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**Peter Handke**

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## EDITORIAL

Dear learners,

Learning is a continuous process, which involves thinking, articulating, storing, remembering, using, parting and so on. Everyone learns, relearns and unlearns. It becomes an asset for the life. This can never be stolen and it cannot be bought too. It can only be gained. There are lots of ways by which one attains knowledge. What one attains, becomes ornament that shines and is part of one's own life. This is what makes one's life fruitful. To be fruitful one needs to be laborious. If one has gained something through easy means that will not sustain for a long period of time. Therefore, be a learner to be productive member of the society to think, to articulate, to store, to remember, to use, to impart by equipping oneself with the required skills. Proper learning creates lot of opportunities and these would lead to dispel the ignorance and would light up knowledge.

To be a help by being by your side to make your labour easy, we are presenting our humble effort in the form of a magazine named 'EDUMATE'. This is a collective endeavour to reach to the aspirants to make the study easier and also to let you know the day to day affairs. We have tried our level best to incorporate everything required to make a student's study process easy and effective. If our efforts stand helpful for your studies then the herculean task that we started will be fruitful.

No doubt this creative endeavour will bring about an array of knowledge bearing sweetest fruit ever. Let the knowledge sown today bring forth its best fruit with the help of 'EDUMATE'.

To you from us with love...

**Geo John**  
Chief Editor

# Life ... Love... Learn... to be a Change



FR. SIJU JOHN, M.A., M.Ed.

‘You must be the change you wish to see in the world’, one of the perfect words of Gandhiji in this new modern fast moving world when everyone wants to perceive changes and fetch changes in the life of others but not in oneself. We call for changes in life and no one would like to be idle in his/her life. We do apply certain words often in our conversation and they are life, love and learn.

## LIFE.....

*“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.” – Mark Twain.*

The American writer’s words about life have a lot of relevance for today’s young buds. Life is to be explored in all meaning. It’s not a free gift but heavily compensated by our dear parents, our visible gods on earth. Every player has a coach but the coach is not always a better player. We have to explore ourselves and to explore we need to dream and discover. Every unearthing initiate with a dream and a better dreamer discovers better. Discovery begins from within and why don’t we take a step forward; a step which is rare, bold and distinctive.

## LOVE .....

*“Love is an untamed force. When we try to control it, it destroys us. When we try to imprison it, it enslaves us. When we try to understand it, it leaves us feeling lost and confused.” Paulo Coelho*

The Brazilian novelist says that the love is a force. The force, which comes from the heart, penetrates the hearts of others and is the germ of life. It cultivates the worth of life and our young buds have to get the imprint of this precious germ. Today the world is more educated but has less common sense, more degrees but has less capacity of judgment, bigger houses but has small families, big personalities but has less character, spends a lot but has less happiness and conquered the whole world but has lost the germ of life i.e. love. We, the human beings, try to dominate but love cultivates peace which frees us from the burden and pains of life. Let our educators, parents, peer groups, friends and so on nurture the germ of life to our young buds. We can cultivate it by giving a feather touch of love.



## LEARN .....

*‘By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.’ – Confucius*

The Chinese philosopher says that the toughest way of learning is by experience. A blind person makes a decision after experiencing. He sees the things through his heart because only his eyes are closed not his heart/mind. We have to keep our hearts open to learn by experience and learning through heart is love. The more I read, the more I acquire but the more I love, the more I learn to live. The most precious learning is learning of the meaning of love since all learning has an emotional base. We must learn to live together than leaning various languages and sciences. The standard of living is what we have but the standard of life is what we give from our heart.

## BE A CHANGE .....

*“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”-Socrates*

To be a change, we need to have clarity of mind and heart and this clarity is acquired through life, love and learning. In order to be a change or revolutionary one must have the vision and heart of a giraffe. Giraffe has a small, powerful, supercharged heart that is different to that possessed by other similar animals and has a holistic vision from above. We obtain speed in life by technology but the direction has to be from a heart which has knowledge by experience. Let us direct our young buds from our experienced hearts to bring changes in their life and lives to come. Therefore we shall lead a simple life but a rich burial by the triumph of our life.

# GET UP FROM THE FALL TO WIN



GEO JOHN, M.A., B.Ed.

## INTRODUCTION

The moment one thinks about one's own capabilities and is confident about the caliber, he/she will emerge as victorious. Success is the result of positivity. When a person is positive and is with wonderful courage to take up risks can taste triumph and when one is passive and do nothing productive will have a great fall and that would be irreversible. Being positive will make great things possible to those who don't stop believing in oneself, trying something new or better and learning to be different. Be inquisitive to be different, and if you want to be different you need to be different. Being inquisitive will open up to new ideas and these ideas will sprout, grow and yield fruits.

### Be curious to win

It is necessary to be curious and curiosity according to Ian Leslie is a combination of intelligence, persistence and hunger for novelty, all wrapped up in one. In order to improve curiosity and wonder one needs to read widely and should follow one's interests. It is said that when you are running into something interesting, drop everything and study it. The feeling of being interested can act as a kind of neurological signal, directing us to fruitful areas of inquiry.

### Be thirsty to accomplish your target

The thirst to have fruitful enquiry will lead to fill up and accomplish the target. It will also help one to polish mind with the minds or thoughts of others. One can always be benefitted with the progressive ideas of others. It simply means to consult with the experts to be experts. These ideas will either support or would leave the spark to think what is next. If your ideas can get wings using others' thoughts there is no wrong in it but one should make sure that it is productive and never be destructive.

