



Let's read and enjoy:

Problems should be seen as opportunities. We should be solution providers who transform the world. Can we continue to stay motivated even when the path to success is long, difficult and challenging?

'The Seedling' shows how nature can inspire us to persevere in the face of adversity.

The Seedling

- Paul Laurence Dunbar

As a quiet little seedling
Lay within its darksome bed,
To itself it fell a-talking,
And this is what it said:

"I am not so very robust,
But I'll do the best I can;"
And the seedling from that moment
Its work of life began.

So it pushed a little leaflet
Up into the light of day,
To examine the surroundings
And show the rest the way.

The leaflet liked the prospect,
So it called its brother, Stem;
Then two other leaflets heard it,
And quickly followed them.



To be sure, the haste and hurry
Made the seedling sweat and pant;
But almost before it knew it
It found itself a plant.

The sunshine poured upon it,
And the clouds they gave a shower;
And the little plant kept growing
Till it found itself a flower.

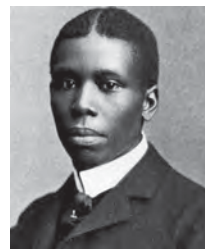
Little folks, be like the seedling,
Always do the best you can;
Every child must share life's labour
Just as well as every man.

And the sun and showers will help you
Through the lonesome, struggling hours,
Till you raise to light and beauty
Virtue's fair, unfading flowers.



About the Poet

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906) was an American poet, novelist and short story writer. He was enslaved in Kentucky before the American Civil War. He published his first poem ‘Our Martyred Soldiers’ at the age of sixteen. Dunbar became one of the first Afro-American writers to win international acclaim. He worked with the Wright brothers in their publication *The Tatler*. His first book, a collection of poems, *Oak and Ivy*, was published in 1893. He has published many collections of poems, short stories, four novels, and a play.



Let's rewind and rejoice:

1. What triggered the seedling's 'work of life'?
2. What is inspiring about the seedling's attitude to life?
3. Why was the seedling in a hurry to come out of the earth?
4. How is the growth of the plant described in the poem?
5. What message does the seedling give us?



Let's appreciate :

Activity 1

Discuss:

1. How does the poem relate to the challenges of life?
2. What does the poem tell us about the importance of self-motivation to achieve success?

Activity 2

Identify the **poetic devices** in the poem and complete the table given below.

Poetic devices	Examples from the poem	Explanation
Imagery	create vivid images of optimistic expression
Alliteration
.....
Rhyme scheme

Activity 3

Now, write an **appreciation** of the poem 'The Seedling', focusing on its theme and tone, and analysing the use of poetic devices. The following format may help you.

Appreciation

Title	(Name of the poem, or a title of your choice.)
Introduction	(Introduce the author and the theme of the poem in general)
Theme	Interpretation of the theme
Poetic devices	Explain the poetic devices used in the poem with examples—mention the metre, rhyme, and tone
Conclusion	Contemporary relevance of the poem – the lines you like the most – your reasons...

Activity 4

The unit highlights the need for social entrepreneurship and the readiness to turn challenges into opportunities to solve social problems. In the light of your reading of the passages and the poem, write a **paragraph** on the importance of self-motivation for success in life.



Let's listen and enjoy:

Now, your teacher will play the audio of the poem, 'It Couldn't Be Done', by Edgar A. Guest. Listen to the poem. Compare its theme with that of 'The Seedling'. Try to relate these poems to the lives of Srikanth Bolla and Arunachalam Muruganantham. Now, present your findings in groups.



Let's play with words:

Activity 1

A. Match the following words in column A with their meanings in column B.

A	B
Humiliate	the continued effort to achieve something
Exorbitant	one who starts an enterprise
Affordable	to get something with an effort
Perseverance	expensive
Procure	to shame some one
Entrepreneur	inexpensive, within one's spending capacity

B. Complete the following passage, using the appropriate forms of words from the table above.

Education should aim for solutions to the burning issues of society, rather than prepare youth to beg for jobs. Today, the nation needs youngto create job opportunities and drive economic growth. With the cost of living rising to.....levels, financial stability has become hard to attain. Everyone wants essential goods at prices. The youngsters of today should show the courage to begin new enterprises to meet such social demands. Banks have eased the conditions for providing loans for ventures by the educated youth. However, entrepreneurs may still be by criticism and hostility from certain quarters. They would need foresight and to succeed. Young entrepreneurs should turn challenges into opportunities and achieve their goals.

Activity 2

Read the sentences given below.

“It took me two years of trial and error to figure out it was pinewood pulp and not cotton.”

Pick out a phrase from the sentence which means ‘to finally find a solution to, or understand something:’

Read the following passage.

