



(LESSON-05)

THE SURMON AT BENARES

BERTA RENSTAW

(1)	Renounce	Give up
(2)	Pursuit	Chase/Act of looking for something
(3)	Liberation	Freedom
(4)	Profound	Deep and strong
(5)	Plight	Misery /A difficult or sad situation
(6)	Ascetic	Related to simple and strict life
(7)	Meditation	Practice of thinking deeply in silence
(8)	Eliminate	Remove
(9)	Agony	Deep pain
(10)	Sermon	A talk on a moral or religious subject
(11)	Reflecting	Careful thought about something
(12)	Sacred	pious
(13)	Befitted	Suitable and good enough
(14)	Royalty	One or more members of a royal family
(15)	Shielded	Protected
(16)	Funeral	A ceremony for burying or cremating
(17)	Procession	A line of people
(18)	Monk	A member of religious group of men
(19)	Enlightenment	Knowledge / understanding of something
(20)	Vow	Pledge, promise
(21)	Preach	To give a religious talk in public
(22)	Inscrutable	Mysterious



(23)	Repair	Go to
(24)	Procure	Acquire
(25)	Flicker	Keep going on and off
(26)	extinguish	Put out
(27)	Desolation	The feeling of being lonely and upset
(28)	Immortality	Eternity
(29)	Surrender	Give in/ To give up possession
(30)	Overcome	Dominate/ To prevail over
(31)	Kinsmen	Members of one's own tribe or people
(32)	Lament	To express grief
(33)	Afflicted with	Affected by suffering, disease
(34)	Contrary	Opposite
(35)	Dipping places	Bathing places

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Q1. What is a sermon? How is it different from a lecture?

Ans. 'Sermon' and 'Lecture' are chalk and cheese. A sermon is a talk on a moral or religious topic. Religious leaders and scholars preach sermons. On the other hands, a lecture is aimed at teaching people in a group about a specific subject by a learned person.

Q2. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it?

Ans. After the tragic and tearful demise of her son, Kisa Gotami, goes from house to house and asks for the medicine that would revive her dead son back to life. She fails to fetch it as no medicine is available to cure the dead and bring them back to life.

Q3. Kisa Gotami again goes from house to house after she speaks to the Buddha. What does she ask for the second time around? Does she get it? Why not?

Ans. Grieved and shattered, Kisa Gotami goes from door to door in order to seek a handful of mustard seed from the house which had lost none to death because the Buddha had asked her to bring the seed from such a house only where no death had ever taken place. But, when she



put forth her condition, she was everywhere asserted not to remind them their loved ones who had passed away in their families. As a result, she failed to get what Buddha asked for.

Q4. What does Kisa Gotami understand the second time that she failed to understand and the first time?

Was this what the Buddha wanted her to understand?

Ans. The second time Kisa Gotami understood the fate of man. She came to know that every soul must drink from the goblet of death. She underwent a gall-like experience to understand that there could be no house where Death had not made its inevitable entry. She realized that it was unfair to be selfish in that respect as Death must engulf all mortals one by one. The Buddha, true to his wisdom, desired of Kisa Gotami to arrive at this truth and Kisa did understand it eventually.

Q5. Why do you think Kisa Gotami understood this only second time? In what way did the Buddha change her understanding?

Ans. Kisa Gotami returned helpless and hopeless as she failed to find a house that had not lost a dear one to death. The wayside lights which were flickering off and on also made her understand the nature of life which is out and out fragile. Buddha made her understand the inevitability of death and Kisa concluded to herself that the paths of immortality can be trodden by those who cease to be selfish and submit themselves to the will of the Almighty.

Q6. How do you usually understand the idea of 'selfishness'? Do you agree with Kosa Gotami she is being selfish in her grief?

Ans. 'Selfishness' implies considering and thinking of one's interests only without caring for the interests others. It would be inappropriate to say that Kisa Gotami was selfish in her grief. She was only ignorant of a hard reality. In her grief, she had forgotten that dead can't bring back to life. This made her realize this in a very subtle and convincing manner.

