

VIJAYASREE

LEARNING MATERIAL

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READING PASSAGES AND QUESTIONS FROM IT

THE CHERRY TREE

Dear children, Don't you remember the story of Rakesh the boy who planted the cherry tree? One day getting in to the garden he was surprised. What could be the reason? Read the following passage from 'The cherry Tree' and answer the questions that follow:

In February, it was Rakesh's birthday. He was nine- and the tree was four, but almost as tall as Rakesh. One morning, when the sun came out, grand father came into the garden. "Let some warmth get into my bones", he said. He stopped in front of the cherry tree, stared at it for a few moments and then called out, "Rakesh! Come and look! Come quickly before it falls!"

Rakesh and grand father gazed at the tree as though it had performed a miracle. There was a pale pink blossom at the end of the branch.

1. How old was the cherry tree when it blossomed?
2. Why did grand father come into the garden on that morning?
3. What did grand father want to show Rakesh?
4. Rakesh is excited that the cherry tree blossomed, he writes a diary about it that day. How would it be?

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

Read the passage from 'Two gentlemen of Verona' and answer the questions that follow:
Para 19 -20

1. Who told the story of the two boys? Who was it told to?
2. What happened to their father?
3. How were the boys thrown to the street?
4. What was Lucia?
5. How did the war affect the boys?
6. Write any two slogans against war.

7. Find one word for the following:

- a). suffering due to lack of food
- b). Broken stones of a building that has been destroyed.

THREE DAYS TO SEE

Lets go to para 5 of the passage 'Three days to see'.

Read the passage from 'Three days to see' and answer the questions that follow:

1. Imagine the conversation between Helen Keller and the teacher on the first day of her imagined eyesight; and try to write it.
2. What is the 'period' referred to here?
3. What is the name of Helen's teacher? What did she do for her?
4. What does Helen mean by saying 'opened the outer world to me'?
5. What qualities did Helen find out in her teacher?

THE HERO

Read the following passage from 'The Hero' and answer the questions that follow:

Para 6-7

1. What was the 'frightful proposition' for swami?
2. What would keep swami trembling and awake all night?

3. Find out a word from the above passage which means 'speaking in a low voice'.
4. Write a telephonic conversation between Swami and his friend about his father's challenge.

ON THE RULE OF THE ROAD

Read the passage from 'On the Rule of the Road' and answer the questions that follow:

Para .6.

1. "That is what I didn't get" ;What does 'that' refer to in the passage?
2. What did the author wrestle with?
3. What is the man's voice compared to ?
4. What prevented the author from reading the Blue book?
5. Suppose A.G.Gardiner writes the diary of the experience;How would it be?

THE SNEEZE

Read the passage from 'The Sneeze' and answer the questions that follow:

Para .7.

1. When did Tcherviakoff's wife feel reassured?
2. Why did she want Tcherviakoff to apologize?
3. Find out the word which means 'worried' from the paragraph.
4. Write a conversation between Tcherviakoff and the General.

THE ELIXIR OF LIFE

Read the passage from 'The Elixir of Life' and answer the questions that follow:

Para 10

1. What is the basis of all life?
2. What are the fundamentals for human welfare?
3. Find out one word for 'putting into practice'
4. Prepare two placards on the importance of water.

THE STORMY NIGHT

Read the poem 'The Stormy night' and answer the questions that follow:

1. Who is the 'I' referred to here? What is he going to do?
- 2.What sort of a night was that?
3. Who tucked the boy and how?
4. Could the boy sleep?
5. What did he listen to?
6. Find out the words in the poem which show the power of the wind?
7. How does the wind affect the boy's house?
8. What are the noises that got drowned ?
9. What does the boy hear ?
- 10.Why did the boy think of helpless birds and beasts?
11. Could they seek for warmth? What was the result?
- 12.The boy thinks about the ' shivering homeless things'. What are these things?
13. What does the boy feel towards the homeless things?
14. Why are the sailors in distress?
15. What do the sailors long for?
16. What makes the boy wide awake?
17. What did the boy do to get peace for his mind?
18. What was his prayer?

19. When could the boy sleep?
20. What do you understand about the character of the boy?

Teachers may analyze other poems in the similar manner.

Writing tasks for 120 words.

