

ADVENTURES IN A BANYAN TREE

-RUSKIN BOND

Prepare a Profile of the prolific writer Ruskin Bond with the help of the hints given below. Use linkers wherever necessary.

Born : May 19, Kausali

Nationality : Indian

Occupation: Short story writer, novelist, poet

Parents : Edith Clarke and Aubrey Alexander Bond.

Almater : Bishop Cotton School, Shimla

Important works : Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra, A Flight of Pigeons, The Blue Umbrella

Awards : John Llewellyn Prize (1957) Padma Shri (1999), Padma Bhushan (2014), Sahitya Academi Award (1992)

RUSKIN BOND

Ruskin Bond was born on May 19, 1934 in Kausali. He is an Indian writer. He is famous as a short story writer, novelist and poet. His parents are Edith Clarke and Aubrey Alexander Bond. He was educated from Bishop Cotton School in Shimla. His important works include *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, *A Flight of Pigeons* and *The blue Umbrella*. He bagged John Llewellyn Prize in 1957, Padma Shri in 1999, Padma Bhushan in 2014 and Sahitya Academy award in 1992.

SUMMARY

Adventures in a Banyan Tree is a beautiful short story by Ruskin Bond an Indian writer of British origin.

When the author was a boy he used to enjoy his vacations in his grandfather's house. He would spend most of his free time in an old banyan tree in the garden. He made friendship with a grey squirrel.

In spring season the banyan tree was full of fruits so it was the noisiest place. The birds of all kinds would flock into it. The boy built a platform on the tree and read books from there.

On a sunny afternoon the boy saw a deadly fight of a mongoose and a huge cobra. A myna and crow were also the witness of the fight. The banyan tree was also the setting for a strange affair between the grey squirrel and the white rat.

The boy in the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' was very much thrilled of his acquaintance with the squirrel. He writes a letter to his friend telling him about his new friend. Help him to write the letter.

Oscar Villa

M.G Layout

Dehradun

20 Apr 2022

Dear Hareesh,

Hope you are enjoying your vacation there. I am doing the same here, at grandpa's house. I got a new friend here. Do you know who the new friend is? A little, cute squirrel, grey in colour!

In the beginning he was indifferent to me. But now, he is very friendly and familiar with me even to take food from my hands. My dear now I am fully exited. I invite you to come to our home one day. We can spend enough time with it in the banyan tree.

Hope all of you are keeping fine there. Convey my regards to all.

Yours lovingly,

Sd/

Rahul

CHARACTERS**The boy**

- ✓ The protagonist in the story.
- ✓ He lives with his grandfather.
- ✓ The banyan tree was his domain.
- ✓ He built a platform on the banyan tree and read books from there.
- ✓ He enjoys the sights around him.
- ✓ He likes to make company with various creatures in nature.
- ✓ He had friendship with a grey squirrel.
- ✓ He is enchanted by nature.

Grandfather

- ➔ He is the eldest member of the family
- ➔ He is sixty five years old.
- ➔ He is active and vigorous.
- ➔ He loves his grand son very much.
- ➔ He likes the Mongoose as it keeps the snakes away
- ➔ He is a man of wisdom.
- ➔ He loves the nature.

The Mongoose

- The Mongoose and snake are considered as universal enemies.
- It is small one as compared to the cobra.
- It is three feet long and grey in colour.
- It is a superb fighter.
- It is very clever and aggressive.
- In fight it is very skillful and shrewd.
- It wins the battle.

The Cobra

- It is huge and black in colour.
- It is poisonous one.
- The sacs behind its long sharp fangs are full of deadly venom.
- It can move swiftly and strike with the speed of light.
- It is been defeated by the small mongoose.

Imagine that you are the Secretary of the Nature Club of your School. The Club has decided to conduct a poster making competition in association with the Environment Day celebrations. Prepare a



notice inviting the high school students to take part in it.

**NOTICE
POSTER MAKING COMPETITION
ABC SCHOOL**

Dear friends,

The Nature Club of ABC school has decided to conduct a Poster making Competition in connection with the Environment Day celebrations. The competition will be inaugurated by Shri. Sunil Kumar, the PTA President of the school. Our panchayat president will be the chief guest.

Date: 25-04-2022

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: School Library

Those who are interested to take part in the competition are requested to register their names with the undersigned on or before 20-4-2022.