### Do not take up shortcuts

We have crippled ourselves in finding out shortcuts in every way possible. Though we have the potential source, we do not want to rely on anything that would demand time. Even any kind of information we require is to be available at our finger tips, if not, it is very difficult to pass moments. Today's generation is born to Google. In the era of Google searches, we have no problem finding the exact answer to our questions, but by chance likely to encounter information that is not specific or relevant to our question or queries. It is said that a serendipity deficit makes innovation harder, because innovation relies on unexpected collision of

knowledge and ideas. So, it is the fact that we don't exactly get the answers perfect for our questions.

### Give wings to your passions

All what you do might be meaningless or absurd for the people watch you from far, but you should never allow your passion and interests to die. Once they are no more with you, then the life will be pathetic and difficult to pursue. On the go there are chances, where you might fall down many times but your passion and interests would be your help in standing on your own foot. You must keep your passion alive and no outer forces can have access on you. This must be your strength to get up from the fall. Falling down would give us experiences and these experiences are the driving forces to stand up. An ant while carrying the grain might fall down many times but it will not stop carrying grains because of the fear of falling down. Life is similar to this. If one wants to sustain life, then it is necessary to have lots of experiences of falling down and getting up. Learn lessons from every instance of your life and this would be a force to live on.

### Conclusion

I am the master of my life and everything that is required to stand on my own foot it's within me. If I am able to stand to be different by being curious to win starts my auspicious time and this so called auspicious time is within and will be out of your reach if you are to search elsewhere. Do not be satisfied with the knowledge you have but equip and update yourself at every moment by not taking the shortcuts to win rather shed your perspiration for your cause. If you are determined you will never at the place where you fell but you would fly to the heights by the wings that are created by you to win always.



# MY CAREER: THE PATH FINDER



SHAJU JOSEPH, M.A., M. Phil., B. Ed., MBA

Choosing a career after schooling is considered to be the most important activity in a student's life. But the question that baffles everybody is, '**What to choose?**' and '**How to choose?**' Unfortunately these questions remain unanswered in most of the children's lives. The reason...?

In a world where the children get everything 'readymade', this problem is bound to happen. In a world where the children are just taught about the price of things and not the value, this is bound to happen and in a world where the children are not taught to take up the responsibilities or face the challenges and stand on their own legs, this is bound to happen. The parents- especially our (Indian) parents are so concerned about their children's future that they want to have everything ready for them as they grow up and finally a high profile blue collar job with a fat six/ seven digit pay cheque. Once they achieve this – the parents are happy and content that their son/ daughter is well settled.

It looks good and everybody is fine with it. Moreover this is what 90% of the present generation wants. Gradually what happens is – they get fed up with the unending stress related to work, meeting the targets, satisfying the boss etc. In the struggle to keep up with the expectations of the employers and the society, they forget their family life, their children's social and emotional growth, the spouse, the parents and relations. Not only that the extreme stress makes the person mentally and physically tired. The rest of the life is spent going to the hospitals, eating loads of medicines as food etc. or to make things worse, he/ she may get into depression or even commit suicide.

How do these things happen? Was this what was envisioned? Was it the destiny / the life parents wanted the children to have?

No- Obviously No is the answer. Then Why ...? why should this happen? Let us look back to the two questions that we left behind – **What to choose? and How to choose?**

These two questions are quintessentially important because a choice that one makes at a critical point of time makes all the difference. Every apprentice searching for a happy life, should earnestly work on What to Choose- not choose what they have been told to by the parents ,

relatives or the so called well- wishers or not a career to satisfy your parents or your own social status. The choice should ultimately based on your own interests , your own passion and your own heart's desire - failing in which whatever you do will become just a job , a burden and it will never make you happy.

As we discussed, what to Choose entirely depends on your passion, love, affinity and attachment. Your parents / teachers can surely guide you or support you but make sure you be the decision maker. When you go after what you are passionate about, you are bound to enjoy what you do. It will never be a burden for you or even a 'work' for you but it will be the most interesting activity, or 'time pass' for you as you get completely involved in it. As the maxim goes 'Do what you love and Love what you do'.

In the words of Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, 'If you do what you love, you don't need to work even a single day in your life. So it becomes imperative to make a correct choice before selecting a particular profession.'

Now let's discuss how to identify your passion, your interest or what to do with your life. I hope the following questions will help you to make the choice. Ask yourself the same/ similar questions.

- What do I enjoy doing?
- What kind of activities are fun and fulfilling for me?
- What am I good at?
- What Skills do I have to excel in what I do?
- What are my capabilities?
- What are my drawbacks and what do I do to improve upon them?
- How much time do / can I spend to sharpen my skills?
- How confident am I?
- How strong is my Intrapersonal as well as my Interpersonal skills?
- Am I willing to / able to face the challenges that emerge in this field?

If you are able to find satisfying answers to these questions, be sure that you are on the right track. Develop a strong proactive mindset and 'Never say Die' attitude and an unrelenting thirst to achieve what you value the most and it will surely make your life and you will be happy and your life will be meaningful. As Swami Vivekananda reminds us " Arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached".



