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VISTAS

THE TIGER KING BY KALKI

GIST OF THE LESSON

- The Maharaja Sir Jilani Jung Jung Bhadur was called "Tiger King".
- When he was just 10 days old he asked intelligent questions to the astrologers and was told that he would be killed by a tiger. He uttered "Let tigers beware!"
- No other miracle took place, the child grew like any other Royal child drinking white cow's milk, taught by an English tutor, looked after by an English nanny and watched English films.
- When he was 20, he was crowned as king. It was then the prediction of his death by the tiger reached the Maharaja's ear and he in turn to safeguard himself killed a tiger and being thrilled he told the astrologer who replied that he can kill 99 tigers but should be careful with the 100th.
- From then on he started killing tiger and none was allowed to hunt tigers. A high-ranking British officer visited the state who was fond of hunting tiger and his wish was declined.
- The officer requested to get a photograph with a tiger killed by Maharaja and this request was rejected.
- So to please the officer's wife he sent 50 diamond rings expecting that she would take 1 or 2 instead she kept all the rings costing 3 lakh rupees and sent 'thanks' to the Maharaja. But his state was secured.
- In 10 years he killed 70 tiger and then didn't find any in Pratibandapuram so he decided to marry a girl from royal state which had more tigers to complete his target.
- Whenever he visited his in-laws he killed 5-6 tigers. So he killed 99 tigers and was feverishly anxious to kill the 100th but couldn't find.
- News about the presence of a tiger near a village proved disappointing.
- Now the Dewan was warned of his danger so he visited 'People's Park in Madras' and brought an old tiger and placed it in the forest and informed the Maharaja.
- The Maharaja took great care and shot the tiger and left the place with great triumph.
- The bullet did not hit the tiger but out of fear the tiger had collapsed. Now the staff killed the tiger and brought it in grand procession.
- It was the 3rd birthday of the Maharaja's son and he wanted to buy a present from the toyshop. He bought a wooden tiger which was poorly carved.
- While the Maharaja was playing with the prince a tiny sliver of the wooden tiger pierced his right hand which later on caused his death. Thus the hundredth tiger takes his final revenge upon the "Tiger King".

Question and Answer:

1. What was the miracle that took place in the royal palace?
Ans. When the Maharaja was a 10 day old infant, he spoke and asked intelligent questions about his death. After knowing that he would be killed by a tiger he uttered "Let tigers beware."
2. How was the Tiger King brought up?
Ans. As a child the Tiger King was brought up by an English nanny and tutored in English by an Englishman. He was given the milk of an English cow. Like many other Indian crown princes he watched only English movies.
3. What did the State astrologer say he would do 'if the hundredth tiger were also killed'?
Ans. The State astrologer was so sure of his prediction that he announced that he would cut off his ceremonial tuft, crop his hair short and become an insurance agent in case the king was able to kill the 100th tiger, too. He was sure that the Maharaja's death would be caused by the 100th tiger.
4. What did the high-ranking British officer wish to do? Was his wish fulfilled?
Ans. The high-ranking British officer wanted to kill a tiger. When he was denied the permission for hunting, he sent a word to the king that he would be happy if he was allowed to get photographed with the dead body of a tiger killed by the king. However, his wish remained unfulfilled.
5. How did the Maharaja manage to save his throne?
Ans. The Maharaja had annoyed the visiting senior British officer over the issue of tiger-hunting and 'stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself'. So, the Maharaja and the Dewan decided to placate and pacify the officer through bribe by sending gifts of expensive diamond rings to the 'duraiani', the wife of the British officer. Thus he managed to save his throne.
6. How did the 'duraiani' behave on receiving the gifts?
Ans. Some fifty samples of expensive diamond rings were sent to the duraiani and it was expected that she would select on or two and return the rest. But the lady proved to be greedy as she retained all of them and merely sent a letter of thanks.
7. Why did the Maharaja's tiger killing mission come to a sudden still?
Ans. Within ten years Maharaja's tiger hunting had resulted in the killing of seventy tigers. However his tiger killing mission came to a sudden standstill because the tiger population became extinct in the forest of Pratibandapuram.
8. Why did the Maharaja suddenly decide to marry? Whom did he wish to marry?
Ans. The Maharaja suddenly decided to marry because firstly, he was of marriageable age and secondly, he wanted to kill thirty more tigers in his father-in-law's state in order to complete the tally of hundred tigers. For this reason he wished to marry a girl in the royal family of a state with a large tiger population.
9. Why did Maharaja order the dewan to double the tax?
Ans. The Maharaja called the dewan and ordered him to immediately double the tax of the villagers who had informed him of a tiger in the forest because despite his best efforts he was unable to locate the beast. This infuriated the Maharaja.
10. What did the Maharaja buy as a birthday gift for his son?
Ans. The Maharaja wished to give his son a very special gift on his birthday and he bought a wooden toy tiger as a perfect birthday gift for his son.
11. How did the king's arm become seriously infected?
Ans. The king's arm had got infected from a prick caused by one of the slivers on the wooden tiger. In one day, the infection got flared in the Maharaja's right hand and in four days it developed into a suppurating sore which spread all over the arm. Though he was operated yet he died.

