

Flamingo (Prose)

PROSE 1 – The Last Lesson

“The last lesson” written by **Alphonse Daudet**. The writer has narrated about the year 1870 after the Prussian forces under Bismarck attacked and captured France.

Prussian had captured the French districts of Alsace and Lorraine. The new Prussian rulers had banned the teaching of French in the schools of these two districts and asked French teachers to leave. Now M. Hamel was banned from staying in his school, but he still gave a lesson to his students with utmost devotion and sincerity as ever.

Franz was a student of M. Hamel, who feared French class and M. Hamel’s iron rod. He came to the school that day, thinking he would be punished as he had not learnt his lesson on participles. But after reaching school, he found that Hamel dressed in his beautiful Sunday clothes and the older people of the village sitting quietly on the backbenches.

It was because of the order from Berlin. That day Franz realized the importance of the French for him, and it was his last lesson in French.

The story portrays the sadness of the situation about the feelings of the people when they are not able to learn their own language. The story shows the significance of one’s language in one’s life for the very existence of a race and its safety.

PROSE 2 – Lost Spring

“Lost Spring,” shows the pitiable condition of poor children are missing the joy of childhood because of the socio-economic situation. These children deny attending the school and forced into labor early in life. **Anees Jung** has given the voice to eliminate child labour by educating the children and to enforce the laws against child labour by the governments strictly. The call is to end child exploitation and let the children enjoy the days of the spring that bring joy under their feet.

PROSE 3 – Deep Water

William Douglas talks about his fear of water and how he finally defeat it with strong will power, courage, hard work, and firm determination.

After taking the courage, the fear vanished. That Shows most of our concerns are baseless. Fear creates risks where there is none.

The writer’s Experiences further confirm the proverbial truth, “Where there is a will, there is a way.”

Characters and places:-

- Douglas: Narrator of the story
- YMCA Pool: A swimming pool runs by Young Men’s Christian Association
- Yakima: Yakima is a US city located about 60 miles southeast of Mount Rainier in Washington.

PROSE 4 – The Rattrap

(Selma Lagerlof)

The story is about a disheartened old peddler who had shown generosity by a young woman. His bitter attitude towards life was changed by her generosity and kindness.

The peddler was fallen upon misfortune and selling rattraps, begging, and thievery. He is very cynical about the world around him and sees the world as merely a “rat trap.” He believes that society tempts us with riches and beautiful things, and when we accept, we are caught in the trap and are left with nothing.

The story gives a universal message that the essential goodness in a human being can be awakened through love, respect, kindness, and understanding. It also highlights the human predicament.

Materialistic lifestyles are the traps that most human beings are prone to fall into. Human beings do have a trend to convert themselves from dishonest ways, as does the peddler at the end of the story.

PROSE 5 – Indigo

Louis Fischer describes Gandhi’s struggle for the poor peasants of Champaran. They were the sharecroppers with the British planters.

They had a miserable life and were forced to grow indigo according to an agreement. They had to suffer a great injustice due to the landlord system in Bihar.

Gandhi waged war for about a year against their atrocities and brought justice to the poor peasants.

PROSE 7 – The Interview

“The interview” establishes the importance of the new system of interrogation named “Interview,” specifically in the arena of Journalism.

The author **Christopher Sylvester** also stresses on the fact that the interview has become an indispensable arena in the lives of all classes of people, irrespective of their literacy status.

In the later part of the piece, the author has presented the interview of the renowned author Umberto Eco which has helped readers to take a sneak peek at his literary process.

PROSE 6 – Poets And Pancakes

This chapter has been taken from “**My Years with Boss,**” written by **Asokamitran**. Asokamitran worked in Gemini Studios, a very famous film studio of its time. His job was to cut newspaper clippings on various topics and maintain a file of the same.

In fact, the term ‘pancakes’ refers to the brand name of make-up material, which was excessively by the artists of the Gemini Studios.

Asokamitran talked of the office boy who is actually a grown-up man of forty years who once aspired to be a director but blames Subbu(the number 2 in the studio) for his current state of affairs.