(LESSON-06)

PAPPACHI'S MOTH (ARUNDHATI ROY)

TEXTUAL VOCABULARY

(1)	Aerobics	Physical exercises
(2)	Contemporary	Modern/ from the same time period, coexistent in time
(3)	Fraternal	Connected with brotherly relations
(4)	Acclaimed	Praised / Highly respected
(5)	Masterpiece	Excellent piece of work



HOLY FAITH PRESENTATION SCHOOL

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(6)	Primarily	Chiefly
(7)	Temporal	Connected with limited by time
(8)	Liberally	Freely
(9)	Conjunction	Together with
(10)	Prominent	Clear, Noticeable
(11)	Facets	Aspects / One of the series of things
(12)	Imperial	Royal
(13)	Entomologist	A person who studies insects
(14)	Excerpt	A short piece of writing taken from a whole
(15)	Capture	Catch
(16)	Prior	Before something
(17)	Moth	A flying insect
(18)	Façade	Appearance
(19)	Credit (V)	To say that someone is responsible for doing sth.
(20)	Abusive	Rude and offensive
(21)	Rhodes Scholar	A student from the US, Germany
(22)	Subtly	Mysteriously
(23)	Plague(v)	Trouble
(24)	Cope with	Adjust with
(25)	Thrilled	Excited
(26)	Persist	To continue doing something
(27)	Ignominy	Shame
(28)	Prime	The best time of life
(29)	Resent	To feel bitter or angry about something



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(CLASS 10TH - ENGLISH)

(30)	Slouched	Moved in a lazy way
(31)	Compound	An area surrounded by a fence
(32)	Immaculately	Perfectly
(33)	Sullen	Bad-tempered
(34)	Bow	A thin piece of wood used to play a musical
(35)	Rowing	Moving about through water
(36)	Stride	To move with long steps
(37)	Mahogany	Hard reddish brown wood
(38)	Rocking chair	A chair that moves backwards/ forwards
(39)	Driveway	A wide hard path
(40)	Smash	Hit
(41)	Plumber	A person whose job is fit/repair things
(42)	Wrench	A metal tool for turning /holding things
(43)	Heap	Pile
(44)	Wicker	Thin Sticks of wood put together
(45)	Splinter	A small piece of wood etc.
(46)	Intermediaries	Someone who carries messages
(47)	Coasting	Moving
(48)	Corrode	Rust
(49)	Familiar	Known
(50)	Elegant	Stylish. Attractive
(51)	Revenge	To punish someone for the bad done to you
(52)	Designation	Name/Title/description
(53)	Equivalent	Equal in value



(54)	Setback	Jolt / An obstacle
(55)	Dorsal	Near the back
(56)	Tuft	A number of short pieces of hair etc.
(57)	Mount	To get on a horse etc.
(58)	Taxonomic	Systematic naming and organizing
(59)	Unbearable	Which can't be tolerated
(60)	Anxiety	Worry
(61)	Intense	Extreme
(62)	Radical	Most important, far- reacting
(63)	Reshuffle	Change around
(64)	Ill-humoured	Pertaining to bad mood
(65)	Pernicious	Harmful
(66)	Haunt	Frighten
(67)	Torment	Torture
(68)	Cologne	A type of light perfume
(69)	Slick down	Slip down
(70)	Studio	A recording room
(71)	Potentially	Possibly
(72)	Concert	A public performance of music
(73)	Album	A book in which you keep photographs
(74)	Contact lenses	A small round thin plastic put on eyes
(75)	Vase	A glass container in which flowers are kept
(76)	Mount	Heap/pile



THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Q1. Sketch the characters of Pappachi and Mammachi?

Ans. Pappachi stands as a pivotal character in the story. He is a retired government officer who joined service during the British rule. After displaying great worth as an imperial entomologist, in the Department of Entomology, Pappachi chancily discovers a novel species of moth. But as luck had it, the taxonomical Department denies it as a new found species. They claimed that it was an unusual race of a well-known species that belonged to the tropical family, Lymantriidae. This experience embitters Pappachi and his mood to such an extent that his family especially Mammachi has to fall prey of his bad-tempered disposition. The post-retirement life of Pappachi leaves a bad taste in the mouths of readers who find Pappachi quite jealous, biased and pedantic. After his retirement, his wife started making pickles commercially. She was quite successful in her business but Pappachi began to feel jealous of her success and growing popularity. He would often lose his temper and start beating his wife. After being warned in strong words by his son against the beating of his wife, he remains completely aloof from Mammachi till he breathes his last. The sewing of buttons into his shirts unnecessarily to defame Mammachi is yet another blot in his personality. However, we do get impressed by Pappachi's nip and tuck style but his being given to pomp leaves us cold.

