

4. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – The Iron Man of India

WORKSHEET

1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

This Mr Fielding had been caught by India late. He was over forty when he entered that oddest portal, the Victoria Terminus at Bombay 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 President 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 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.

– ‘A Passage to India’ by E.M. Forster

A Answer the following questions.

1. Where did Mr Fielding board the train?

2. Who were his companions in the compartment?

3. What post was Mr Fielding nominated to?

4. What did Mr Fielding believe?

5. What made Mr Fielding the happiest?

B Explain what you think the following mean in the 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 did not flourish.

GRAMMAR

A Underline the pronouns and state their kinds in the sentences given below.

1. Is this umbrella yours, Malini?

2. Hina herself saw Grandpa riding along on a bicycle.

3. Let us bring one sapling each 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 now?

B See the pairs of sentences below. One has a pronoun and one an adjective; write P or A in the brackets.

1. (a) Which road goes to the hospital?

[]

(b) I don't know which is the road to the shop.

[]

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.

[]

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A Give one word for the following.

1. something coming or happening after death of a person _____
2. the state of being important, famous or noticeable _____
3. treating someone differently or unjustly _____
4. belonging to forefathers or ancestors _____
5. unwilling and hesitant _____

B Find two meanings for each word from a dictionary.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Gulf | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Force | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Change | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Flourish | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Natural | _____ | _____ |

C Make similes by matching the words in Column A with those in Column B.

Column A

1. as hungry as
2. as proud as
3. as bold as
4. as old as
5. as mad as

Column B

- (a) a March hare
- (b) a lion
- (c) the hills
- (d) a wolf
- (e) a peacock