Kothamangalam Subbu, the number two in Gemini studio, is a story in himself. He is very talented, a poet, novelist, actor, and filmmaker. He is an all-rounder and very loyal to the boss.

Asokamitran also tells about the manner in which the legal advisor ruins the career of a talented actress unwittingly. At that time of India, the educated folk took pride in showing their support for Communism, and Gemini Studios was no exception. Later on, he discovers that the poet was, in fact, the editor of the then famous magazine ‘The Encounter.’

PROSE 8 – Going Places

(A R Barton)

The theme of this story is teenage fantasizing and hero worship. The teenagers have unrealistic dreams, especially when their families are not well off, and it is quite natural.

The Socio-economic background plays a leading role in the lives of the youths for choosing a particular profession.

The act of fantasizing may lead to depressions in case it is beyond our approach and it is useless to build castles in the air.

Characters:

- Sophie: a school going teenager
- Geoff: An elder brother of Sophie
- Derek: a younger brother of Sophie
- Danny Casey: A young Irish football player
- Tom Finney: A great football player
- United: name of the football team
- Father & mother of Sophie

POETRY 4 A Thing of Beauty

(John Keats)

The poem is based on a Greek legend in Endymion. Endymion was a handsome young shepherd and poet who lived on Mount Latmos. He had a vision of Cynthia, the moon goddess.

The beauty comes in different forms– a tale, a poem, a play, a lovely object of nature, or the heavenly bodies. It soothes our spirits and gives us good health, sound sleep, and mental peace. It removes sadness from our lives and gives an everlasting joy.

Flamingo (Poetry)

POETRY 1 My Mother at Sixty-six

Aging is the essential part of human life. A person enters his childhood, experiences full of energy, and dreams of having the luxury of life. Finally, after reaching his old age and encounters death.

The relationship between people becomes stronger in every aspect of life, and they can’t bear separation due to aging.

The poet **Kamala Das** relates a personal experience. She conveys a common paradox of human relationships and portrays a sensational separation of a mother and a daughter.

She has been able to capture almost all the emotions in the farewell to her beloved mother. Sometimes we do feel sincere sympathy for someone, but we fail to express it in a proper manner.

POETRY 2 An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum

In this poem, **Stephen Spender** deals with the theme of social injustice and class inequalities.

He is offering the situation by talking of two different and incompatible worlds. The world of the rich and the civilized has nothing to do with the world of the poor. The gap between these two worlds shows social differences and class dissimilarities.

POETRY 3 Keeping Quiet

The theme of the poem is basically an anti-war. Here the poet has explained the violence, cruelty to animals, and plight of manual workers.

The poet **Pablo Neruda** has also provided a straightforward solution to many of our social, political, and religious problems. The answer is self-introspection. If it is implemented, it will be the first significant step towards uniting people. The second step is that everyone should be aware of and examine what is wrong and who is the wrongdoer. This will cleanse every heart and ennoble all people.

POETRY 5 A Roadside Stand

A roadside stand is a poem written by the highly-acclaimed poet, **Robert Frost**, who is regarded for his realistic depiction of rural life using which he touched several difficult social themes of the time. In this poem, the poet highlights the plight of the deprived villagers who are aching for some money to lead a prosperous life. The poet is also very critical of the way the city folks treat these villagers who are selling their locally produced goods and whizzing past them without a sense of empathy.

POETRY 6 Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers

Adrienne Rich was grown up in a wealthy family. Rich thought that she was dominated by her father’s strong personality. He guided her as a young poet. He expected her to write her poems his way. When Rich was growing up, she observed that men dominated women, and they were supposed to become dutiful wives in their adult lives.

Here you will find the picture of marriage Rich drew in this poem. At the heart of the poem is an image of a husband who controls and frightens his wife. She wrote a lot of poems based on everyday experience.

Her common featured topic was the tension of the women due to being dominated by their husbands. In ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’ Rich is the weakness of Aunt Jennifer’s situation and authority of Jennifer’s husband in their marriage.

