FYBA- 2019 CBCS PATTERN- COMPULSORY ENGLISH

“LITERARY GLEAM”

SEMESTER II – NOTES: PROSE & POETRY

PREPARED BY-

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‘In Sahyadri Hills- A Lesson in Humility’ is a beautiful story written by Sudha Murthy. It is a touching account of Murthy’s interactions with the tribal people living in the dense forests of Karnataka. The records changes in the vision of the tribal people folk who are all set to join the computer revolution. As a result of this revolution, employability of Indian youth increased. The conclusion of the story is a lesson in human values.

Sudha Murthy once visited a village which was located in a dense forest of Karnataka. When she visited the village, it was raining heavily. Initially, the people of the village were reluctant to talk to her. After some persuasion, a watchman-cum-peon of the school talks to her and takes her to the headman of the village- Thandappa who is an old man. Sudha Murthy asks him about problems of the school. Thandappa tells her about some common problems that they face during the rainy season. She leaves the village with a decision to bring some clothes and umbrellas for the children.

Mrs Murthy returns there next time. Now the weather is changed ant it is winter, it is very pleasant atmosphere there like heaven. She hands over the gifts to Thandappa. He does not accept them immediately, but offers her a return gift which is a bottle of some medicated juice. Mrs. Murthy does not want to accept the gift from these poor people; she hesitates and returns the gift politely. Thandappa tells her if she doesn’t accept their gift; they will also not accept gifts given by her. According to him it is their ancestral practice ‘not to take without giving.’

Murthy really wonders and comments that she experiences true culture in these so called backward people. According to her, the tribal, uneducated people are more civilized than the so called city-dwelling people. She learns a lesson in humanity from Thandappa and that is “There is grace in accepting also.”
2. The Model Millionaire- Oscar Wilde

‘The Model Millionaire’ is a short story written by Oscar Wilde. It is a story of a handsome youth who is unemployed. He is in love with a beautiful girl as well. The writer conveys us a message that we should not form an opinion about someone just by one’s look or appearance. It may be deceptive. Hughie Erskine- the main character- forms an opinion about an old beggar and gets valuable lesson.

Hughie Erskine, a protagonist of the story, is a young man of good-looking, crisp-brown hair, clear-cut profile and grey eyes. He does not know that romance is a privilege of rich people. He tried many jobs, but could not sustain at any of them. He manages his expenditure on the favour of his aunt who gives him two hundred pounds per month. He is in love with a beautiful girl called Laura Merton. Her father is a colonel and approves their love. But he is not ready to get them engaged until Hughie has 10,000/- pounds of his own. Therefore, Hughie is always sad.

One day, on his way to Laura, Hughie visits his friend Alan Trevor, who is a painter. Alan is giving a finishing touch to a painting of a beggar man and a live model of a beggar man is standing in a corner of Alan’s studio that looks very miserable. His clothes are old and tattered, his face is wrinkled. Hughie feels pity for that man and therefore he puts a sovereign and some shillings in his cap and leaves the studio with great satisfaction at his act.

In the evening, Alan meets Hughie in a club and tells Hughie that the old beggar is very much influenced by Hughie and has enquired about him. As a response to the beggar’s enquiry, Alan has given all information about Hughie to the beggar including his love story and a condition that Laura’s father has kept. A very strong feeling of pity for the beggar is aroused in Hughie’s mind and therefore he offers some old clothes to the beggar. After listening to Hughie’s offer, Alan
laughs at Hughie and discloses a fact that the beggar man is not ‘a beggar’ in the real life situation; but he is a millionaire and wants Alan to paint him in the form of a beggar. Therefore, he was in the costume of a beggar. After knowing the fact, Hughie is shocked and repents on his act in the morning. He tells Alan that he put alms in the man’s cap. Alan assures Hughie that Baron Hausberg, the model beggar man, would surely return his money with an interest. Hughie wants to apologise on his act.

The next day, a representative of Baron Hausberg comes to Hughie and hands over an envelope to him on which it is written, ‘a wedding present to Hughie Erskine and Laura Merton from “an old beggar”’ and inside the envelope, there is a cheque of £10,000. This makes it possible for Hughie to fulfill the condition put by Laura’s father to get married with her. Baron Hausberg is a chief guest in Hughie’s wedding and also gives a speech there.