The Forest Post is an initiative by tribal communities that aims to sort out issues related to their livelihoods by promoting forest-based products. There is a growing demand for organic and natural goods. Making out the market trends, they worked out various ways to make use of the opportunity. They collect and process forest resources such as honey, medicinal plants, spices, and bamboo products. The Forest Post initiative set out on its journey with the support of the State Forest Department. Fearing they might run out of resources due to the unsustainable practices of others, the initiative focuses on the conservation and regeneration of forest resources. The venture has turned out to be a success, gaining recognition in local and other markets.



The following phrasal verbs have been picked from the passage. Find the meanings of the phrasal verbs from the context or by referring to a dictionary.

Note the meaning in the space provided.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning
sort out	
work out	
make out	
run out	
turn out	
set out	

Now, let's read about 'Noorangu', a tribal initiative from Wayanad. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate forms of the phrasal verbs given in the brackets.

(work out, make out, run out, turn out, set out, figure out)

In Thirunelli, Wayanad, a group of ten tribal women(a)..... on a mission to preserve traditional varieties of tuber crops for the future. In an interaction with some children, they could.....(b)..... that the new generation knew nothing about the rich tradition of nutritious tubers. Therefore, they established the Noorangu Tuber Conservation Centre. With the support of the Kudumbasree Mission, these women conservationists have successfully(c)..... a plan to preserve their knowledge for posterity. The initiative(d)..... to be a great success, regenerating and preserving 180 species of tubers. The food festivals they conduct help the general public to(e)..... the vital aspect of their heritage and to explore this treasure trove of nutritional diversity.



Let's analyse:

Activity 1

A. Examine the following sentence.

- I dropped out of school at the age of 14, because my father passed away unexpectedly.
 - Since my mother struggled to make ends meet, I had to work in a welding workshop.
 - As my mother had to care for two daughters and a son, she struggled to support our family.
- In each sentence, a cause and its effect are mentioned. Can you identify the causes in the given sentences?

Note the cause and the effect in the following table. One has been done for you.

Sl. no	Cause (subordinate clause)	Effect (main clause)
1.	my father passed away unexpectedly	I dropped out of school at the age of 14

Now, identify the words that help to link the cause and the effect in each sentence.

1. Because
2.
3.

These are subordinating conjunctions.

Subordinating conjunctions connect

B. Find other subordinating conjunctions and fill in the table.

although	after
.....
.....
.....
.....

C. Complete the given sentences using appropriate conjunctions.

1. it was raining, they decided to go for a hike.
2. she studied hard, she passed the exam with flying colors.
3. you practise regularly, you will improve your skills.
4. I see a sunset, I feel at peace.
5. he moved to a new city, he has made many friends.
6. the task was difficult, they completed it on time.
7. she was cooking, her phone rang.
8. you hurry, you will miss the train.
9. they finished dinner, they watched a movie.
10. the bell rang, the students left the classroom.

Activity 2

A. Read the following sentences.

1. If Sreekanth had got admission to IIT, he would not have gone to the USA.
2. If Muruganantham had given up his dream, he would have failed in life.
3. If Bolla hadn't been admitted to MIT, he wouldn't have had a chance to follow his passion.
4. His wife would have stayed with him if Muruganantham had stopped his experiments.
5. The world would not have changed if these visionaries had not turned challenges into opportunities.

Let's examine the sentences:

What is the condition stated in the first sentence?

'If Sreekanth had got admission to the IIT'

Do you think that this condition can be fulfilled? Why?

..... (if clause)

What is its effect?

..... (main clause)

Now, complete the table, picking the verbs from the if clause and the main clause in the given sentences.

Sentences	Cause	Effect
Sentence 1	had got	would not have gone
Sentence 2		
Sentence 3		
Sentence 4	had stopped	would have stayed
Sentence 5		

Have you noticed the forms of the verb in the 'if clause' and that in the main clause? Note it in the table below.

Form of the verb in if clause	Form of the verb in main clause
had + + + ...V3....

Such 'if clauses' indicate an impossible condition. These conditions cannot be fulfilled because they refer to the past.

B. Now, complete the following sentences using the appropriate forms of the verbs given in brackets.

- If she had known about the meeting, she(attend)_____ it.
- If they had left earlier, they (catch)_____ the train.
- I (reply)_____ immediately if I had seen the mail.
- If he had practised well, he (win)_____ the competition.
- If we had bought tickets, we (go)_____ to the concert.
- He (miss) _____ the flight if he (arrive)_____ earlier.
- If she (tell) _____ me about the problem, I (help) her.
- If I (read) _____ the instructions, I (understand) _____ the task.

