. Lamb portrays optimism. He has the acumen to see positive aspects in all situations. In spite of being a handicapped man himself, he always carries a cheerful disposition for everyone. He never complains and welcomes all. He does not mind children calling him ‘lamey lamb’. He helps Derry change his outlook. Derry had a burnt face and believed that he was different. He was filled with poor self-esteem and felt victimized in every situation. Mr. Lamb is friendly towards people and provides confidence to Derry. He tries to teach Derry how to enjoy life in every situation. He gives him examples of the buzz of bees, weeds in the garden and how a man was afraid of death and locked himself up in a room and ultimately died there.
Mr. Lamb lived alone but yet looked at things positively. He found ways to overcome his loneliness and kept his gates always open. He didn’t even pull the curtains. He didn’t always keep thinking of negative things people said to him. He also told Derry that inner beauty was more important than appearance. At the end of the story we see Derry’s transformation as he defies his mother and goes back to Mr. Lamb’s garden.

(iii) The Governor was suspicious of the true intentions of Evans in wanting to take the exams. Fearing his fourth escape, the exam was ordered to be conducted inside the prison cell which was installed with a microphone, to keep a check on this intelligent prisoner. His cell was properly scrutinized by the prison staff which took away anything which could pose a threat in the smooth conduct of the examination. On the day of the exam, the prison staff was put on high alert and special care was taken to promptly lock all doors and gates. All sharp objects including razor, nail scissors etc. were taken away by Jackson. Stephens was ordered to keep an eye on the exam proceedings. He peeped inside the cell in every two minutes. Even the invigilator, a parson, was frisked thoroughly before the examination. Evans was a shrewd man who allowed only a momentary sigh of relief to the Governor and his staff. The exam was supposed to have ended peacefully, but when Stephens rechecked Evan’s cell, he was stunned to see a profusely bleeding McLeery still in the cell. His flawless plans left everyone perplexed and troubled.

11. (i) Griffin’s downfall was due to a combination of overconfidence, impulsiveness and selfishness. Griffin was a genius whose diligent work had led him to invent a formula for becoming invisible. But after becoming invisible, Griffin went wild and let loose a reign of terror. Seclusion blunted his intellect and he became selfish and a sadist as well. Unfortunately, instead of sharing his invention with the rest of the world so it could be used for some benefit, Griffin proceeded to use it for personal gain or revenge. He ended up hurting and killing many people; stealing, robbing and swindling became a way of life for him. His extraordinary mind was reduced to plotting and executing his evil intentions against people who refused to support his anti-social activities. Dr. Kemp tried to persuade Griffin to mend his ways but his efforts were in vain.
He pursues research in a responsible manner, believes in sharing research with the world and wants to use it to serve humanity. Griffin destroyed himself and eventually, Griffin met with a tragic end.

(ii) Mr. Hall is a carefree man as he has a typical working life-partner in Mrs. Hall. Such persons are found in every society. Mr. Hall is second fiddle to his wife and the co-owner of ‘Coaches and horses’. He is lethargic and lazy but does extend help to his wife from time to time. He is fond of alcohol. He is a good-natured person who does not boast and praises his wife for management skills. He does not mind his wife’s domination. He had good social relations with the people of Iping. Mrs. Hall was accommodating, the well behaved lady with good management skills. She is a hard taskmaster for her maidservant Millie. She was hospitable with Griffin and a smart businesswoman as she tolerated Griffin only because he cleared his bills regularly. She was a dominating wife and quite friendly with the villagers.

(iii) The people of Raveloe view the linen weavers with distrust. The villagers are a provincial people, “honest folk”, but “mostly not otherwise or clever”. Isolated from advances in the major cities of the time, they are suspicious of things they do not understand. The linen weavers emigrants from the town into the country appear to be pallid and undersized in contrast to the brawny country-folk and they rarely stirred abroad without a heavy bag. Even though the people of Raveloe suspect that the bags contain nothing more threatening than flax or perhaps linen is already woven, they do not know this for sure; “superstition clings easily round every person or thing that at all for these simple folk. Another reason the villagers look upon the linen weavers with mistrust is that no one knew where these wandering men had their homes or their origins. They were also suspected because they were more skilled and able than the local peasantry. Silas Mariner was a weaver and he was treated with suspicion and scorn by the villagers of Raveloe who had never seen a weaver’s loom before and therefore thought of it as an object of some wicked magic.

(iv) Raveloe is a town that has a culture of being set in its ways, perhaps old-fashioned and for that reason maybe even prone to backward thinking. Raveloe is not an isolated village. It has a very central location in “Merry England” and provides plenty of opportunities to make a good living from the farms it had.
The village is “nestled in a snug well-wooded hollow” which suggests that even though it is not a faraway place, the exact location of the village renders it isolated enough to not be reached by the vibrations of public opinion. This emphasizes that the place is set in its traditional ways. Raveloe is said to look important which means that it offers all the staples of a city, from the cathedrals to the important buildings. It also says that raveloe has its focal families that essentially hold the control and ranking of the city, offering their financial support through sponsoring community events. The Lammeter and the Cass families are examples of that type of community “royalty”. Therefore, Raveloe is a village healthy enough to hold a good social life and hard-working community. It also has the basics of the typical provincial town, complete with the small-town mentality that tends to accompany such places.