Place

Sd/-

Date

The secretary,
Nature club .

Imagine the Science Club in your school has decided to conduct a seminar on ‘The importance of forestation’. Prepare a notice.

<p>NOTICE</p> <p>Seminar on ‘The importance of Forestation’</p> <p>ABC SCHOOL, CALICUT</p>	
<p>Dear friends,</p> <p>It has been decided to conduct a seminar on the importance of forestation on 5 th June 2022 at 3 pm in the school auditorium. The District Forest Officer has consented to inaugurate the function.</p> <p>All are welcome.</p>	
<p>Place Date</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sd/- Secretary Science Club</p>

‘And amongst the wool were the three baby squirrels – all of them white!’ The boy couldn’t stop wondering about the white squirrels. If he scribbled down this unforgettable sight in his diary, how would it be?

10 March 2020 Tuesday

What a wonderful sight! I’ve never seen or heard of white squirrels before. Even grandpa doesn’t know about white squirrels. Grandpa said the rats and squirrels were related each other. The father of the white baby squirrels may be our white rat. How many varieties of creatures are there in nature! We should protect the nature and its creatures.

The boy was thrilled at seeing the fight between the cobra and the mongoose. Narrate the fight scene in your own words

The boy was sitting on the platform halfway up the tree. It was on an April afternoon he saw a huge cobra gliding out of a clump of a cactus. At the same time a grey mongoose came out from the bushes. They were superb fighters. They came face to face. There were two spectators, myna and crow to witness the fight. They were sitting to know the result of the fight.

The cobra and mongoose were clever and skilful fighters and aggressive too. Both of them made three attempts to kill each other. It was a battle of champions. At the end of the fight the mongoose won and the cobra was killed.

Prepare a few placard slogans on the theme “Conservation of Nature”.

**PLANT TREES, PROTECT NATURE
POLLUTION EVERYWHERE, SOLUTION NOWHERE.
AVOID PLASTIC, SAVE OUR PLANET
DONT CUT TREES
NO TREES NO WATER**

Lines Written in Early Spring

-William Wordsworth

Prepare a profile of William Wordsworth by using the hints given below

Born : 7 April, 1770

Famous as: Poet, one of the major romantic poets

Known as: Poet of humanity, nature poet

Spouse: Mary Hutchinson

Important Works : Lyrical Ballads, Lines Written in Early Spring, Daffodils, Resolution and Independence.

Honour : Poet Laureate

Died : 23 April 1850

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

William Wordsworth was a major English Romantic poet. He was born on 7th April 1770. He is known as the poet of nature & humanity. His wife is Mary Hutchinson. His important works are Lyrical Ballads, Lines Written in Early Spring, Daffodils and Resolution and Independence. He became poet Laureate in 1843. He died in 1850.

1. Who is the speaker in the poem Lines Written in Early Spring?

The Poet

2. 'I heard a thousand blended notes,' Identify the poetic device used in this line.

Hyperbole

3. When does the poet hear a thousand blended notes?

While he was reclining in a grove.

4. What does the expression “I sate reclined” indicate about the poets state of mind?

The expression indicates that the poet is in a calm, relaxed and pleasant mood.

5. How does the poet associate himself with nature?



The poet believes that human soul and nature are strongly associated.

6. What did the birds do to express their pleasure?

They hopped and played

7. What is nature's holy plan?

Every being in nature should live in harmony.

8. What is the rhyme scheme followed in the poem?

Abab

APPRECIATION

'Lines Written in Early Spring' is a poem written by William Wordsworth. The poem celebrates the relation between man and nature. The poet rejoices in the sights and sounds of nature and at the same time laments on what man has done to man. He hears lots of various sounds and songs. He finds solace in it. The birds around him express their thrill of pleasure by hopping and playing in the grove. He also notices the budding twigs spread out their tender leaves to catch the breezy air. In short, the poet sees thrilling sights, hears pleasant songs in everything he looks at in the grove, and he experiences the utmost pleasure of the nature. The poet realizes that humans do all atrocities among themselves and cruelties to nature by destroying the ecosystem. All these wrong-doings are against the holy nature.

The poem becomes much appealing because of the sublimity of its theme and beauty of lines and the use of various poetic devices.

POETIC DEVICES

ALLITERATION

"What man has made of man."