Unsolved Question

1. How did the Maharaja kill the hundredth tiger?
2. The title of the Maharaja reflected grandeur but his death was an anticlimax. Justify.
3. How did the Tiger King meet his end? What is ironical about his death?
4. What idea do you form about the ruling Indian class during the pre-partition days from the king's encounter with shopkeeper?
5. What idea do you form about the married life of the king?
6. Why did the tiger king decide to marry? How do you conclude his attitude towards marriage?

Long answer type question

1. How did the Tiger King meet his end? What is ironical about his death?

Ans. The wooden toy tiger the king had got as a birthday present for his son had been carved by an unskilled carpenter. It had a rough surface with tiny slivers of wood standing up like quills all over it. One of those slivers pierced the Maharaja's right hand and although the king pulled it, his arm got infected. In four days, it developed into a suppurating sore and spread all over the arm. The king died while being operated upon.

The king's death is ironical but not surprising for the reader who is, in fact, looking forward to it. Having 'killed' the 100th tiger, the king is jubilant for he has fulfilled his vow and disproved the prediction of the royal astrologer. He is now at ease for he thinks he cannot die of a tiger's attack. No wonder, he orders the 'dead' tiger to be taken in a procession through the town and gets a tomb erected over it. All this while he does not know that the 100th victim was not killed by him but by other hunters.

That is indeed quite ironical. Death is lurking around him and the king is unaware of it. Again, it is ironical that a king who has killed 100 tigers and is bold and fearless dies of a mere 'sliver' on the body of a wooden tiger. Thus, ironically death does come to him from a tiger.

2. 'The story is a satire on the conceit of those in power' Elucidate.

THE ENEMY

BY PEARL S BUCK

GIST OF THE LESSON:

- Dr. Sadao, a Japanese surgeon finds a wounded American soldier on the beach near his house.
- He is unable to throw him back though he was his enemy as he was a doctor and his first duty was to save a life.
- Hana, his wife, though initially reluctant because it was dangerous for all including the children to keep the enemy in the house, joins her husband in operating and nursing the enemy soldier back to health, even though the servants desert the house.
- Hana assists Dr. Sadao in operating the soldier in spite of her physical discomfort and hesitation.
- Though it was war time and all hands were needed at the front, the General did not send Sadao with the troops as he is an expert surgeon and the General needed him.
- Sadao tells him about the enemy soldier but he does not take any action as he is self-absorbed and forgets his promise that he would send his private assassins to kill the enemy and remove his body.
- Taking advantage of the general's self-absorption Sadao decides to save the soldier's life. After the soldier is out of danger Dr. Sadao helps him to escape from his house to safety.

SOLVED SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1 Why did the General overlook the matter of the enemy soldier?

Ans. The General had an attack and according to Dr. Sadao he could not survive the second attack.

So if Dr. Sadao was arrested, no other doctor was capable of performing the operation. So for furthering his selfish needs he overlooked the matter and promise to send his assassins. But he was so self-absorbed, he forgot about it.

2. Why was Dr. Sadao not sent with the troops?

Ans. The General thought that Dr. Sadao is indispensable to his life and can save anyone as he is very skilled. He also does not trust anyone except Dr. Sadao. So he was not sent with troops.

3. How was the plan of the prisoner's escape executed in the story?

Ans. The prisoner was successful in his escape only because of the right guidance and help from Dr. Sadao. He provided him his boat, gave him food, made him wear Japanese cloths and also helped him in comfortable sail to a nearby island.

4. Why did the servants leave Dr. Sadao's house?

Ans. They were not in favour of keeping the American prisoner hidden in the house. They also did not want Dr. Sadao to save his life as he was the enemy. Also, if the police come to know of it, all their lives would be in danger. So they left the house.

5. Who was the white man whom Dr. Sadao and Hana found?

Ans. The white man was an American soldier as evident from his clothes. They guess that he was a prisoner of war from his cap that said 'Navy Seals'

6. "But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward". What was the reward?

Ans. The "reward" was the escape of the enemy. Dr. Sadao searched the spot of black in the twilight sea that night to see if the man was still there but there was no light. Obviously the man had gone. The escape of the prisoner was his reward.

7. What message does "The Enemy" give?

Ans. This is a great lesson in humanism. Dr. Sadao by nursing his country's enemy proves true to his professional ethics.