VISTAS

1 – The Third Level (JACK FINNEY)

The Third Level chapter is based on a psychological story. It refers to the subway at the grand railway station to Galesburg. This subway was an interconnection between the narrator's harsh reality and fantasy. The third level was a way of escape for Charley; life in the modern world is full of insecurities worries and stress. It takes Charley to a different world which his friend also calls "a walking dream wish fulfillment". Here you will find about Charley's escapist tendency. The third level was started because of Sam's letter written on July 18, 1984.

4 – The Enemy (S.BUCK)

The story highlights how a Japanese doctor saves the life of an American prisoner of war and rises above narrow national prejudices. He risks his honor, career, position, and life by sheltering a war prisoner of the enemy camp and saving his life. The author has beautifully portrayed the conflict in the doctor's mind as a private individual and as a citizen with a sense of national loyalty. 'The Enemy' gives the message that humanism transcends all human-made prejudices and barriers. Dr. Sadao upholds the ethics of the medical profession in creating an enemy. The story is a great lesson of peace, love, sympathy, fellow feeling, and humanism.

5 – Should Wizard hit Mommy (JOHN UPDIKE)

Little children love to hear stories from their parents at bedtime. Many a time, parents make up stories out of their own head. Little children take them as literally true. But as the child grows up, he becomes enthusiastic about learning new things. He starts to ask many questions. He wants to know everything happening around him. He wants to see the reason behind things. Some parents think this questioning of the child as an insult, and they try to discourage it. They want the child to accept as accurate whatever they tell him. A father tells his child a story out of his head. The child interrupts him a number of times. She raises questions whenever she feels that the story is wrong. The father feels caught in an ugly middle position. He does not know whether he should accept the child's version or stick to his own. Thus the story raises a moral issue and leaves it to the reader to resolve it.

2 – The Tiger King (KALKI)

The story 'The Tiger King' is explaining the pride and stubbornness of those who were in power. The writer has talked about the days of autocratic and eccentric kings. These kings were just the puppet of the British rulers. They used to fear the British. Many times they these rulers were not interested in serving the people and working for the welfare of the public. They disobeyed all laws and modified them to suit their selfish interests and desire. The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram tried to contradict his written fate. The chief astrologer had predicted that the cause of his death would be a tiger. So he started doing the campaign of tiger-hunting, and it was very successful. All his strategies and wise plans worked until he killed 99 tigers. But the hundredth tiger eluded him till his death. The irony of fate brings quite an unexpected end of the Maharaja. The last tiger he thought to be dead survived. The hundredth tiger, which caused his death, was not a ferocious beast of blood and flesh. It was a wooden tiger. One of the slivers of wood pierced his right hand and caused infection and a suppurating sore. It ultimately led to his death.

6 – On the face of It (SUSAN HILL)

The author tells about the sad world of the physically impaired. It is not the actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment that trouble a disabled man but the attitude of the people around him. Two physically impaired people, Mr. Lamb with a tin leg and Derry with a burnt face strike a bond of friendship. Derry is described as a young boy shy, withdrawn, and defiant. People tell him inspiring stories to console him, and no one will ever kiss him except his mother that too on the other side of his face. Mentions about a woman telling that only a mother can love such a look. Mr. Lamb revives the almost dead feelings of Derry towards life. He motivates him to think positively about life, changes his mindset about people and things. How a man locked himself as he was the scared-a picture, fell off the wall, and got killed. It is ironic that when he searches a new foothold to live happily, he finds Mr. Lamb dead. In this way, the play depicts the heart-rendering life of physically disabled people with their loneliness, aloofness, and alienation. But at the same time, it is almost an accurate account of the people who don't let a person live happily.