"And 'tis my faith that every flower"

HYPERBOLE

"a thousand blended notes"

PERSONIFICATION

"To her fair works did Nature link"

"and 'tis my faith that every flower / Enjoys the air it breathes"

"the budding twigs spread out their fan, / To catch the breezy air"

IMAGERY

Visual Images

"The birds around me hopped and played"

The grove, the green bower, the flowers – primrose and periwinkle

Budding twigs

Auditory Image

"I heard a thousand blended notes"

THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

-Vaikom Muhammed Basheer

Prepare a profile using the clues given below

Name : Vaikom Muhammed Basheer

Born : 19, January, 1908

Place: Thalayolapparambu, Vaikom, Kottayam.

Occupation : Freedom Fighter, Author

Major works: Premalekhanam, Balyakalaskhi, Janamadinam, Shabdangal, Mathilukal, Etc...

Called as: Beypore Sulthan

Awards : Sahitya academy award 1970, Padmashri 1982,

Kerala State Film Award: 1989, Vallathol Award 1993

Death: 5 July 1994

VAIKKOM MUHAMMED BASHEER

Vaikom Muhammed Basheer, the Sultan of Malayalam stories was born on 19 January in 1908 at Thalayolapparambu, Vaikom in Kollam District. He was a freedom fighter, novelist and a renowned story writer. His major works are Premalekhanam, Balyakalaskhi, Jeevithathil ninnum oru aedu Janmdinam, Shabdngal, Mathilukal etc. He got Sahitya Academy Award in 1970, Padmashri in 1982, Kerala State Film Award in 1989, and Vallathol Award in 1993. He died on 5 July 1994.

SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

The story 'The snake and the mirror' by Vaikom Muhammed Basheer is about the lonely life of a doctor who encounters a snake.

The narrator, a homeopath, lives in a small room which he shares with rats. On a hot summer night he had a strange experience.

A full blooded cobra landed on his shoulder. He couldn't move or cry. The author was a stone image with the snake resting on his shoulder. It coiled around his left arm. After some time it looked into a mirror and saw its reflection. The doctor thought that it was thinking of improving its beauty. No sooner did the snake moved on to the table than the homeopath ran out and reached a friend's house.

The next morning when he came to shift the things from his room he found that everything had been stolen except his dirty vest

Homeopath

- ❖ He lived in a small rented room
- ❖ He had just started his practice
- ❖ His earnings were meager
- ❖ He is a great admirer of beauty
- ❖ He wanted to look more handsome
- ❖ He was proud of his appearance
- ❖ He wanted to marry a woman doctor who had plenty of money



- ❖ He turned to granite when the snake coiled.
- ❖ He thought he was a stupid doctor
- ❖ He was not at all courageous

Imagine that the doctor writes a letter to his friend explaining his life in the rented room. What may be the likely letter?

M K Cottage,
Bepur,
9th April 2022.

Dear friend,

Hope you are fine. How is your family ?. I started my practice here. I live in a small rented room. It has two windows which open into a yard through which fresh air comes in. This small room of mine is not electrified. It has a tiled roof with long supporting gables resting on beams over the walls. The room is devoid of ceiling and I see a regular traffic of rats moving to and from the beam. I have furnished my room with a chair and a table on which stands the kerosene lamp, a large mirror and a small comb.

Hope you will come here when you are free. Convey my regards to your family.

Lovingly,
Dr. Muhammed Iqbal.

The doctor's house was looted by some unknown burglars. The doctor decides to file a complaint with the police. Prepare the likely letter of complaint.

Dr. Vinaykrishna
C K Cottage
Kozhikode

29 th May 2022

The Sub Inspector of Police
Kozhikode

Sir,
Sub: Complaint of burglary - Request for investigation

I write this letter to complain about the burglary that took place at my house in Ambedkar colony , Kozhikode last night. It just so happened that a poisonous cobra got into my room last night. It slithered along my shoulder and coiled around my left arm above the elbow. When it unwound itself and crawled towards a mirror kept on the table, I ran out. As I was very much frightened, I forgot to lock the door. When I returned to the room this morning I found that I had lost my money, clothes and valuable books.

