

# Literature Reader

## 1. A SINGLE MOVE

### UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

- A. 1. (a) 2. (c) (The question should have Shinozo instead of 'Kusovo' in the book.)  
3. (b) 4. (c)
- B. 1. True 2. True 3. False 4. False 5. True
- C. 1. Kusovo and his friend were talking about the famous boxer Ali.  
2. Mr Shinozo lost control of the bus because he had a heart attack while driving the bus.  
3. The bus changed direction suddenly and dashed into a tree. The door of the bus flew open and Kusovo was flung out.  
4. After coming from hospital, Kusovo made a decision to learn judo with his one right arm. After three months of training, master taught him only one move.  
5. Kusovo won the tournament with only one move because he had mastered one of the most difficult throws in judo and secondly the only known defence for that move was that the opponent should grab his left arm. Kusovo did not have a left arm! Hence, Kusovo won the tournament by learning just one move.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- D. Any reasonable sentences are acceptable.
- E. 1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (c)

### WRITING SKILLS

- F. Any reasonable paragraph is acceptable.

### DISCUSS

Make a group of students and discuss the given topic in the class.

## 2. SALLY

### UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

- A. 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (a)
- B. 1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True
- C. 1. Mr Raymond Gellhorn brought a gun with him to threaten and intimidate Jake so that he could take away the positronic motors from Jake.  
2. Jake warned Mr Gellhorn because the positronic motors had built-in intelligence. They could hear, understand and respond to situations suitably. This was not known to Mr Gellhorn.

3. Jake instructed the cars to go after the trespassers, Mr Gellhorn and his two companions, and the cars immediately chased them out.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- D. 1. He said that he had made him a proposition the day prior to the day before.  
2. Gellhorn said in a low voice that he had got the old fellow.  
3. I told him that it would not go inside the garage.
- E. 1. signal 2. suffer 3. visible 4. modified

### WRITING SKILLS

- F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

Hints: Artificial Intelligence—very useful to serve man but should not become master.

Advantages: Facilitates work, makes travel easy, faster communication, brings the world closer, able to deal with diseases, disasters, etc.

Disadvantages: We become lazy, lose touch with nature, danger to environment, become mechanical and automated in our thinking and living, etc.

### DISCUSS

Discussion in the class.

## 3. DAFFODILS

### UNDERSTANDING THE POEM

- A. 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (a)
- B. 1. cloud 2. breeze 3. never-ending 4. heart
- C. 1. The poet saw the daffodils stretching in a never-ending line along the bay, beside the lake and beneath the trees.  
2. At a glance, the poet saw ten thousand daffodils.  
3. When he first gazed at them, the poet could not help but feel happy in their joyous presence. But later, when he recollected them in his solitude, he realised the real lasting joy they had given him which stayed with him in his memory even when he was alone, bored or sad.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- D. 1. loneliness 2. clouded; unclouded 3. wavering  
4. heartless; hard-hearted; kind-hearted
- E. 1. gold; den; old (any two)  
2. doff; slid; off; lid; sad; oil (any two)



3. grin; man; gin; mar (any two)
4. any; can; many; pan; man; nap; cap; map (any two)
5. pen; vie; sin; sip; pin; spin; nip; vine (any two)

### **ACTIVITY**

F and G: Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

(F–Hint: The power of nature comforts us).

## **4. DUSK**

### **UNDERSTANDING THE STORY**

- A. 1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (b)
- B. The young man was to stay in the Patagonian Hotel in London but found it had been pulled down. He went to another hotel from where he went out to buy a cake of soap. He roamed around a bit and then realised he had forgotten the name of the hotel and had no place to stay at night. He had just two pence left in his pocket.
- C. 1. There were lost and defeated people in the park at night, who had lost hopes and dreams and did not wish to meet anyone or be seen or recognised by anyone.
2. The young man had said that he lost his bar of soap. Norman Gortsby found a soap near the bench, so, he thought it must belong to the young man. Therefore, he tended to believe the story of the young man.
3. The young man thanked Norman Gortsby because he got a cake of soap and a sovereign from him after making a fool of him.