3 – Journey to the end of the Earth (TISHANI DOSHI)

The writer visited Antarctica, the coldest, the driest, and windiest continent in the world, aboard the Russian research vessel, Akademik Shokalskiy. The journey, beginning at Chennai, passed through many areas, geographical, legal, ecological, and temporal. The writer's first reaction to the continent was of relief, followed by wonder at its vastness, seclusion, and geological history. Before human evolution, Antarctica was part of a vast tropical landmass called the Gondwana land, which flourished 500 million years ago. Biological (flora and fauna), geological (changing continents), and geographical (climatic) changes occurred, and Antarctica separated and moved away evolving into what it is today. A visit to Antarctica gave the writer a deeper understanding of fold mountains, the earth's history, ecology, and environment. The writer felt unsettled in two weeks' time not only because she came from a much hotter place, but also because all features of human civilization were absent from an already desolate landscape. The long summers, the silence is broken occasionally by cracking ice sheets, and avalanches, the blue whales and icebergs, all contribute to an ecological implication that the future for humans isn't right.

7 – Evans Tries an O-level (COLIN DEXTER)

The theme of the story 'Evans Tries an O Level' is a talented escape planned by a convict on the pretense of taking a language exam in prison. The convict, even after being caught, still has the last laugh and makes his escape. The story also brings to light the fact that one should not underestimate one's opponent. The police officers were thorough in their preparations, but they underestimated Evans and his power to give them the slip.

8 – Memories of Childhood (ZITKALA & BAMA)

The chapter contains two extracts from two different autobiographical episodes from the lives of two women – Zitkala Sa and Bama. Both are victims of social discrimination. Zitkala Sa is the victim of racial discrimination, whereas Bama is the victim of caste discriminations. In both the extracts, the writers look back on their childhood and reflect on their relationship with the mainstream culture, which illtreated them when they were a child. But both the accounts are not simple narratives of oppression. Instead they reveal how oppression was resisted by both the narrators in their own ways. Zitkala-Sa and Bama were very young but not so young that they would not understand the evil scheme of the mainstream culture. The injustice of their society did not escape their notice also. Their bitter childhood experience sowed the seeds of rebellion in them earlier on.

WRITING SECTION



NOTICE

Q. You are Sunil / Sunita, In-charge of cultural club of RMD School, Jodhpur. Draft a notice for your school notice board inviting students to participate in the singing competition.

SPV School, Patna
NOTICE

Date 26th Feb, 20XX

Singing Competition

A singing competition would be organized in the auditorium of the school on 26th March 20XX. Two students of every section from class VI to class XII can participate. Interested students can submit names to their class teacher by 2nd March 20XX.

SUNITA
In-charge
Cultural Club

ADVERTISEMENT

You are Amarnath of No. 26, Nai Sarak, New Delhi. You want to sell your car as you are leaving for abroad. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for publication in The Times of India giving details of make, model, condition, expected range of price and giving your contact address as XYZ Tel. No. 26000981.

FOR SALE

For sale a brand new Maruti 800 c.c. with AC fitted 2002 model, white colour in excellent condition with all accessories intact. It has run for only 1634 kms. Owner leaving for USA. Expected price ? 1.6 lacs but can be negotiated. Interested parties may contact Amarnath, 26, Nai Sarak, Delhi or Call on 26000981.

INVITATION

You are a student of Newton Public School, Nagpur. The school is holding its annual function on Saturday, the 15th November, 20XX at 11 a.m. The HRD Minister Dr M.M. Joshi has consented to be the chief guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees. Do not exceed 50 words.

The Principal, Staff and Students
of
NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOL, NAGPUR
solicit the pleasure of your company
on
the auspicious occasion
of
THE ANNUAL FUNCTION
of their school
at
11 a.m. on Saturday, the 15th November, 20XX
Dr M.M. Joshi, HRD Minister, Govt. of India
will be the chief guest and give away the prizes to the students.

RSVP
Principal
Newton Public School, Nagpur
Phone: 325468

POSTER

CORONAVIRUS
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

How does 2019-nCoV spread?
Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from infected person to others through

- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, eyes before washing your hands
- Rarely, fecal contamination

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS
The flu-like symptoms like the name suggests is very similar to a common cold which could last for a few days. This includes:

- Fever
- Cough
- Hard to breathe

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS ARE INVITED

@pamarchandanmal@gmail.com

STAY HOME# SAVE LIVES# FIGHT AGAINST CORONA