Kindly look in to the matter seriously and take necessary steps.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
Dr. Vinaykrishna

The English Club of your school has decided to stage a play based on the story 'The Snake and the Mirror.' Draft a notice inviting all teachers and students to watch the play

NOTICE

Drama 'The Snake and the Mirror' ABC SCHOOL

Dear friends,

The English Club of ABC School Kannur has decided to stage the play 'The Snake and the Mirror', on Monday, 24th July 2022, at 3.00 p.m. in the school auditorium. It is a play prepared by the members of the English Club, based on the story '**The Snake and the Mirror**', written by Vaikom Muhammad Basheer. There will be a Inaugural function before the staging of the play. The famous film director PRIYADARSHAN will inaugurate the show.

Date : 24th July 2022

Time : 3 p.m.

Venue : School Auditorium

All are Welcome!

10 July 2022
Kannur

Sd/
The Secretary
English Club

PROGRAMME

Prayer Song	: School Choir
Welcome Speech	: School Leader
Presidential Address	: PTA President
Inaugural Address	: Sri. Adoor Gopalakrishnan
Felicitations	: (1) Principal : (2) HM
Vote of Thanks	: Secretary, English Club
National Anthem.	

PROJECT TIGER

-SATYAJITH RAY

Prepare a profile of Satyajith Ray by using the hints given below



Born : 2 May 1921, Calcutta
 Known as: Film maker, music director, producer, screen writer, Lyricist, calligrapher, illustrator.
 Almamater : Presidency College
 Major Films : Pather Panjali, Apur Sansar, Sonar Kella, Mahanagar
 Spouse : Bijoya Ray
 Awards : Dadhasaheb Phalke Award (1985), Padmabhushan (1965), Bharatratna (1992)
 Died : 23 April 1992 (aged 70)

SATYAJITH RAY

Satyajith Ray was a famous Indian film maker. He was born on 2nd may 1921 in culcutta. He is a well known film maker, music director, producer, screen writer, lyricist, calligrapher and illustrator. His alma mater is Presidency college. Bijoya Ray is his spouse His major films are Pather Panjali, Apur Sansar, Sonar Kella, Mahanagar. He was awarded Dadhasaheb Phalke Award in 1985, Padmabhushan in 1965 and Bharatratna in 1992. He passed away on 23rd april 1992 at the age of 70 .

ARTICLE AT A GLANCE

Project Tiger is memoir by the famous film maker Sathyajith ray. He is regarded as one of the greatest film makers of the 20th century.

In this memoir he tells us how he managed to shoot the scenes with a tiger in his film 'Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne'. He had to face a lot of difficulties to shoot it.

When he reached Calcutta he realized that the scenes were not so good. He had to shot the same scenes again. This time also he faces the same difficulties. At last he could take the shot.

Mr. Thorat

- He is the ring master of Bharat circus.
- He was a south Indian
- He was well built, with features somewhat like those of a Nepali
- He had an old scar on his forearm caused by a tiger
- He loves the animals and confident in them

Sathyajith Ray spoke to the manager of Bharath circus about his need for a tiger. Prepare a conversation between them

Ray: Good morning sir

Manager: Good morning gentlemen. What can I do for you?

Ray: We are planning to do a film. For that we need a tiger

Manager: A tiger? Why?

Ray: There is a short scene with a tiger.

Manager: That's great. How long do you need it?

Ray: For a couple of hours, We are planning to shoot at Norton Gram

Manager : OK but be careful. Mr. Thorat, the ring master. shall arrange everything.

Ray: That's so kind of you

Manager: If you would like to see the tiger let's go to the cage after having a coffee

Ray: Sure. Thank you

Alfred Hitchcock decided to make a film called 'The Birds'. He required large number of ravens to shoot the film. Draft the likely NOTICE which he had prepared for publishing in the newspaper.

NOTICE

TRAINED RAVENS WANTED

Dear friends

The Famous Director Alfred Hitchcock is in need of various kinds of trained ravens for his new film "The Birds"

Place of shoot : Disney studio Hollywood

Date : 01/07/1972 to 31/09/1972 day time only

Remuneration : \$100 per day

Trainers may contact the production executive with sample birds.

Place

Frederick Wilson

Date

Production executive
 Sydney . Hollywood

Imagine Sathyajith Ray put up notices about his intention to get a tiger. Prepare the notice.

NOTICE

TIGER WANTED

Dear friends.

