

4. Some Reminiscences

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

This Mr Fielding had been caught by India late. He was over forty when he entered that oddest portal, the Victoria Terminus at Mumbai and took his luggage into the compartment of his first tropical train. The journey remained in his mind as significant. Of his two carriage companions, one was a youth, fresh to the East like himself, the other a seasoned Anglo-Indian of his own age. A gulf divided him from either; he had seen too many cities and men to be the first or to become the second...

He was nominated Principal of the little college at Chandrapore, liked it, and assumed he was a success. He did succeed with his pupils, but the gulf between himself and his countrymen, which he had noticed in the train, widened distressingly. He could not at first see what was wrong... He appeared to inspire confidence until he spoke. Then, something in his manner puzzled people and failed to allay the distrust which his profession naturally inspired... The feeling grew that Mr Fielding was a disruptive force, and rightly, for ideas are fatal to caste, and he used ideas by that most potent method – interchange... He was the happiest in the give and take of a private conversation. The world, he believed, is a globe of men who are trying to reach one another and can best do so with the help of goodwill plus culture and intelligence – a creed ill-suited to Chandrapore, but he had come out too late to lose it. He had no racial feeling – not because he was superior to his brother civilians, but because he matured in a different atmosphere, where the herd-instinct does not flourish.

(From: A Passage to India – by E.M. Forster)

A. Read the above passage and answer the following questions.

1. Where did Mr Fielding board the train?
2. Who were his companions in the compartment?
3. What job was Mr Fielding nominated?
4. What did Mr Fielding believe?
5. What made Mr Fielding the happiest?

B. Explain what you think the following mean in the given passage.

1. A gulf divided him from either.
2. Ideas are fatal to caste.
3. He matured in a different atmosphere, where the herd-instinct does not flourish.

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Underline and identify the kind of pronouns in the sentences given below.

1. Is this your umbrella, Malini?
2. I myself saw Grandpa riding a bicycle down the street!
3. Let us all bring one tree and plant it in the school.
4. They left the field with the team.
5. That is the house I live in.
6. Who will come to the market with me?

B. One sentence in the pairs below has a pronoun and one has an adjective. Identify and write P or A in the brackets.

1. (a) Which road goes to the hospital? ()
(b) I don't know which is the road. ()
2. (a) Your dress has got a tear in it. ()
(b) Is this book yours, Juna? ()
3. (a) This is the house that Jack built. ()
(b) I had been looking for this house for days. ()

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. Make sentences using the following words.

1. odd _____
2. private _____
3. distress _____
4. globe _____
5. culture _____

B. Give two meanings for each word using a dictionary.

1. gulf _____
2. force _____
3. change _____
4. flourish _____
5. natural _____

C. Match the words in Column A with that in Column B to make a simile.

- | Column A | Column B |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. as hungry as | (a) a March hare |
| 2. as proud as | (b) a lion |
| 3. as bold as | (c) the hills |
| 4. as old as | (d) a wolf |
| 5. as mad as | (e) a peacock |