# A LETTER TO GOD



**G. L. FUENTES**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fuentes was born on Lanzarote in the Canary Islands. He started working as a deck boy with his father when he was 10. As years passed, he worked on cargo ships out of the Canary Islands to Trinidad and Puerto Rico and to Spanish ports of Valencia and Sevilla to South America. Later, he migrated permanently to Cuba when he was 22. He died of cancer in Cojimar in 2002 at the age of 104.

## THEME

“A letter to God” is a story of extreme faith in God. Through this story, the writer has tried to depict the invincible and insurmountable faith in God of a simple poor farmer. Lencho was a poor, honest and hard-working farmer. Hence, he wrote a letter to God and asked God to send him money.

## SUMMARY

The story, “A Letter to God” by G.L. Fuentes depicts unwavering faith of a farmer in God. It begins with a farmer, named Lencho expecting for a rain shower to nourish his field of corn. He is confident that his harvest is going to yield him huge profits just like it does every year. To his utmost excitement, rainfall did happen but sooner, it turned into a hailstorm destroying his entire crop field. The damage posed a threat to the family’s survival as their entire livelihood was dependent on the year’s produce. Although disheartened, the family had robust belief in the almighty. Lencho, despite having worked day and night at the field, knew how to write and thus, decided to write a letter to God explaining his situation and asking for help. He went to town to post his letter addressed “To God”. The letter on being noticed by the postmaster, at first amused him, but then motivated him want to do something for the farmer so as to keep his immense belief intact. He contributes from his salary and collects money from his colleagues and friends who willingly contributed for an act of charity. To his dismay, he could only collect 70 pesos which he wrapped in an envelope to make it seem like a reply from the deity. On having found the letter, the writer (Lencho) is not at all shocked, but instead, he gets angry on finding that the amount is less than what he had expected. He again writes a letter to God conveying his disappointment and distrust in the employees of the post office who he thought had stolen the remaining amount.

## ORAL COMPREHENSION CHECK

### Q1. What did Lencho hope for?

A. Lencho hoped for a rain shower for his crop field.

### Q2. Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like ‘new coins’?

A. After the rain shower, everything was going as per Lencho’s plan and he had immense confidence that his harvest would yield substantial profits. Thus, he referred to the droplets as “new coins, the larger ones being equivalent to ten pesos and smaller ones, five pesos.

### Q3. How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho’s fields?

A. Soon after the rainfall had begun, the wind became strong leading to a hailstorm. As a result of which, Lencho’s crop fields got withered, the trees had shed their leaves and the flowers had fallen.

### Q4. What were Lencho’s feelings when the hail stopped?

A. Lencho was extremely disheartened and his soul was filled with immense sadness.

### Q5. Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?

A. Lencho had unwavering faith in God. Thus, he decided to write a letter to God conveying his grievances and asking for 100 pesos for survival and rejuvenation of crops.

### Q6. Who read the letter?

A. A postman who was also an employee of the post office read the letter.

### Q7. What did the postmaster do then?

A. The postmaster was amazed at Lencho’s unshakeable faith in the deity and thus, to retain it, he decided to collect money for him from his friends and colleagues.

### Q8. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?

A. Lencho was not at all surprised on seeing the letter because this is what he was expecting. Instead, he was angry when he found that the amount was less than what he had asked for.

### Q9. What made him angry?

A. Lencho was angry that there was only seventy pesos in the envelope even though he had asked for 100. He was confident that God had given him full but he was

doubtful that the post office folks would have taken it. So he was infuriated.

**Q10. Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?**

A. Lencho has immense faith in God. These lines are evident to this fact: "Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money; such was his confidence - but he became angry when he counted the money. God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested."

**Q11. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?**

A. The postmaster did not want to shake the writer's faith in the almighty, and thus, out of virtuous intentions, decided to collect money for "an act of charity". He also signed the letter in the name of God to conceal his identity as he wanted Lencho to think it was actually a reply from God.

**Q12. Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/Why not?**

A. No, Lencho did not try to find out the sender because he was very optimistic about the existence of almighty and that, his letter is actually received and replied to, by God. It was his unshakeable faith that made him not question the identity of the sender.

**Q13. Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation? (Remember that the irony of a situation is an unexpected aspect of it. An ironic situation is strange or amusing because it is the opposite of what is expected.)**

A. Lencho thought that it is the postmaster or the employees of the post-office who had stolen his remaining amount, as is evident from his second letter to God where he requests the deity not to send money by mail next time. The irony here is that, it was actually the postmaster and the employees who had collected the money out of their clean intent to keep Lencho's faith intact, but are the ones who ended up getting blamed for stealing the missing amount.

**Q 14. Are there people like Lencho in the real world?**

What kind of a person would you say he is? You may select appropriate words from the box to answer the question.

**greedy, naive, stupid, ungrateful, selfish, comical, unquestioning**

Lencho had an unflinching faith in God. He was never ungrateful about life even when the storm destroyed his crops. He was so naïve that he wrote a letter to God asking for some money. He was confident that God would respond. The postmaster and his team were good Samaritans too. They selflessly helped Lencho and managed to gather 70 pesos. Quite ironically, Lencho suspects that they had taken filched the rest of the money. These people were kind to Lencho but they were not as naïve and honest as he is. They had initially joked about Lencho.