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- D. 1. quite should be changed to quiet.  
2. revolved should be changed to rotated.  
3. spelling of disappointed should be corrected.  
4. city should be changed to cities.  
5. fare should be changed to fair.
- E. 1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (e) 5. (b)

### **WRITING SKILLS**

F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

### **DISCUSS**

G and H: For discussion

## 5. NEPHEWS

### UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

- A. 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (a)
- B. The following are ironic:
- (a) In all of the big city of New York, there was nowhere for him to go. (Despite having friends, he had nothing to eat, nowhere to sleep and no money.)
  - (b) If I went there tonight, I couldn't buy a five-cent cup of coffee. (Although he had dinner in that restaurant the day before.)
  - (c) One day, you're eating with silver knives and forks, the next day you are eating with your fingers.
  - (d) I shall get \$10,000 a year as pocket money. And I'm afraid.
  - (e) The story is based on the irony that Ide is not worried when he is a poor beggar but when there is promise of wealth, then he is worried and anxious.
- C. 1. Vallance's uncle was angry with him because Vallance would not obey him. So, he stopped giving him any allowance.
2. Ide was afraid at the sudden thought that he would become wealthy whereas when he was poor he was not afraid. He did not mind being poor, and he was happy being dirty and hungry, watching people on the road.
3. Vallance had heard that Ide was to inherit his uncle's wealth and was getting used to the idea that he himself would be poor. When lawyer Mead told him that he, Vallance, would after all be inheriting uncle Paulding's wealth, Vallance received a terrific shock and fainted.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- D. 1. Paulding was so angry with Vallance that he stopped sending him an allowance.
2. Though it was not exactly cold, it was not comfortable either.
3. One day, you're eating with silver knives and forks, the next day you're eating with your fingers.
4. He was too afraid to spend the night alone.

### WRITING SKILLS

- E. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

(Hints: Disparity between rich and poor; young men with expectations of wealth—did not work)

### DISCUSS

- G. and H: For discussion



Hints: G. Fear of possessions being lost/stolen, fear of added responsibility, burden on the mind

H: Dirty, untidy and alcoholic; very poor, not enough to eat; sleeps in the park—for five years. When he learns of his uncle making him heir, anxious and worried and completely upset by fear; imaginary fears. As soon as lawyer Mead tells him that he is not inheriting the wealth—Ide's hands stop shaking, colour is back on his face, stands up straight, takes a deep breath and laughs. He is transformed and very happy. Not greedy.

## 6. THE SLAVE'S DREAM

### UNDERSTANDING THE POEM

- A. 1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (c)
- B. 1. The poet used 'he' instead of giving a name to the slave for two reasons. Firstly, when the slaves were kidnapped and sold in America, they lost their identity and became merely slaves to their masters. Secondly, 'he' was representative of the anguish and fate of all the slaves, a symbol of their misery.
2. The slave originally belonged to Niger in Africa.
3. The slave smiled when he dreamed (dreamt) of liberty and freedom, which was something he had earlier and had lost but which he got in his dream and in death.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- C. 1. matted 2. landscape 3. tears 4. smiting; crushing 5. illuminated
- D. 1. shadow 2. plains 3. roofs 4. scream

### ACTIVITY

- E. Do as directed and discuss.

## 7. PEACE, PEACE, PEACE!

### UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

- A. 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (c)
- B. 1. 5 April 1992 2. Sarajevo 3. Cicko 4. a childhood (school, games, friends, nature)
5. piano
- C. 1. Civilians killed a Serbian wedding guest and wounded a priest. This made the political situation in Sarajevo hot.
2. There were shells pounding the city of Sarajevo, and in Zlata's house the only safe place was the cellar.
3. The bedroom of Zlata's house faced the hills from where they were shooting. So, the bedroom was unsafe.

4. Father could not carry the water because he had hernia.
5. Zlata became 12 years old on 3 December 1992.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- D. 1. I hope to have the best grades.  
2. All the schools will be/are going to be closed.  
3. It's ugly, dark, smelly.  
4. Mummy said that she had not realised that the Miljacka was such a wide river.
- E. 1. music lesson 2. guest house 3. hill station 4. war crime 5. safe custody  
6. wax doll

### WRITING SKILLS

- F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

Hints: fear, pain, helplessness; not able to understand why friends turn into enemies; the relentless destruction of normal life, i.e., home bombed, water, electricity, lack of rest, fear for loved ones, death