To conclude, Hughie learn a lesson that one should not form an opinion about someone by just looks/appearance. The old beggar is a millionaire in many senses. He is a kind and noble-hearted person. Therefore the story is titled as ‘the Model Millionaire’
3. The Eyes are not Here – Ruskin Bond

‘The Eyes are not Here’ is a short story written by Ruskin Bond. It is a deeply-touching story about two co-passengers in a train who are both blind and do not realize that the other is. A narrator of the story, who is blind, realizes at the end that the girl was also blind. Ruskin Bond has presented the story with pathos and irony.

The narrator is travelling to Mussoorie by a train and on a junction a girl enters his compartment. The narrator is blind therefore he cannot see her; but he has heard her voice and he likes it. He develops communication with her. He praises her face as ‘interesting’ which she likes. The girl also becomes friendly with him, and chats with him. She gets down at Shaharanpur.

When they are talking to each other, the narrator pretends that he can see because he does not want her to know that he is blind. When she gets down at her station; he imagines how her hair might be. He asks to a new passenger, who enters the compartment when the girl gets down, about her hair style. But the passenger tells him that he does not notice it, but he says that it is her eyes that attract his attention. He informs to the narrator that the girl is very beautiful, but she is complete blind. The narrator is surprised by this.

With a surprise ending, Ruskin Bond keeps the readers and the narrator into a shock and pathos. An irony is that the narrator, who wants to hide his blindness, does not understand her pain. Thus, we are deeply touched by the story.
Poetry

4. My Heart Leaps Up - William Wordsworth

‘My Heart Leaps Up’ is a short and beautiful lyric written by William Wordsworth. The poet captures an innocent joy and wonder of a child on seeing a rainbow. He says that though he is an adult now; but he has not forgotten that joy even today. For him, man should always keep a child in him alive.

The poet exclaims that the sight of a rainbow in the sky always makes him happy. It gives him an immense joy. He admits that, whenever he has the sight of the rainbow; same feeling of wonder is experienced by him as he used to do in his childhood. He further says that even in his old days, he would enjoy it with the same zeal. He feels if he stops having a sense of wonder at the sight of the rainbow, then being alive would not matter.

The poet says that, ‘the child is the father of man’, it means the innocence is a natural state of human being and it is the true piety and worship. Further, he also suggests that Nature is man’s first cathedral.
5. Ozymandias - P. B. Shelley

‘Ozymandias’ is a sonnet written by P. B. Shelley. This is a philosophical poem that deals with changing nature of the earthly power and the permanence of art. A speaker is telling us a story which is told to him by a traveler. The traveler once visited a desert and there he found a shattered statue of once famous Egyptian king Ozymandias. In the old times, Ozymandias was another name for the Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II.

The statue has only two legs standing in the sand without a torso (body). Near that statue, a shattered face of stone which is a part of the statue lies half sunk. The lips of the king are wrinkled and the sculptor has very skillfully carved the commanding expressions of the once powerful king. As if the sculptor is mocking at the king. On the pedestal of the statue is inscribed, “My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings: Look on my works, ye mighty and despair!”

Shelley has told the readers that, now the political power of this once powerful king is no more. Even his statue is not maintained properly and is alone at a deserted place. But at the same time, he wants to emphasise that the art is permanent. Though, the power is gone, but that commanding face of the king is alive through the art of sculpturing.
6. Success is Counted Sweetest – Emily Dickinson

‘Success is Counted Sweetest’ is a short poem written by Emily Dickinson. She wants to convey a message through this poem that great thing/success gets after lot of efforts and pain. Winning a war is not without those who have sacrificed their lives.

In first stanza, she says that the people who never succeeded can only say that success is sweet. But for getting success, one needs a strong desire to win, ‘to comprehend nectar requires sorest need.’ According to her, a person/soldier who has lost his life or is on the death bed can only tell what success is. The other soldiers, who never fought any war, cannot tell it. And the irony is that this martyr cannot listen to or enjoy the winning music/success.

In short, Dickinson wants to suggest that those who fail or do not get success; the desire of getting it becomes stronger in them instead of those who have already had it. Another message, she wants to give that it is painful and tedious act to get success. One needs strongest desire to deserve success.