**Q15. There are two kinds of conflict in the story: between humans and nature, and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?**

A. The story "A Letter to God" depicts two types of conflicts; one between man and nature and the other among men themselves. In the beginning of the story, the farmer hopes for a rain shower for the benefit of his corn field. On actually receiving rain, he becomes overjoyed and starts thinking about all the profit that would come in. Not much later, his joy is turned into sorrow when the wind becomes strong leading to a hailstorm. This depicts the disagreement between man and nature wherein humans want the nature to act according to their aspirations. The second divergence arises when Lencho starts doubting the honesty of the post-office employees who actually helped him with the money anonymously. This is the conflict among men themselves, wherein, we are ready to trust in the idea of God's existence but we are not ready to trust each other.

**WORDS ANEW**

**CREST**

I could see a beautiful yellow cottage on the crest of the hill.

The waves had a shining silver crest.

**Hence, crest means top of hill/ wave**

**DRAPED**

She was looking pretty, draped in a saree.

The road was draped in snow on Christmas day.

**Hence, draped means covered/clad**

**CONSCIENCE**

My conscience told me that I should help the child on the street.

The lawyer's conscience helped him speak the truth.

**So, conscience means inner sense of right and wrong**

**AMIABLE**

Robin's neighbour was an amiable man.

His amiable nature makes him quite popular too.

**So, amiable means friendly and pleasant**

**CONTENTMENT**

The students came out of the exam hall in contentment.

There was contentment on his face when he saved the woman.

**Hence, contentment means satisfaction**

**GRAMMAR EXERCISES**

There are different names in different parts of the world for storms, depending on their nature. Can you match the names in the box with their descriptions below, and fill in the blanks? You may use a dictionary to help you.



**gale, whirlwind, cyclone, hurricane, tornado, typhoon**

- i. A violent tropical storm in which strong winds move in a circle: \_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. An extremely strong wind : \_\_\_ a \_\_\_
- iii. A violent tropical storm with very strong winds: \_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. A violent storm whose centre is a cloud in the shape of a funnel: \_\_\_ n \_\_\_\_\_
- v. A violent storm with very strong winds, especially in the western Atlantic Ocean: \_\_\_ r \_\_\_\_\_
- vi. A very strong wind that moves very fast in a spinning movement and causes a lot of damage: \_\_\_ l \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers:** i. Cyclone , ii. Gale, iii. Typhoon, iv. Tornado, v. Hurricane, vi. Whirlwind

**Match the sentences in Column A with the meanings of 'hope' in Column B.**

A	B
1. Will you get the subjects you want to study in college? I hope so.	a. a feeling that something good will probably happen
2. I hope you don't mind my saying this, but I don't like the way you are arguing.	b. thinking that this would happen (It may or may not have happened.)
3. This discovery will give new hope to HIV/AIDS sufferers.	c. stopped believing that this good thing would happen
4. We were hoping against hope that the judges would not notice our mistakes.	d. wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)
5. I called early in the hope of speaking to her before she went to school.	e. showing concern that what you say should not offend or disturb the other person: a way of being polite
6. Just when everybody had given up hope, the fishermen came back, seven days after the cyclone.	f. wishing for something to happen, although this is very unlikely

**Answers:** 1:d, 2:e, 3:a, 4:f, 5:b, 6:c

**Join the sentences given below using who, whom, whose, which, as suggested.**

- 1. **I often go to Mumbai. Mumbai is the commercial capital of India. (which)**  
I often go to Mumbai, which is the commercial capital city of India.
- 2. **My mother is going to host a TV show on cooking. She cooks very well. (who)**  
My mother, who cooks very well, is going to host a TV show on cooking.

- 3. **These sports persons are going to meet the President. Their performance has been excellent. (whose)**  
These sports persons, whose performance has been excellent, are going to meet the President.
- 4. **Lencho prayed to God. His eyes see into our minds. (whose)**  
Lencho prayed to God, whose eyes see into our minds.
- 5. **This man cheated me. I trusted him. (whom)**  
This man, whom I trusted, cheated me.

**Find sentences in the story with negative words, which express the following ideas emphatically.**

- 1. **The trees lost all their leaves.**  
"Not a leaf remained on the trees."
- 2. **The letter was addressed to God himself.**  
"It was nothing less than a letter to God."
- 3. **The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.**  
"Never in his career as a postman had he known that address."

OBJECT	METAPHOR	QUALITY OR FEATURE COMPARED
CLOUD	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains
RAINDROPS	New coins	
HAILSTONES	New silver coins / frozen pearls	
LOCUSTS	A plague of locusts	An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead
	An ox of a man	

**Answers:**

OBJECT	METAPHOR	QUALITY OR FEATURE COMPARED
CLOUD	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains
RAINDROPS	New coins	The draping or covering of an area by a curtain
HAILSTONES	New silver coins / frozen pearls	The resemblance in colour and hardness to a pearl
LOCUSTS	A plague of locusts	An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead
MAN (LENCHO)	An ox of a man	The working of an ox in the fields (hard work)

**LISTENING**

Listen to the letter through the teacher or the audio tape. As you listen fill in the table given below.

The writer apologises( says sorry) because	He hadn't written for a long time.
The writer has sent this to the reader	In the month of September 2005
The writer sent it in the month of	September 2005
The reason for not writing earlier	is because they have just moved house recently.
Sarah goes to	a playschool nearby.
Who is writing to whom	Jaya is writing to Arti.
Where and when were they last together	Bangalore, the previous year.