### DISCUSS

For discussion after data collection

## 8. OZYMANDIAS

### UNDERSTANDING THE POEM

- A. 1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (c)
- B. 1. The claim of the king was that he was King of Kings and he asked everyone to see his work all around and even the mighty would then despair of ever overcoming the King of Kings or of being his equal.
2. From the expression on the remains of his face and the inscription, it appears he was arrogant, scornful, cold and commanding with strong emotions like anger.
3. The lines that show that the sculptor was a good judge of character are the ones that show that all the character traits of the King “yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things” because “its sculptor well those passions read” and “his hand that mocked” those passions are also mocked “the heart that fed”–the evil heart of Ozymandias from which those emotions emerged.
4. The poem illustrates the truism that “Pride comes before a fall.” The King in his arrogance had his statue made in a commanding pose with an inscription which states:  
“My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings:  
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!”

And all that left is a broken statue of him, headless, standing in a desert where none of his “works” are visible nor are there any “mighty” people to see them, only a stray traveller. There is only decay, a wreck and a bare desert left.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- C. 1. Mr President, you have shamed the nation.  
2. Please tell me what you feel now.  
3. “I’m the King of all Kings,” said he.  
4. “Ouch!” she cried in pain.
- D. Any relevant sentences are acceptable.

### ACTIVITY

- E. Any reasonable answers are acceptable.
- F. The irony of the poem lies in the arrogance with which the statue has been got made by Ozymandias with its inscription and the reality which mocks that arrogance—discuss.

## 9. THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY

### UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

- A. 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (b)
- B. 1. friends 2. spinning; reciting 3. room 4. sparrows
- C. 1. The writer’s grandmother always went to school with him because the school was attached to the temple. While the children studied, the writer’s grandmother read scriptures in the temple.
2. The link between the writer and his grandmother was broken when he went to the university and was given a room of his own.
3. The change the writer saw in his grandmother after five years was that in the evening, she did not pray. His grandmother collected the women of the neighbourhood, thumped a drum for several hours and sang about the home-coming of warriors.
4. The sparrows were attached to the writer’s grandmother because she fed them crumbs. When she died, they seemed to know instinctively about it and did not eat the bread crumbs given by the writer’s mother.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- D. 1. She will sing a song at the party tomorrow.  
2. How long have you been staying here?  
3. I was given a rose by her.  
4. If you go to Italy, you must see Venice.

5. Wow! What a delicious food!
- E. Any reasonable sentences are acceptable.

### **WRITING SKILLS**

- F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

Hints: Loving, kind, connects easily with nature and its creatures. Instinctive connection between her and the sparrows—as when they refuse crumbs from his mother)

### **DISCUSS**

Discussion in the class.

## **10. THE DIAMOND NECKLACE**

### **UNDERSTANDING THE STORY**

- A. 1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (c)
- B. 1. She was distressed at the poverty of her dwelling, at the bareness of the walls, at the shabby chairs, the ugliness of the curtains.
2. She looked at him with an irritated glance and said impatiently: ...
3. Madame Loisel was a great success ... She was remarked by the minister himself.
- C. 1. Mathilde Loisel was always unhappy because she felt she had married below her status and she could not have all the comforts and luxuries that she deserved. She was very conscious of her poverty and craved for things that the rich people had.
2. In her new gown and borrowed jewellery, she was prettier than any other woman present. Her elegance, grace and beauty were noticed by everyone. People from socially higher circles sought to meet her and she was even mentioned by the minister. She felt very special and happy at the admiration she received.
3. Mathilde Loisel took 10 years in buying the new necklace because it was not easy for her to buy this costly diamond necklace.
4. We should be contented with what we have, and should never be vain.

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- D. 1. She asked him what he wished her to do with that.
2. She said she did not know exactly but thought she could manage it with four hundred francs.
3. He said that they would have to consider how to replace that ornament.
- E. 1. Clumsy 2. calm; pleased 3. few 4. ordinary; straight



## WRITING SKILLS

F. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

(Hints: Inferiority complex; dissatisfied; impatient; vain; honest; hardworking; not a cheat)

## DISCUSS

G. For discussion: if they had spoken earlier to Madame Forestier, things might not have reached such a situation; anticlimax after ten years; to know the 'diamond' was artificial.

