

8. The Last Leaf

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Self-pity is one of the indications of immersion in the little ego-self. If we harbour self-pity, our attitude is always subjective, taking everything personally. We cannot be objective about anything. As a result, we constantly feel sorry for ourselves. To be objective is to think in terms of what is the best attitude to have towards our work, in our relationships with others, and above all, in our relationship with God.

When we are wallowing in subjective consciousness, we are extremely touchy. No one dares to approach us with any constructive criticism, because we are always on the defensive. Defensiveness is a symptom of self-pity. Train the mind to stand aside and impartially analyse the situation and your reaction. Acknowledge what is true when it is pointed out to you.

If you become sad, moody or go to pieces because someone has criticised you, know that this is one of your weak links. God tests each of us in those areas where we need to develop strength... He brings into our lives those circumstances that give us opportunities to recognise and heal all of the psychological weaknesses in our consciousness.

The twin of self-pity is self-justification, the urge to always defend and justify our behaviour. Resist the compulsion to explain yourself every time you are confronted with your faults and mistakes. If, for example, someone says to you that you gossip too much, or always look on the dark side of things, hold back and silently introspect. Maybe that person is right, and is acting as a true friend.

– From: A speech by Sri Daya Mata

A. Answer the following questions.

1. What is self-pity?

2. What do we do when we are subjective?

3. What should we do when something true is pointed out to us?

4. Why are difficult circumstances brought into our life?

5. What is self-justification?

6. What should we think when someone criticises us?

B. What is the difference between the following pairs of words.

1. (a) Subjective: _____

(b) Objective: _____

2. (a) Defensive: _____

(b) Offensive: _____

3. (a) Constructive: _____

(b) Destructive: _____

4. (a) Criticism: _____

(b) Praise: _____

5. (a) Introvert: _____

(b) Extrovert: _____

C. State if the following statements are true or false:

1. If we indulge in self-pity, we are only thinking about ourselves. _____

2. Self-pity means we are constantly sorry for others. _____

3. Being touchy and taking everything personally is good. _____

4. God brings us difficult circumstances to give us opportunities to recognise and heal our weaknesses. _____

5. Self-justification is the urge to defend and justify our behaviour. _____

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Fill in the blanks with suitable auxiliaries.

1. _____ you meet the doctor today?
2. He _____ very pleased at the compliment.
3. Mr Verma _____ our new Principal.
4. I _____ just leaving for the airport.
5. The boys _____ very naughty.
6. Mary _____ a lot of work.

B. Select the appropriate modal from the brackets to complete the sentences.

1. _____ you please pass me the butter? [can/could]
2. You _____ pay attention to your studies. [may/must]
3. If you finish your work today, you _____ have a free day tomorrow. [would/may]
4. We _____ be silent in the library. [ought/should]
5. He _____ read English fluently. [will/can]

C. Add punctuation marks and capital letters correctly to the following passage.

we are influenced by our friends our family our workmates whom we associate with the tv programmes we watch and the newspapers books and magazines that we read

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING SKILLS

A. Make sentences to show the difference in meaning between the pairs of words.

1. Stares: _____
Stairs: _____
2. Suit: _____
Suite: _____
3. Bough: _____
Bow: _____
4. Male: _____
Mail: _____

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable phrases from the box.

put away left out got off let go puts on

1. She always _____ airs to look interesting.
2. Manish was feeling _____ when his friends didn't speak to him.
3. The passengers _____ the train at Jhansi.
4. Please _____ your books now.
5. Toto did not _____ the leg of the thief.