12. (i) The unveiling of the stranger was an unplanned and sudden for himself as for the people of Iping. The Halls hear rumours about the burglary the night before. Everyone at the bar was interested in the strange behaviour of the man who isn’t already liked by the villagers. Mrs. Hall and the stranger start arguing about money because he hasn’t paid his bills recently. But then he says he found some more money and would be happy to pay. This makes everyone think that he was behind the burglary at the vicar’s house. Finally, the stranger gets so fed up that he reveals himself to the people at the bar. Everyone in the village was surprised. The villagers who weren’t in the Coach and Horses came running to see what was the screaming all about. Constable Jaffers comes to arrest the stranger. But when he goes to the inn, they find a headless figure eating some bread and cheese. He reveals himself to be the invisible man. The stranger fights with the crowd and seems to be losing and says that he will surrender but instead takes off all his clothes and became invisible. The Invisible Man starts to beat down on the crowd and they all panic.

(ii) There are several rustic characters in the novel “The Invisible Man” that makes the plot of the novel attractive to the readers. Characters such as Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Teddy Henfrey, Fearenside, Sandy Wadgers etc. are important links in the development of the plot of the novel. Iping was a tiny village where everybody knows each other.
There is Sandy Wadgers, the blacksmith; Teddy Henfrey, the clock-jobber; Mr. Huxter, the store owner; Jaffers, the constable; Fearenside, the carter; Gibbins, the amateur naturalist and few others. Mr. Hall drinks and Mrs. Hall nags him about drinking. Mr. Hall takes out her frustrations on Millie, their servant. In other words, they are a stereotypical country couple. Likewise there are many people in Iping, but the readers remember Cuss and Bunting because they got their clothes stolen. The mariner in Port Stowe, though has a small role tells us that the invisible man was all in the newspaper and his description makes it more realistic. However, the most rustic character that makes the novel plot very intriguing is Thomas Marvel. Marvel was an easy-going low-wit man who liked being alone and reclusive. His life before meeting Griffin was quite peaceful, though he had his own challenges to face. He had to be Griffin’s accomplice against his wish as he was threatened to do so. He often expressed his wish to be free of the responsibilities Griffin had assigned him. He also tried to give him the slip but Griffin caught him. Marvel was trapped in Griffin’s schemes. The Invisible Man is a tale of suspense that focuses on the scientist who has discovered how to make himself invisible. This experiment was not fully successful. He tried to make Kemp a part of his scheme but fails to enlist his support. Kemp betrays him and calls Adye, the police chief. Griffin gets injured and meets his tragic end at the hands of the townspeople.

(iii) Gold and money are the substitutes for love and companionship in the life of Silas Marner. Silas loses faith in God and in other people after the incident from Lantern Yard where his best friend, William Dane accused him of robbery. The sadness that accompanied the accusation was made worse when Dane also took Marner’s fiancée from him. He became obsessed with the acquisition and hoarding of gold. Gold as an object becomes the recipient of all the human love and affection that he once directed towards his friends and community. For Silas, gold at first symbolizes the achievement of earthly goals. Silas runs to the rainbow after he discovers that his pot of gold has been stolen. A part in the novel says as Silas reaches forward to take what he thinks is his lost gold, “instead of the hard coin with the familiar resisting outline, his fingers encountered soft warm curls”. That’s when gold took on more of symbolic meaning in the novel. He not only saves and hides gold, but also admires it lovingly. He gives it attention and cares worthy of a child.
The gold symbolizes Marner’s isolation and his exclusion from human love and affection. His heart is entirely directed towards gold and he appears cold and unfeeling to those around him. It is only through Eppie’s appearance that Marner begins to love and cherish other human beings again. Eppie’s golden hair allows her to resemble the gold, creating a strong connection between Silas’ reaction to his gold and to his adopted child. His love for gold isolates him while his love for Eppie re-connects him to the community. Eppie symbolizes Silas’ gradual absorption into common life.

(iv) Silas Marner spends years in isolation just on gathering gold when one day he faces such an event that changed his life. All the gold that he had accumulated was stolen by Dunsey Cass, the wretched son of the town’s squire. On facing such a situation Silas went into a fit that concerned everyone in town, as he loses it so bad that he enters the Rainbow in a complete shock, and collapses there. He faced such a situation because his life was like a formula where his only formula was to collect gold, keep it to himself, and gratify his physical needs. He did all this to suppress the deep depression he carried with him followed by his disgrace at Lantern Yard. This was followed by the coming of baby Eppie, the child of Godfrey Cass and an opium fiend who dies on her way to Raveloe to confront Eppie’s father. As Silas is away, his warm cottage serves as refuge to baby Eppie. Her gold hair, her innocent ways, and the way she shows up out of nowhere in the middle of winter seem to strike the proverbial nerve in Silas once, he sees her. We see how his entire personality changes at the site of the baby who is unknown to him where on the contrary a person would be anxious to where the child came from and what to do with her. This proves as a turning point for Silas as he finally comes out as who he really is a true, loving creature who needs to be loved back, like once he was. This encounter changes him entirely and proves that in the war between love and luxury, love has priority. He changes from the odd eye-balled enigmatic weaver, to a loving and kind adoptive father who is entirely enchanted by this baby girl who grows up into a beautiful young lady and completes Silas’s life for good. This is how love triumphs over luxury.

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