H. For discussion: Can be a little of both?

# 11. IF

## UNDERSTANDING THE POEM

A. 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (b)

B. 1. If you can keep your head when all about you

Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;

2. Or watch the things you have your life to broken,

And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

3. If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew

To serve your turn long after they are gone,

4. If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue;

5. If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;

C. 1. The word 'You' stands for every person in the world.

2. The poet is saying that we should be even-minded when we face victory or defeat on any issue. The poet calls these two things 'impostors' because neither 'triumph' nor 'disaster' are lasting or real. What may appear to be 'triumph' may lead to some failure and what may seem like 'disaster' may turn out to be a victory.

3. The poet calls a minute 'unforgiving' because it never comes back so what is done in that moment cannot be revised or pardoned. Therefore, says the poet, we should use that minute in a very worthwhile way. In saying this, the poet uses the metaphor of sport, where timer and stopwatch are used to measure the race run.

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

D. 1. hart 2. to 3. bare 4. dear (the word 'deer' should be there instead of 'game' in the book) 5. full 6. accept

E. 1. loving 2. servant 3. new 4. condemn

## **ACTIVITY**

F. For discussion

Hint: The poem deals with values and qualities which make a person worthwhile and worthy.

## **DISCUSS**

For discussion

Hint: self-confidence; dignity; presence of mind; patience; integrity and honesty; neither arrogant nor suffering an inferiority complex; balance dreams and reality; even-minded; courage; fortitude in the face of negative speech or actions; ready to take risks; not to be defeated by loss; resilience; virtue; capable of standing alone for what is right; fair and just; neither indulging in favour nor prejudice; building one's worth as a human being.

# 12. STEPHEN HAWKING

## **UNDERSTANDING THE POEM**

- A. 1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (a)
- B. 1. Oxford 2. science 3. cheek 4. without gravity
- C. 1. Since Oxford did not offer a mathematics degree, Hawking moved towards physics.  
2. Stephen Hawking loved dancing and rowing while he was at Oxford University.  
3. The doctor said that he was in the early stages of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in which the nerves that controlled his muscles were shutting down. They gave him two and a half years to live.  
4. Stephen Hawking had a strange dream after he was released from the hospital. He dreamt that he was going to be executed. The dream made him realise that there were things he wanted to do with his life. The most significant change in his life came when he fell in love with Jane Wilde in 1963, before the diagnosis, and his marriage to her in 1965.  
5. Stephen Hawking wants to fly to the edge of space to encourage public interest in space because he believes that life on the Earth is at an ever-increasing risk of being wiped out by man-made or natural disaster and the human race has no future if it doesn't go into space.

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- D. 1. graduated 2. nationalise 3. cosmological 4. honourable 5. hospitalise  
6. invented

## **WRITING SKILLS**

E. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.



## DISCUSS

F and G: For discussion

## 13. UPHILL

### UNDERSTANDING THE POEM

- A. 1. (c) 2. (b)  
B. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- C. 1. hole 2. knight 3. ours 4. in 5. meat 6. site 7. soar 8. week

### ACTIVITY

- D. Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

## 14. THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (ACT IV SCENE I)

### UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

- A. 1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (b)  
B. 1. False 2. True 3. True 4. True  
C. 1. Portia gives several reasons why mercy is the greatest quality. It blesses the person who is merciful and also the person who receives mercy. It is an ornament that suits a king more than his crown, raising him higher than the temporal or worldly power that he exercises. It is a quality of God Himself, so when it is seen in a human living it makes him godly. She says that since we all seek mercy even in justice so should he.  
2. Shylock refuses to forgive Antonio because he has signed a bond with Antonio wherein, if Antonio fails to make payment on time, Shylock will have a pound of his flesh from near his heart. But in his heart, Shylock has a deep anger and prejudice against Christians as can be seen from his whispered thoughts.  
3. Shylock did not cut a pound of Antonio's flesh because Portia very cleverly stipulated that in cutting the flesh not a drop of blood must fall nor should the weight vary at all to be more or less than a pound. Otherwise Shylock would be penalised. Since this was a physical impossibility, Shylock decided not to cut Antonio's flesh.

### WRITING SKILLS

D and E: Any reasonable answer is acceptable.

Hints D: Loss of confidence and friendship; burden on both

Hints E: (a) as a greedy, cruel man (b) Christian-Jew differences

**DISCUSS**

F: For discussion

Hint: Wastes his own time, energy, effort. Often makes a fool of himself. Shows himself up as petty, vengeful, unkind

G: For discussion

Hint: Mercy as compared to (a) unkindness (b) justice (c) vengeance