**WRITING**

Lencho suffered first due to drought and then by floods. Our country is also facing such situations in the recent years. There is flood and there is drought. There is a need to save water through water harvesting. Design a poster for your area on how to save water during summer and when it is available in excess.

- While drafting a poster. You should keep the following points in mind:
- Frame an appropriate title, include a slogan and also include only the most relevant points.
- The picture/illustration should speak for itself. It can be centrally placed or even super imposed with the content.
- Content should be held within 50 words. And should be in simple language. Use phrases and not full sentences.
- Include date and name of Issuing Authority
- Overall, the poster should be 'eye- catching.'

**POEM**

**DUST OF SNOW**



**ROBERT FROST**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Robert Lee Frost was born on March 26, 1874 in San Francisco, California, United States. He added wonderful colours to the world of literature. He secured a reputable place as a literary man with his creative and thoughtful ideas. He used literary devices that turned to visual and sensory imagery, metaphors, similes and symbolism to create a unique style. His famous poems include: "After Apple-Picking", "Fire and Ice", "Stopping by woods on a snowy evening", "The Road not Taken" etc. He was called to eternal rest on January 29, 1963.

**INTRODUCTION**

The poem "Dust of Snow" by Robert Frost is a simple and short poem, yet with a deeper and larger meaning. The poet explains how an act as petty as experiencing snow on one's body can brighten one's day up. The message of the poem is put into words by Robert Frost:  
 "Always, always a larger significance...  
 A little thing touches a larger thing."

**Poem and Explanation**

The way a crow  
 Shook down on me  
 The dust of snow  
 From a hemlock tree

**Shook- shake**  
**Hemlock- a poisonous tree with small white flowers**

*The poem is set in a scene where the poet is in a bad mood and is walking by a tree, a hemlock tree. Hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. As he passes by, a crow happens to throw some snow dust on him. Whether it falls on his head or shoulders is unknown as there is no specific mention in the poem. Also, the readers are left in doubt about the bird's specific action. Whether the crow was landing, shivering with cold, re adjusting itself on the branch or taking off, it happened to send some particles of snow upon the author. Here, the two agents of nature, the hemlock tree and the crow are signifiers of sadness and gloom just like the poet's mood was in the opening scene.*

Has given my heart  
 A change of mood  
 And saved some part  
 Of a day I had rued.

**Rued- held in regret**

*For reasons unknown, the author was having a terrible day. But the falling of the snow on his head lifted his mood instantly. He had already spent his day in a bad mood but the rest of it was saved by the crow and the hemlock tree. Generally, hemlock tree and crow are used for negative references but the poet used them beautifully to portray that inauspicious things can bring joy and happiness too. One must not take things for granted and should be open and accept whichever way the nature chooses to bless us.*

**Literary Devices**

- Rhyme Scheme- abab cdcd
- Alliteration- the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

**The instances of alliteration are as follows-**

- i. Has given my heart
- ii. And saved some part
- iii. inversion - when the structure of a sentence is changed by the poet to create rhyme, this poetic license is called inversion. In stanza 1, inversion can be seen.
- iv. assonance - the prominence of a vowel sound throughout a line is called assonance. In stanza 1, line 2 - "Shook down on me" - 'o' sound is prominent.
- v. enjambment - when the same sentence continues to the next line without the use of any punctuation marks, it is called enjambment. It has been used throughout the poem.

**SUMMARY**

The short poem by Robert Frost throws light upon the unimaginable healing power of nature and tiny things. From a bad mood to ill-health, there is nothing that can't be cured by nature. The author was experiencing one such bad day when a crow's movement near a hemlock tree dusted snow upon him. The snow instantly makes him happier. His day gets a lot better. Thus, the supremacy of nature as a whole made him realise how petty his problem was. The fact that hemlock tree is poisonous combined with crow being the indicator of doom and fear are used in the poem as the carriers of happiness in the life of narrator is ironical. The poet, through these objects has tried to highlight that sometimes creatures linked with negative aspects of life can be the bringer of change and happiness. Being outdoors in nature, with all its unpredictability can benefit anyone, anywhere at any time.

**Questions and Answers**

- Q1. **What is a "dust of snow"? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet's mood changed?**
- A. "Dust of snow" refers to the tiny particles of snow. The particles are so small that poet referred to them as "dust". The poet was in an awful mood when particles of snow had fallen on him. This changed the poet's frame of mind instantly and his day got a lot better.
- Q 2. **How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.**
- (i) **What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think a crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?**
- A. Birds like sparrow, nightingale and peacock are more than often named in poems. Unlike these birds, crows are often seen as the indicators of doom and fear. They are often used for negative references.
- (ii) **Again, what is "a hemlock tree"? Why doesn't the poet write about a more 'beautiful' tree such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?**

- A. Trees are also seen as mighty creatures imparting wisdom as they're too old. They give out oxygen and absorb the carbon dioxide which is connected with absorbing all the negative energy. But there are trees that are poisonous too, like a hemlock tree. The poet does not mention a more 'beautiful' tree such as maple, oak or pine because he wants to indicate a sad scene. Being poisonous, a hemlock tree is considered bad and so, he refers to it.
- (iii) **What do the 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent — joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?**
- A. Both crow and the hemlock tree represent sorrow. Frost has used both the negative creatures (crow and the hemlock tree) as the carriers of positivism and strength that transformed his day for the better. By not using birds like sparrow and nightingale and trees like maple, oak or a pine, the poet has tried to break down all the preconceived notions we have about certain agents of nature. He has tried to make us understand that we see the world not as how it is, but as how we want to see it. Thus, the crow sitting and a hemlock tree together made his day better. The dust of snow stands for joy.