C. Match the beginning and end of each conditional sentence and write them down.

Column 1	Column 2
If she had studied harder,	I will buy her the dress.
If I were rich,	she would have passed the exam.
If I see her at the mall,	I would have visited you.
If we win the game,	we will celebrate tonight.
If you had told me you were not well,	I would travel around the world.



Let's converse:

Interviewer : Good morning, Srikanth.

Srikanth : Good morning. Hope we will have a fruitful time together today.

Interviewer : Sir, would you say that your childhood was a hard time for you?

Srikanth : Of course, my friend. First of all, my birth was a shock to my parents. I was born blind, you know.

From the conversation above, let's pick out some expressions that you could use to seek information, explain things, or to convince others about something.

Seeking information	Explaining to, or trying to convince someone

Here are some expressions that would help you conduct interviews, surveys, and conversations. You may add more to the list.

Seeking information	Explaining/Convincing
Would you mind explaining ...	Let me explain ...
Could you clarify ...	In other words, ...
Could you break that down ...	To clarify ...
I don't get it. Could you explain ...	The reason is that ...
I'd really appreciate it if you explain	Let me walk you through it ...
Can you go into more detail?	The key point is ...
Can you go over that again?	It is important to note...
.....	It has been proven that ...
.....

Now, fill in the bubbles in the picture story given below, choosing appropriate expressions from the table.



Sir,

.....
why did you think of
starting new business
project at this age?



.....
It was always my ambition
to start a farm here.
....., there is
great demand even from
the nearby towns.



.....? How
did you find that there
was a great demand for
your farm products?

.....
....., I went to
the towns and talked to
the people there. I learned
about all their needs and
demands.



.....
.....
Why, in your opinion is
there so much demand
for your products?

..... Most of
the products available
elsewhere have pesticides
and preservatives far
above the permitted level.



.....
.....
what techniques
of farming do
you follow?

.....
pesticides not only affect
insects, but the entire
environment and us too.
On our farm we follow
organic farming practices
like hydroponics, mixed
cropping, etc.





Let's team up:

Group project

You have come to know that social entrepreneurship is a solution to many of the problems of the world. As the 'Pad man' has mentioned, education is not for seeking jobs but to find solutions to the problems of society. Is there anything we can do on our part?

Let's form four groups in the class.

Step 1

You may conduct a survey on market demands. Each group may choose one of the following sectors.

- Sector 1 – Food and drinking water
- Sector 2 – Home and interior
- Sector 3 – Fashion and clothing trends
- Sector 4 – Communication Technology/Digital Literacy
- Sector 5 – Travel and tourism
- Sector 6 – Entertainment
- Sector 7 – Healthcare for the weak and the elderly
- Sector 8 –

- Prepare a questionnaire for the survey. Include questions relating to problems of availability, demand and supply, and public opinion.
- Choose a sample from your neighbourhood.
- Discuss the findings in groups. Suggest solutions to the problems.
- Prepare the survey report.

Title
Introduction
Body of the report
Discussion
Conclusion

Step 2

Conduct a seminar on the topic 'New Start-Ups for a New Kerala'. Your teacher will help you invite experts from organisations like 'Kerala Startup Mission'. You may present the papers prepared by each group in the seminar. Include your innovative ideas in the papers.

GLOSSARY



accomplishment (n)	:	achievement
affordable (adj)	:	inexpensive, within one's spending capacity
beseech (v)	:	request
coarse (adj)	:	rough
contemptuous (adj)	:	expressing strong dislike
defy(v)	:	disobey
dejected (adj)	:	sad
dilemma (n)	:	a difficult choice
entrepreneur (n)	:	one who starts a new venture/ business project
essential (adj)	:	necessary
exorbitant (adj)	:	expensive
follow suit (v)	:	to do the same thing as someone else.
gauze (n)	:	thin cloth
hesitant (adj)	:	shy, afraid
humiliate (v)	:	to shame someone
impact (n)	:	effect
impaired (adj)	:	disabled
mortgage (n)	:	a property pledged to a bank for a loan
obsession (n)	:	something that one thinks about all the time
patent (n)	:	the legal right to an invention
perception (n)	:	belief
persevere (v)	:	to strive hard to achieve something
procure (v)	:	to get something with an effort
prospect(n)	:	the possibility of a good future
rehabilitate (v)	:	to restore to good health
saunter (v)	:	to walk in a relaxed way
smother(v)	:	to kill by preventing breathing
sordid (adj)	:	dirty, unpleasant
sterilise (v)	:	to make clean and germ-free
subsidised (adj)	:	partly paid for by the government or an organisation
sue (v)	:	to take legal action against (an individual, organisation of government)
trek (v)	:	to walk a long distance
waive (v)	:	to exempt from a tax or duty