Sathyajith Ray, the famous Bengali film director needs a healthy tiger for his new film "GOOPY GYNE BAGHA BYNE"

Place of shoot : Norton gram west Bengal

Date : January 2 1969

Remuneration : Rs 1500 per day

Trainers may contact the production manager:

Place

Bhanu Ghosh

Date

Production Manager
 26 A North street.
 Kolkata



Imagine Ray writes a letter to the chairman of animal welfare board of India informing him the details of the shoot and ensuring him that the rules will be strictly adhered to. Draft the likely letter

From,
 Satyajith Ray
 Kolkata
 1-1-2016

To
 The Chairman
 Animal Welfare Board of India
 New Delhi

Sir,
 Subject: To use a tiger in shooting.

This is to request you to grant me permission to use a tiger in my film 'GOOPY GYNE BAGHA BYNE'. The shooting site is set in Shiuri in Birbhoom. I hereby ensure you that I will use the tiger according to the norms suggested in the prevention of cruelty Act. I request you to permit me to use the tiger in the film.

Thanking you,
 Yours Faithfully
 Sd/-
 Satyajith Ray

Imagine that you are the convener of the school English club. The club has decided to conduct a one day Movie fest in your school. Prepare a notice to invite everyone to watch the movies.

Notice
FILM FESTIVAL

Dear friends.

The English club of ABC school decided to conduct a film festival on Monday, 12th march 2022 from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm in the school auditorium the films 'Children of heaven', 'Birds', 'The Kid', 'Pather Panchali' will be screened. The famous film director Sri. Shaji N Karun will inaugurate the film festival.

All are welcome

Place	sd/-
Date	The Secretary
	English club,
	ABC School

Programme

Welcome speech	:School leader
Presidential address	:Head master
Inaugural address	:Shaji N Karun
Felicitations	: 1.Staff secretary
	2.Senior Assistant
Vote of thanks	:Club Secretary

THE BEST INVESTMENT I EVER MADE

-AJ CRONIN

This story was written by A J Cronin. Once he was travelling in a ship he found a man watching him. The stranger introduced himself as Mr. John. He recalls an incident that had happened ears ago.

While he was sleeping a police officer came and reported a suicide case near to his house. He was brought back to life.

The man told them that he was clerk in a solicitor's office. One day he stole some money from the office to gamble. He lost everything. The police officer promised not to report the case and land lady offered free lodging. The doctor offered the amount that he had stolen. Thus the young man regained his life.

AJ Cronin(Doctor)

He is very reserved.
 He is a kindhearted man
 He is duty conscious
 He is ready to help others
 He saved the life of a young man giving the money.

Mr. John

He was in his early 40s, rather short inbuilt with a fair complexion and clear blue eyes.
 He is a bald headed man.
 His dark suit, sober tie and rimless spectacles gave evidence of a serious and reserved man
 He is a solicitor in London.

AJ Cronin felt puzzled when he saw a man watching him closely. what would be his thoughts?

what a man! He has been looking at me for a long time He is not known to me. I think he may be one of my patients Should I ask him? No. I don't want to talk to strangers. Moreover I need to take a rest and I am not interested in casual ship board contacts. He looks serious and reserved.

Prepare a newspaper report about Mr and Mrs John and the work they are doing.

SELFLESS SERVICE

New York: The world of selfishness is bowing before Mr and Mrs John, a couple who have chosen to live for others. They have been offering selfless service for 15 years in the field of youth welfare. Mr John is devoted to the welfare of boys and girls from the slums. They not only rescue them but also give training in handicraft ,rehabilitate them and bring them back to life. They visit settlement houses to study the methods to deal with backward maladjusted youth. Hearing about this noble work many eminent persons have offered their support to the mission.

One night A J Cronin was suddenly awakened by a sergeant. Prepare a conversation between A J Cronin and the Sergeant of police.

Cronin : Who is knocking there?

Sergeant of police : Mr Cronin , I am the sergeant of police. Sorry to disturb you.

Cronin : Its O k. But what brought you here?

Sergeant of police : There is a suicide case in one of the lodging around the corner.

Cronin : Who is it ?

Sergeant of police : A young man.

Cronin : Has he been hospitalized ?

Sergeant of police: No sir. He is still there.

Cronin : What is his condition now?

Sergeant of police : I think he is sinking.

Cronin : Then we shall hurry up

Diary of A J Cronin/ the Sergeant of police/ landlady

Oh an unforgettable day. Today I feel my life has got a new meaning. So happy that I could save the young man. Poor fellow..He tried to end himself for seven pounds ten shillings. Why are these young men doing all these? Anyway thank god for bringing me here on time.

THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY

-CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

‘The danger of a single story’ is an enlightening speech by chimamanda ngozi adichie a Nigerian novelist. She introduces herself as a storyteller. She was an early reader and writer. She was more familiar with foreign books and characters. Her early writings were influenced by it. She knows only fide’s poverty in Africa. Her American friend was shocked by her language and music. Her roommate’s single story about Africa begins to change. She says that single story creates stereotypes and so it will be incomplete.

Prepare a profile using the hints given below

Name : Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Birth :September 15,1977

Job :Nigerian Novelist, Non- Fiction Writer,Short story Writer

Major works: Purple Hibiscus, Half of a Yellow Seen, Americanah,For love of Biafra (play) Decisions (Collection of poems) That Harmattan Morning (short story)

Awards :Mac Arthur Genius Grant ,Commonwealth writers prize, Orange prize 2007

Education:M.A in African studies Yale University and John Hopkins University

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a Nigerian novelist, nonfiction writer and short story writer.She was born in the year 1977 on 15 September at Enugu in Nigeria. .She got her Master’s degrees from John Hopkins University and Yale University. Her notable works are Purple Hibiscus, Half of a Yellow Sun and Americanah.Decisions is a collection of her poems. She has to her credit the play, For Love Of Biafra. That Harmattan Morning is her short story. She received Mac Arthur Genius Grant, Commonwealth Writer’s Prize and Orange Prize in the year 2007.

The Ballad of Father Gilligan

-W. B. Yeats

1.Why was the old priest so tired?

Father Gilligan had been performing his priestly obligations day and night.

2. ‘For half his flock were in their beds’ - What is the significance of this line?

More than half the people of his parish were dying.

3. What does moth hour of the eve indicate?

Evening time.

4.Why does the priest have no rest, joy or peace?

An epidemic had spread in his parish and people were dying. He was very busy with the funeral services and last prayers.

5. Why did the priest repent to God and cry, “God forgive!”

He realized that it was a sin to complain against God’s will.

6. “My body spake not I”. What does this line mean?

Father Gilligan’s tired body spoke out the words that he had ‘no rest, nor joy, nor peace’. His conscience did not indent to complain.

7. Why did the priest fall asleep in prayer?

The priest was physically tired

8. ‘Father! You come again!’ Why did the sick man’s wife ask so in surprise?

At the time of her husband’s death she had seen the presence of a priest. She thought it was Father Gilligan.

9.Why was the priest so upset on the death of the sick man?

Because he could not attend the sick man’s last communion as he fell asleep in his chair.

10. Identify the figure of speech used in the line “As merry as a bird”.

‘Simile’ is the figure of speech used in ‘As merry as a bird’.

11. How did God help Father Gilligan?

God sent an angel in place of Father Gilligan to attend the sick man’s last communion and do the services.

12. In the last stanza, the poet talks about God Who had planets in His care and He had pity on the least of things. What significant message does the poet convey through these lines?



He never ignores least things. God loves and cares everything and everyone alike.

Father Peter Gilligan

He is a simple kind and a noble priest.
He is loving and caring towards his flocks.
He is sincere God fearing holy man.
He is very much dedicated and helps the poor and needy.
He does not care for his own health and safety.

APPRECIATION

The poem The Ballad of Father Gilligan was written by the Irish poet W. B Yeats. In this poem the poet depicts the poverty and extreme religiosity of the Irish rural life of his time

The poem tells the story of an old priest Peter Gilligan. Half of his people in the parish were either in sick-bed or already dead due to an epidemic. Day and night Father Gilligan was in service of them and he was very tired and weak. He could not attend one sick-man's last communion, as he fell asleep in his chair. Realizing that he failed to do his duty, next day morning in great grief Father Gilligan rode on his horse to the man's house. Where, his wife told the priest that her husband had already died and she asked him why he came again. From her question Father understood that in his absence God had sent an angel to perform his duties. He knelt and cried in repentance and thanked God for His mercy.

This poem is a perfect example for Ballad. It is written in multiple stanzas of four lines each, keeping a regular rhyme-scheme of ABCB. The poem is rich with imageries.