**POEM**

**FIRE AND ICE**

**ROBERT FROST**

**Poem and Explanation**

Some say the world will end in fire  
Some say in ice.  
From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favour fire.

**Desire- a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen**  
**Favour- approval, support**

*The poem expresses the profound idea that the world would end in either of two ways, either by ice or fire. One group is of the opinion that someday the Earth's core will get so heated up that it would lead to fire destroying the earth's surface. On the other hand, the second group says that if the temperature goes down to an extent that makes life on Earth impossible, it would have the same catastrophic effect. The poet then compares fire and ice with the destructive features of human emotions; desire and hatred. He says that from what he is aware about "fiery desires", he would favour the ones who say that it would be fire. By saying so, he brings about the idea that human beings let their emotions rule them and the consequence of unmonitored longing is chaos.*

But if it had to perish twice,  
I think I know enough of hate  
To say that for destruction ice  
Is also great  
And would suffice.

**Perish- die**  
**Suffice- be sufficient**

*Then by not waving off the first option of fire, he considers if the world has to expire twice, ice would be equally competent in ending it. He brings about a contrast between "ice" and "hatred". The human capability of insensitivity and hatred has the potential for inner destruction. Though slow and steady, it has the same effect that desire has on us. So if given an option between fire and ice, ice would be just as good as fire to destroy the world.*

### LITERARY DEVICES

1. Rhyming scheme- Aba abc bcb
2. Assonance- it is repetition of vowel sounds in same line. The repetition is at different places in different words.  
Example- The long sound of "o" in "I hold with those who favour fire"
3. Alliteration- alliteration is the repetition of a consonant sound at the start of two or more closely placed words.  
Example- The sound of "f" in "favour fire", "w" in "world will"
4. Imagery- Imagery is used to make readers perceive things involving their five senses. Example- "Some say the world will end in fire"  
"To say that for destruction ice Is also great"
5. Anaphora- the repetition of a word or expression at the start of two or more consecutive lines.  
Example - "Some say" is repeated at the start of lines 1 and 2.
6. Personification- Personification is to give human

qualities to inanimate objects. In this poem, "fire" and "ice" are capable of destruction. Thus, the poet personifies fire and ice by giving them mind and power to destroy anything.

7. Enjambment- it is defined as the thought or clause that does not come to an end at a line break, rather it moves over to the next line.

Example- "From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favor fire"

### SUMMARY

Robert Frost's poem "Fire and Ice" is a strong symbolic poem where fire is used as the emotion of desire and ice, that of hatred. He has used the idea of two groups who have their own possible explanation for the end of the world. One is of the opinion that fire alone, can destroy each and every possibility of life on Earth while the other thinks that if ice as a result of extreme low temperatures could cover the earth's surface, it would lead to the end of the world. Both the components are compared with self-destructing human emotions: desire and hatred. The poet is originally of the opinion that he has been very closely associated with the "fiery desires" and considers it capable of bringing human beings on the verge of destruction. Thus, he considers fire as more competent for destruction. But then he thinks that "icy hatred" is just as capable of ruining humans, though slowly and steadily. Therefore, if Earth was to end twice, ice would be just as good as fire. If fire would lead to rapid destruction, ice would lead to silent damage. Similarly, if fire is pure passion, ice is pure reason. Thus, the poem, very artistically, underpins the philosophy that we let our emotions rule us and if don't control them they will surely bring us all on the verge of chaos.

## ENGLISH FOOT PRINTS

CHAPTER

1

# A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY



JAMES HERRIOT

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James Alfred Wight, known by the pen name James Herriot, was British veterinary surgeon and writer. He was born in Sunderland, England on October 3, 1916. His books are partially autobiographical, with many of the stories loosely based on real events or people. He died on February 23, 1995 at the age of 78.

## IN A NUTSHELL

This is an endearing tale about Mrs Pumphrey and her pet dog Tricki. Their inseparable bond and deep love for each other surfaces out in the story reminding us of the age-old belief that dog is man's best friend. Tricki's lack of energy troubles Mrs. Pumphrey to such an extent that she thought he was probably malnourished and so she decides to give him extra meals and supplements, even some wine and brandy too. The result is that Tricki bloats into a bag of flesh and is barely able to move. His obesity is noticed by Mr. Herriot, the veterinary surgeon who insists that Tricki be sent to him for treatment. His magical remedy for the dog was nothing but a lot of fluids and playtime with the rest of the dogs. In no time Tricki turns into an agile and healthy dog. Mrs Pumphrey says that Tricki's good health is a triumph of surgery probably because she believes that Mr. Herriot had given him a proper medical treatment.

### READ AND FIND OUT:

**Q 1. Why is Mrs Pumphrey worried about Tricki?**

**Ans.** Mrs. Pumphrey is worried about Tricki because he seemed to have no energy at all.

**Q 2. What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?**

**Ans.** Thinking that tricky is probably malnourished, she started giving him extra meals and supplements which made him bloat quite a lot.