Mammachi, Pappachi's wife, leaves indelible imprints on the hearts of the readers with her river-like patience, unshakable faithfulness towards her husband and her sensible nature even though Pappachi has robbed the cradle by wedding a very young Mammachi. She is talented and this is amply shown by her progress in learning the musical art however she was cut short by Pappachi before she could touch the apex. After her husband's retirement, she at once, feels the need and works hard with the pickle-making business even though Pappachi never gives her a hand, thinking it well below his dignity. She never protests against the ill-treatment of her husband and silently bears the torment. The best of Mammachi is seen when she cries full sore at Pappachi's funeral. She had got accustomed to the beatings of her husband and considered them no less than blessing, she loved him with all the weaknesses he had and felt the most when Pappachi died. The readers are mightily impressed by Mammachi's character which raises the stature of a loyal woman to sky heights.

Q2. 'I never want this to happen again', he told his father. 'Ever' who says it and why?

Ans. These are the words of Chacko, Pappachi's son. He has returned home from Oxford University during summer vacation. He is a sturdy fellow who cannot bear the assault on his mother. He twists the vase-hand of his father and warns Pappachi never to do that again. Pappachi would frequently beat his wife with a brass vase-a heinous act which Chacko could not tolerate.



Q3. 'Ammu told the twins of that Mammachi was crying more because she was used to him that because she loved him.' In the light of the statement of Mammachi's daughter, comment on the relationships between Mammachi and Pappachi?

Ans. Pappachi and Mammachi were in a typical husband-wife relationship sharing nothing in common except the physical touch. Pappachi did not like her doing business of pickle making. He never bothered to help her either. He never spoke a word of love to his wife. Pappachi considered it his right to beat her whenever he wished and Mammachi like a helpless Indian wife, bore everything patiently to such an extent that she had got accustomed to it. She is the creature of habit as very human is. She cried at Pappachi's death not because she loved him but she had become used to him. We get used to the things which may even be agonizing and Arundhati presents a lovely picture of the traditional matrimonial relationships in India through Pappachi and Mammachi

Q4. How does Mammachi stand out as an independent and resilient woman in the text?

Ans. The readers visualize the dual nature Mammachi's personality. On the one hand, she is an oppressed and suppressed woman who patiently bears the atrocities inflicted on her by her husband but on the other hand she presents herself as a determined and resolute woman who believes in herself. Her making pickles on a commercial scale in spite of no support from Pappachi, speaks volumes of her courage and determination. After the beating episode, we find Mammachi confident and focused to her work despite the fact that Pappachi has ceased talking to her.

Q5. Pick out the element of Irony in the lesson?

Ans. The element of irony is present in the incident of Pappachi's discovery of a new species of moth which he earnestly hopes would be named after him. Nevertheless it gets named after the person who was his far-junior and hence Pappachi has turned rough and short-tempered. Pappachi breaks his favourite chair but ironically it has no effect on anyone. We do see Pappachi driving out in his Plymouth to show himself off but perspiring profusely inside his woolen attire which is once again an arrow of irony in the lesson. We can even say that his whole life is marked by irony.

Q6. Identify Instances of Humour in the story?

Ans. The story of Pappachi's 'Moth' is mostly shrouded in the garment of sadness and seriousness. It would be cruel to find humour in someone's tears. Mammachi's condition in the story jerks the tear glands of the readers. However, when Pappachi pompously goes out in his Plymouth and sweats hard in his woolen garments, the readers take that instance as a humorous one. He suffers badly for the sake of pomp and that makes us laugh heartily.



WRITING WORK

Q. Do you agree that the lesson is a reflection of male chauvinism? Write a short paragraph to justify your answer.

Or

How does the author succeed in raising crucial issues not through open criticism but through subtle suggestion?

Ans. Pappachi is not a good husband. He believes in male superiority over woman. He shows no sympathy to Mammachi in her work. Mammachi's vision has become very weak and one can say that she is almost blind. Papachi's habit of giving beatings to his wife speaks of the superiority of the males over females. Mammachi who needed to be helpful because of her highly deteriorated eyesight never grumbles but goes on putting up with the circumstances. She is believed to be confined to her house and bearing and rearing children. Mammachi very calmly bears with the hardships and does not complain perhaps fearing that she is ill-treated more and more. Papachi is cold blooded and has no feelings that Mammachi silently bears everything. She is a non-demanding woman and very docile by nature. She has never tried to resist the treatment given to her. Papachi is hard hearted, Mammachi is obedient and reserved and shows no courage to stand up to this oppression.