THE SCHOLARSHIP JACKET

-MARTHA SALINAS

The Scholarship Jacket is an auto-biographical story by Martha Salinas. It was a tradition in Texas school to award a Scholarship Jacket for the Class Valedictorian. Martha wished to get this jacket.

Overhearing the conversation between the teachers she came to know that the jacket will be awarded to Joan. The Principal informed her that the jacket is awarded after paying fifteen dollars.

Martha left the school tearfully and informed the matter to his grandfather. But grandfather was not ready to pay for it. He said that she shouldn't have to pay for some thing that she had deserved. Next day Martha reported this to the Principal.

The Principal feeling guilty told Martha that she would have the Scholarship Jacket which she rightly deserved.

Martha

She is a sensitive and sensible girl.

She is intelligent and competent.
She is lanky in her appearance.
She is the victim of racial discrimination.
She is from a poor family.
She is matured and even opens the eyes of Principal.

The Principal

He is an honest person.
He encouraged the students
He has the ability to take the right decision properly
He realizes his mistakes and corrects it.
He had a concern for Martha

Martha's Grandfather

He is patient, hardworking and caring person.
His experience made him strong.
He has the ability to take a right decision.
His words influenced the life of Martha.

Mr. Schmidt

He was the history teacher
He was not ready to falsify the records in favour of Joan.
He gave more importance to the education performance.
His character was entirely different from Mr. Boon.
He is a good teacher.

Mr. Boon

He was the maths teacher.
He was a cunning person
He argued for Joann.
He remarks the racial discrimination.

Prepare a conversation between Mr Schmidt and Mr Boone about giving the scholarship jacket to Martha

Mr Schmidt: What are you saying Mr Boone?
Mr Boone : This year we have to give the scholarship jacket to Joann
Mr Schmidt :Just look at Martha's grades. Straight A+ average
Mr Boone :I agree. But Joann's father is on the Board. Besides he owns the only store in the town
Mr Schmidt : No I shall never agree it
Mr Boone :Do you know Martha is a Mexican?
Mr Schmidt :So what ?She is such a studious girl.
Mr Boone :O k. They have decided it all
Mr Schmidt :If they favour Joann I shall resign my job.
Mr Boone :Do you think it can be of any use?
Mr Schmidt :Definitely not ,but at least I can protest.

Imagine you got an opportunity to interview Martha. Prepare six questions for this.

1.How did you maintain the first rank in all the classes?



2. Who is your inspiration?
3. Who supported you for this?
4. How did you clear the doubts?
5. How do you feel now?
6. Do you dedicate this achievement to anyone?

Martha is awarded the scholarship jacket. Prepare a NEWS REPORT that may appear in the newspaper, the next day.

MARTHA THE VALEDICTORIAN

California, 28 March 2018, : Martha, an eighth grade student bagged The Scholarship jacket for the class valedictorian of Texas school yesterday. It was awarded to her on a special function presided by the Education Minister. She got a straight A+ average right from her 1st grade. The teachers praised her skills and added that she was the right model to be imitated.

Martha feels happy and at the valedictory function she delivers a speech of thanks. prepare the speech.

Respected teachers, parents and my dear friends. Good evening to one and all present here.

I am so proud and happy to be here. I have no words to express my happiness. It is beyond words. You all know this Scholarship Jacket was my only dream. It is the result of eight years of my hard work and dedication. I thank God for his blessings.

I was born in a poor family. My family found difficult to meet the expenses of my studies. The scholarship Jacket was my only chance because others need fees to participate. I worked hard to get it.

On this occasion first of all I thank my grandpa for his valuable words. It was his words that changed everything. I can't forget the support of my parents, teachers and friends.

Thank you all thank you very much.

MOTHER TO SON

-Langston Hughes

1. Who is the speaker in the poem and the listener to it?

Mother speaks to her son

2. What does the expression 'crystal stair' stand for?
'Crystal stair' stands for the comforts and luxuries of life.

3. How was the mother's life?

The mother's life had never been a crystal stair; it had tacks and splinters all the way. Her life had never been comfortable; it was full of hardships and obstacles.

4. What is mother's life compared to?

Mother's life is compared to a stair.

5. Comment on the language of the mother.

The language used in the poem is a deliberate attempt of the poet to depict the mother as an illiterate and poor woman of the Afro-American community.