**Q 3. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?**

**Ans.** 'I' in this story is Mr. Herriot, the veterinary doctor who has been treating Tricki now and then.

**Q 4. Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?**

**Ans.** No, the narrator, Mr. Herriot is not as rich as Tricki's mistress.

**Q 5. How does he treat the dog?**

**Ans.** His plan for Tricki was quite simple, give him plenty of fluids, cut down on his diet seriously and let him play around with the other dogs thereby increasing his physical activity.

**Q 6. Why is he tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?**

**Ans.** He is tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest because in a short period of time Tricki regained his health and he knew that Mrs. Pumphrey would overfeed and pamper tricks so much that his health would deteriorate again.

**Q 7. Why does Mrs. Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "a triumph of surgery"?**

**Ans.** Mrs Pumphrey thinks that Tricki's recovery is "a triumph of surgery" because she is ignorant of the fact that Tricki was overfed and so obese. She still believes that Tricki was really sick and that Mr. Herriot has given him ample medical care.

### WORDS ANEW

#### LISTLESS

Mrs Pumphrey was worried about Tricki's listless behaviour.

The boy selling keychains on the street looked listless.

#### REGIME

Sportsmen usually have a very strict regime to follow.

The actress followed a new regime to lose a few pounds for her character in the film.

#### DISTRAUGHT

The distraught mother carried the injured child to the hospital.

The child was distraught when her toy was broken.

#### SCRIMMAGE

The little girls scrimmaged in the bush for the ball.

I saw my daughter scrimmage in the cupboard for some important paper.

#### CONVALESCING

The athlete was convalescing at a good pace after the injury.

The doctor was happy to see the young patient convalescing from his cancer.

#### LITHE

The pole-vaulter was so lithe that he made a new record. The lead dancer was lithe and graceful.

### THINK ABOUT IT

**Q 1. What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful and full of common sense?**

**Ans.** The narrator, Mr. Herriot, a veterinary surgeon is a completely dedicated professional. He is very keen on his patient's health. When she saw Tricki's obesity, he was simply not happy. He was also careful not to hurt Mrs. Pumphrey's feelings as he knew how much she doted upon Tricki. So, very cleverly, he managed to remind Mrs. Pumphrey that Tricki needs a strict diet and a lot of exercise. This proves that he was tactful as well as full of common sense.

**Q. 2. Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?**

**Ans.** Yes of course Tricki was very thrilled to go back home as he knew his much Mrs. Pumphrey loved him. Tricki may unfortunately bloat all over again because of Mrs. Pumphrey's fussy ways. Lest his diet and exercise is taken care of seriously, he should bloat like a sausage again.

**Q. 3. Do you think this is a real-life episode, or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?**

**Ans.** This story can be a real life episode because there are people who fuss over their pets so much that they end up bloating them. It can also be a mixture of both because doctors like Mr. Herriot are quite hard to find these days.

# THE THIEF'S STORY



RUSKIN BOND

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruskin Bond is an Indian author of British descent. He lives in Mussoorie. He was born on May 19, 1934. He grew up in Jamnagar (Gujarat), Dehradun, New Delhi and Shimla. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award for English writing in India in 1993, the Padma Shri in 1999, and the Delhi government's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

## IN A NUTSHELL

As the title suggests this is a touching story of a young thief, barely 15 years old who was accustomed to a life of pilferage. His target this time was Anil, a 25-year-old writer who seemed quite easy-going, kind and simple, just the kind that he wanted. Anil is easily moved by the little boy's innocent talk and sweet smile and allows him to stay with him as a help. The condition was that he wouldn't be given any money (as Anil had a meagre income) but food, a roof over the head and most importantly, lessons on how to read and write. Life was pleasant for the boy with barely any tough chores to do. He had managed to steal a penny or two out of the money he was given to buy grocery. Anil used to write for magazines and this time he had brought home bundle of notes he was paid. The boy felt it was right time to get back to his trade. In the middle of the night, he stole the money and ran to catch the train to lucknow but something inside stopped him and he returned to Anil and kept the damp notes (since it was raining heavily) under his pillow. The next morning, although the notes were still wet, Anil did not act as if he knew about it instead he treated him normally compelling the little boy to think about his own act of betrayal. He knew that Anil wouldn't be worried about the money but he would be sad about the broken trust.

## READ AND FIND OUT

**Q 1. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?**

**Ans.** 'I' refers to the narrator who is a 15 year old boy, a thief.

**Q 2. What is he "a fairly successful hand at"?**

**Ans.** He claims to be good at what he does ie; to rob others. Hence, practice of doing so has made him "a fairly successful hand" at his craft.

**Q 3. What does he get from Anil in return for his work?**

**Ans.** He gets food, a roof over his head and most importantly, he gets to learn how to read and write.

**Q 4. How does the thief think Anil will react to the theft?**

**Ans.** The thief knew that Anil was a good soul who trusted a complete stranger like him. He was neither greedy nor rich. Anil would be really sad when he discovers that he has been robbed not because he has lost the money but because his trust has been broken.

**Q 5. What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?**

**Ans.** From all the experience he has gathered so far, the thief knew that, on being robbed, the greedy man showed fear; the rich man showed anger; and the poor man showed acceptance.