1. 'Let our life be clubbed with Nature'; Substantiate this statement with reference to Rakesh and the Cherry tree.
2. Suppose you meet Nicola and Jacopo at Verona. The boys tell all about themselves. How would it be?
3. Helen Keller makes a speech about her three days of imagined eye sight in a function arranged to honour her, in your school. Prepare the speech.
4. Swami writes a letter to his bosom friend Gokul describing the incidents which made him a 'hero' overnight. Help Swami to write the letter.
5. Prepare a seminar paper on the topic, 'Individual liberty Vs social liberty'.
6. Tcherviakov writes a letter of apology to the general. Write the letter.
7. Prepare an article on the topic 'water is the elixir of life'.

PROFILE

Prepare a profile of R.K.Narayan, the author of the story 'The Hero'. Details are given below :

Name : R.K. Narayan

Birth : 1906

Place of Birth: Chennai

Education : A Bachelor's degree from the University of Madras

Works : The Guide, Swami and his Friends, The English Teacher,

Bachelor of Arts, Malgudi Days

Awards : Sahitya Academy Award 1961

Death : 2001

Other suggested topics for profile:

1. Cherry tree
2. Rakesh
3. Grandfather
4. Ruskin Bond

5. A.J.Cronin.
6. Nicola or Jacopo.
7. Lucia
8. Tennyson
9. Helen Keller.
10. AnneSullivan Macy.
11. Swami
12. Grand mother
13. Wordsworth.
14. Christopher Marlowe
15. Rabindranath Tagore
16. Sir. C.V.Raman.

Tips:

(Name) is

He/ she was born in(place) in (year) as the son or daughter of
(parents)

He/she completed education from(name of school/college)

He /she was famous in the field of(profession)

He/ she was married to(wife/husband)

His/her main achievement was/is (area)

His/her important works are.....

He /she was awarded.....(prize)

He/ she died.....in(year).

NOTICE

Heading	
Salutation	
Content	
what(programme), when(time, day date), where(venue) etc.	
Conclusion	
Place	Issuing authority
Date	

1. The ministry of environment of Jammu Kashmir decides to honour Rakesh and his grand father for being true nature lovers. A function is to be held at G H SS Mussoorie on the environment Day June 5th of 1957. Prepare a notice of invitation.
2. A.J. Cronin ,on returning to his native place plans to conduct an opera to raise funds for the treatment of Lucia. Prepare a notice to inform the public.
3. Helen's friends are conducting a function to immortalise the event of her regaining eyesight. The function will be held on the evening of the third day of her temporary eyesight. Prepare a notice for the function.
4. Swami receives an award for bravery on the republic day of that year for catching a notorious burglar. His school conducts a function for it. The IG of police will be the chief guest. Prepare a notice.
5. The department of highways has decided to observe a road safety week from the 27th of march In connection with this there will be an awareness programme in your school .Prepare a notice for the programme.
6. A seminar is being conducted in your school on the topic of 'Indiscriminate sandmining'. Prepare a notice to inform about the seminar.

DIARY

- 1.Rakesh writes his diary on the day the grass cutting woman cut the cherry tree into two.Help him to write one.
2. Every Sunday Nicola and Jacopo visit their sister in the hospital . But one Sunday they couldn't visit her. Lucia couldn't sleep that night. She was worried why they hadn't turned up. She took her diary and poured her thoughts into it. How would it be?
3. Ann Sullivan writes her diary on the day she met Helen , after Helen regained her eye sight. How would it be?
- 4.Swami became a hero overnight. He was excited. He writes his feelings in his diary. Help him to write it.
- 5.A.G. Gardiner was disturbed by the pompous voice of a co-passenger. He wanted to express his agony .He writes it in his diary. How would it be?
- 6.General Brizjaloff felt sorry for having shouted at Tcherviakov at his office. He expresses his feel of guilt in his diary. How would it be?

Indicators

Expression of personal feelings

Unity of thought

Use of suitable linkers

Cohesiveness of ideas and theme

NEWSPAPER REPORT

1. Rakesh and his grandpa has got ' KARSHAKASHREE ' honour from Jammu Kashmir Government for their love of Nature and hard work in farming . The news came in the daily news paper. How would

it be?

2. The bomb blast destroyed the home of Nicola and Jacopo throwing them into the streets . (Their father had already been killed in the early part of the war). This news was reported in the news paper the following day. Can you prepare it ?

3. Helen Keller imagined that she was blessed with eye sight for 3 days . Her wonderful experience was reported in the news paper . Try to reproduce the news report.

4. A notorious burglar was caught by Swami . The news came in the daily . Write it.

5. You may remember the Petrograd incident of the stout old lady who walked through the middle of the road saying that women had got liberty . This incident came as paper report. Try to write.