6. What do the expressions 'rechin' landin's', 'turnin' corners' and 'goin' in the dark' signify
The expression 'rechin' landin's and 'turnin' corners' signify the different phases of the mother's life. Sometimes she finds some momentary solutions for her problems. The expression 'goin' in the dark' signifies the hopeless moments of her life

7. What does the mother advise her son to do?

She advises her son not to give up

8. How does the mother encourage her son in facing hardships?

She encourages her son by telling her own experiences. She is still climbing the rough and tough stairs of life without yielding in front of the hardships of life.

9. What is the theme of the poem?

Life is difficult and one has to work hard

APPRECIATION

'Mother to Son' is a beautiful poem written by Langston Hughes. A mother says to her son that he would face many adversities in life and he must overcome it and keep going.

Mother says to her son that life has never been as smooth and comfortable as a "crystal stair" for her. Her stair has always had splinters and torn boards on it, as well as places without carpet. The stair is bare – a life without luxuries and comforts. turning corners sometimes However, she still climbs on, reaching landings, turning corners sometimes going through darkness. She advises her son not to turn back or set down on the steps even if it is hard to climb.

The poem is a **dramatic monologue** written in the **Free Verse style**.

Following are some common questions to interview a person

- ➔ What was your dream ?
- ➔ How was your journey to the present position?
- ➔ Are you satisfied with your profession?
- ➔ What message would you like to give to students?
- ➔ Who is your role model?
- ➔ Tell us about yourself?
- ➔ What are your biggest strengths?
- ➔ What is your next project?
- ➔ What was the most difficult period in your life?
- ➔ What do you think about the present generation?



Profile tips

NAME _____
 _____(Name)_____ was born on _____
 (Date) _____ in _____(year)_____ at/in
 _____(place)_____. He/she completed his/her education in
 _____(place/ name of school/ college). He/she is famous
 as _____ (occupation / career)_____. His/Her
 important works are _____ (works / books /
 poems)_____and _____(last work)_____. He/She
 was awarded _____(award/Achievements)_____in
 _____(Year)_____. He/ She passed away on _____
 (date) _____ in _____(year)_____. (He/She
 continues to live in the minds of people even today.)
 Name _____

Birth/born/date of birth ----- He/she was born on/in
 Education/studies ---He/She completed his education from
 Father, mother ----- His/Her parents are
 Wife/Spouse----- His wife is
 Works/poems/novels/ stories - His/Her major works are
 Awards/Honours/fellowship--- He/She got many awards
 like
 Death/died/dead/ passed away----He/She died in/on

NOTICE
 -----(Write the name of the function)-----

Dear friends

It has been decided to conduct a _____
 _____(name of the programme)_____ on _____
 (date)_____ under the auspicious of _____(name
 of club) in ABCD School, at _____(time)am/pm. The
 venue is _____. The _____(name of inaugurator)
 will inaugurate the function.

All are welcome
 Date:
 Time:
 Venue

Place _____ Sd/-
 Date _____ Secretary/Convenor

DIARY

1
Diary for a Happy day

30 January 2017 Wednesday

I am really happy today. How things have changed!
 I never enjoyed like this before.
 _____(Write the events of the
 day in first person) _____

I still cannot believe that it happened. Thank God!

Diary for a sad day

30 January 2017 Wednesday

I am really sad today. How things have changed! I

never felt sad like this before.

 _____(Write the events of the day in first person)

I still cannot believe that it happened. I am trying
 to forget it. God .. please help

Letter - Informal (friendly)

Dear friend,

How are you? Hope you're well, and pray for
 it. I heard little from you for the last few months. Why
 didn't you contact me?

I am writing this letter to tell you an important
 matter. How I wished for your presence
 here!

I hope we will meet soon. Don't forget to reply
 soon. I stop my words.

Yours lovingly
 (Signature)
 Name

Letter - Formal(official)

From

(Sender's name
 and address)

To

(Address to whom
 you send the letter)

Sir,

I am I am writing this letter
 to you to bring an important matter into your notice.

.....
 I hope you will consider my case and take
 necessary steps on this regard.

Thanking you

Place:

Date :

Yours faithfully
 (Signature)
 Name

SPEECH

Respected chief guest, president and all other
 dignitaries on the dias and my dear friends

I am very happy to stand before you to speak a few
 words about _____. I think the topic is a very
 familiar one for all of you.

_____ By saying this I conclude my short speech .
 Thank you