**Q 6. Does Anil realise that he has been robbed?**

**Ans.** Yes, Anil realises that he has been robbed as the currency notes were still damp.

## WORDS ANEW

### FLATTERY

The valiant King did not like flattery at all.

The politician was very vulnerable to flattery.

### MODESTLY

She was dressed modestly at the National Award Ceremony. Please remember to behave modestly in the presence of elders.

## GRUNTING

The bear was grunting loudly in pain when it got hurt.

The beast grunted inside his cave.

## APPEALING

The movie was quite appealing to the audience.

Her piano performance was very appealing.

## THINK ABOUT IT

**1. What are Hari Singh's reactions to the prospect of receiving an education? Do they change over time? What makes him return to Anil?**

**Ans.** Hari Singh knows how important being educated is. His life of squalor and petty crime has only isolated him from the society. He also knows that education can bring him glory and earn him respect one day. His reactions to the prospect of receiving an education are very positive throughout the story. He was grateful that Anil was teaching him. He was excited about learning to write whole sentences because then he would be a clever and respected man. Although Anil did not pay him, he took care of him well- his meals, a roof over his head and above all, teach him to read and write. This selfless act probably touched his heart and so, in deep regret, he returns to Anil.

**2. Why does Anil hand the thief over to the police? Do you think most people would have done so? In what ways is Anil different from such employers?**

**Ans.** Anil does not hand the thief over to the police because he is a benevolent man who lives a simple and selfless life. He would rather give him a second chance than punish him. By forgiving him, Anil has taught the thief a good lesson for life. Of course, most people would have handed the thief over to the police. But Anil is different because he is a fine human being who reaches out to others and does not judge anyone whatsoever. He is kind and forgiving.

# INFO JUNCTION



**February 01, 2020**

## MOHAMMED ALLAWI

One of the former communication ministers of Iraq, Mr. Mohammed Allawi was appointed as the Prime Minister of the country. Allawi has been appointed the Prime Minister of the Country amidst long protests that has so far killed 600 in the country.



**March 30, 2020**

## NASA ANNOUNCES SUNRISE MISSION

NASA announced Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SunRISE) mission. The mission is to study about how sun creates Giant Solar Particle Storms. The SunRISE mission will provide information on how the Sun's radiation affects the space environment and to understand the working of the solar system. The study will also aid future astronauts mission.



**February 25, 2020**

## MOHAMMED HOSNI MUBARAK

The Egypt ruler Mohammed Hosni Mubarak died at the age of 91. He served as the President of Egypt between 1981 to 2011.



**March 30, 2020**

## RAJASTHAN STATEHOOD DAY

Rajasthan celebrates its Statehood Day on March 30 every year.

Popularly known as "Land of the Kings", the day is also called "Rajasthan Day". This year, the state was silent due to the lock down in the country. Usually there were radiant and invigorating events held all across



**March 21, 2020**

## SATYARUP SIDDHANTA

The Indian Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta has entered 'Limca Book of Records'. He has set the record of becoming the first Indian to climb the highest volcano in the world. He already holds Guinness Book of World Records, India Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, British Book of records and Champion Book of Records.



**April 7, 2020**

## WORLD HEALTH DAY

April 7 is marked as the World Health Day every year. The day is marked to celebrate the work of midwives and nurses for their role in keeping the world safety and healthy. This year, 2020, has celebrated as International Year of Nurses and Midwives. The World Health Day is marked by World Health Organization along with several other organizations. The theme of the World Health Day is selected by WHO. Theme of 2020: Support Nurses and Midwives.



**March 28, 2020**

## EARTH HOUR

Since 2007, every year millions of people participate in the campaign called "Earth Hour" in March. This year, it was celebrated on 28 March 2020. It is a symbolic movement of "Lights OFF" to save the environment. The event is organized by the World wide Fund. The event was first started in Sydney, Australia. The aim of marking Earth Hour is to give attention towards global warming, climate change and loss of biodiversity. During the one-hour campaign, all over the world switch off lights and electronic items between 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM. The Earth Hour is held every year on the last Saturday of March.



**March 29, 2020**

## AIR VICE MARSHALL CHANDAN SINGH RATHORE

The Mahavir Chakra recipient Air Vice Marshall Chandan Singh Rathore died at his Jodhpur residence. His services during 1962 war and 1971 war were impeccable. He was honored with Mahavir Chakra for the same.



**APRIL 9, 2020**

## INDIAN RAILWAY AGAINST COVID 19

Apart from converting its coaches into hospital beds, the Indian Railways has also launched isolation wards. Around 3,250 coaches have been converted into isolation wards. It has recruited 2,500 temporary doctors and 35,000 paramedic staffs. Around 5,000 beds have been identified for treatment in railway hospitals.

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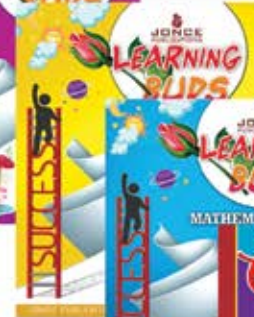
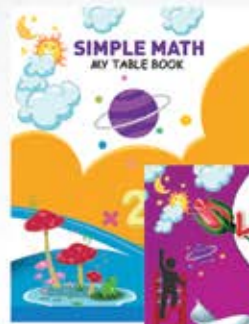
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