6. Tcherviakov died of a broken heart just after coming from the General's office when the General shouted at him. He was stumbling through the door and through the street .Reaching home, he laid on a sofa and died. Report the incident for the local daily.

7. March 22nd is the ' World Water Day ' . Suppose in 2010 the day was celebrated in your school . The Hon. M.P Mr. M.B.Rajesh inaugurated the function . In his speech , he stressed about the importance of preserving water , which is the commonest but the most wonderful of all liquids . Prepare the report of the programme.

Tips for help

- **What is to be reported here?**
- **Where did the incident happen?**
- **When did it happen?**
- **How did it happen?**
- **Who were involved in it?**
- **What are the other details given? Are they relevant?**

Elicit answers.

**Ask the learners to write the answers in their notebook and arrange them properly .
Refine it on the basis of the grading indicators.**

Grading indicators:

Catchy headline

Good beginning

Content

Organisation of ideas

Language and style

Brevity

SLOGANS / PLACARDS.

In the story, 'Two gentlemen of Verona' you have familiarised with the family of Nicola, Jacopo and their sister Lucia who suffered the atrocities of war. Don't we need to eradicate war from the face of the earth? So let us prepare a few antiwar slogans / placards.

For eg.

WAR KILLS MAN

STOP WAR, SAVE LIFE

2. In the story 'Two gentlemen of Verona', You have familiarised with the family of Nicola, Jacopo and Lucia who suffered the atrocities of war. Don't we need to eradicate war from the face of the earth? So let us prepare some slogans and placards against war.

3. After reading 'Three days to see', we all have recognized the importance of eyesight in life. Do you know the fact that our eyes will become useful to others after our death, if we donate them? Can we prepare some placards and slogans saying the greatness of Eye Donation?
4. Swami is a character who believes in ghosts. We all know that such imaginations and beliefs are known as superstitions. Let's prepare slogans and placards against such blind beliefs prevailing in the society.
5. In class XE, some children made disturbance while the class was going on. The following day there appeared some placards and slogans against social liberty getting curtailed due to certain people giving importance to personal liberty. How would it be?
6. In Kerala we get enough water in rainy season. But we experience severe drought in summer. How can we escape from this? Prepare a few slogans and placards on water management.

Remember, SLOGANS are RHYTHMIC, ATTRACTIVE, HAVING THEMATIC CONTINUITY and BREVITY.

PLACARDS are SIMPLE, CATCHY, BRIEF

SLOGANS CAN BE PLACARDS but ALL PLACARDS CAN NOT BE SLOGANS.

LETTER

1. Rakesh's grandpa writes a letter to Rakesh asking about his agricultural activities and about his parents when he went to the village in vacation. Write the likely letter.

2. Nicola and Jacopo couldn't visit the hospital on one Sunday. They wrote a letter to the manager

of the hospital informing about their inability to pay the bill for that week. Write the likely letter..

3. Helen writes a letter to her friend who is far away whom she couldn't meet on her days of sight. She could only write a letter to her. How could the letter be?
4. Gardner's article was read by the man with pompous voice. He respond o it through an apology. How would that letter of apology be?
5. Tcherviakoff's couldn't write a letter to Brizjaloff. How would that letter be?

CONVERSATION

1. A praying Mantis was the cherry tree's first visitor. Rakesh let it remain there. The next visitor was a Hairy Caterpillar who was making a meal of the leaves. Write the likely conversation..
2. The nurse tells the author more about Nicola and Jacopo. Write a possible dialogue between the nurse and the author.

3. Helen Keller imagines first she would meet her teacher Anne Sullivan when she regained her eye-sight.

Prepare a likely dialogue between Helen and her teacher.

4. Swami's father rings up to police station to inform them about the burglar. Write the telephonic conversation between Swami's father and the Inspector.

5. The man in the train talked to his friend in a loud pompous voice. The author was finding it difficult in reading his blue book. Write a likely dialogue between the author and the man.

6. The news about Tcherviakoff's death was shocking to General Brizjaloff and he decided to explain his innocence to Tcherviakoff's wife. So he went to his house. Write a possible dialogue between them.

Poem	Poet	Speaker in the poem	Other Characters	Rhyming Word	Rhyme scheme	Alliteration & Assonance	Metaphor & Simile	Imagery	Other Items if any
Stormy Night	Unknown	Child/Boy	Father	Night-Light Squalls- Walls	abcb	I-my, (ass) Wild-windy(al li) Wild-night(ass)			Transphered Epithet- Dreary drops of rain

Let the children fill the grid like this.