8. Why do you think Hana believes that the prisoner of war is a menace 'living or dead'?

9. What is the observation of the American professor about a doctor's ability?

10. What was the help that the General offered to Sadao to get rid of the prisoner?

11. Why was Sadao not able to talk to the General about the assassins for quite some time?

12. Why did Sadao feel that General was in the palm of his hand?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How did Dr. Sadao rise above narrow prejudices of race & country to human being in need?

Value Points :-

Dr. Sadao- a renowned Japanese surgeon- believed in professional loyalty & human kindness saw an American wounded soldier in a terrible condition on beach in front of his house-took him his house with the help of his wife Hana-successfully removed the bullet-nursed him back to his life-thus rose above racialism.

As a patriot, reported the prisoner's presence at his house to the Army General. The general decided to have him killed-he grew vestless to see him & finally decided to help him to escape from his house-gave him boats & instructed him how he could safely escape.

2. Do you think the doctor's final solution to the problem was the best possible one in the circumstances?

Value Points :-

It is the best possible option-general had promised him that he would get the soldier quietly killed through his private assassins-but he forgot to get rid of- Dr. Sadao could do nothing-he wanted to get rid of the wounded soldier-as the servants had left the house-and news could be spread-so he devised his own plan to get the soldier off to the nearby island-managed his boat for the soldier and instructed him. The white soldier took leave of him and followed his instruction and managed to escape safely. Thus all this proves that it was the only way out for Dr. Sadao to the problem.

3. There are moments in life when we have to make hard choice between our role as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to the Enemy.

Value Points :-

Dr. Sadao encounters with the dilemma-to live as private individual whose moral and ethical responsibility is to save the soldier. So as a doctor and as an individual his first job is to save the man-takes ethical responsibility, he risks his life, fame and social status- takes him to his house and makes efforts to save him.

But his other side-sense of patriotism and nationalism also involves a report to police, takes the general in confidence, and plans to get the enemy soldier killed but later helps the soldier in escaping. Thus Dr. Sadao's personality is displayed as patriotic citizen.

4. Do you justify the hard choice that Dr. Sadao made between his national loyalty and personal professional morality? Why?

SHOULD WIZARD HIT MOMMY?

BY JOHN UPDIKE

Gist of the Lesson

- The chapter captures a very sensitive reaction of a small girl to an important aspect of the story that her father narrates to her.
- The story reveals the worldview of a little child to a difficult moral question that shows her mental or psychological richness.
- Jo is a little girl of four years. She is engaged in a story session with her father.
- Jack, the father used to tell her a story every evening and especially for Saturday naps.
- Jo feels herself involved with the characters and the happenings.
- The story always had an animal with a problem. The old owl advises him to visit the wizard who would solve the problem.
- Skunk's problem- he smelt bad, visited the wizard who changed it to the smell of roses.
- Skunk's mother was unhappy with it and took him back to the wizard. She hit the wizard and asked him to restore the original smell. She wanted her son to keep his identity of a skunk and wanted his friends to accept him for himself. So the wizard changes him back to smell like a skunk.
- After hearing the story of Roger Skunk Jo was not happy with the ending.
- She wants her father to change the ending. She wants the wizard to hit the mother back and let Roger smell like rose which her father was not ready to do to establish his authority. This raises a difficult moral question whether parents possess the right to impose their will on their children.
- Her father finds it difficult to answer her question.

SOLVED QUESTIONS

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. How did the wizard help Roger Skunk?

Ans. The wizard was moved by Roger Skunk's story. On finding his magic wand - chanted some magic words & granted that Roger should smell like roses.

2. How did Roger Skunk's Mommy react when he went home smelling of roses?

Ans. Roger Skunk began to smell like roses. Mommy asked about the smell - Roger Skunk replied that the wizard had made him smell like that mother did not like that and asked Roger to come with her.

3. How did the Skunk's mother get him his old smell back?

Ans. Mother was furious to learn about the wizard who changed the original smell. She immediately visited the wizard and hit him on his head and asked him to restore the original smell.

4. Who is Jo? How has she changed in the past two years? How did Jo behave in 'reality phase'?

Ans. Jo is Jack's 4 year old daughter. She was no more a patient listener. She did not take things for granted and tried to see things in her own way.

5. How does Jo want the story to end and why?

Ans. Jo understood Roger Skunk's need to enjoy the company of his friends; therefore wanted that the wizard should take Roger's side.

2. VOODOO BANG, AN ENGLISH TUTOR.COM P63

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What different queries does the Secretary of the Examinations Board make from the Governor before conducting the examination for Evans and why?
2. Who do you think made a call regarding a correction in the question paper? What did it really want to convey?
3. Who is Carter? What does the Governor want him to go and why?
4. How did the Governor manage to reach Evans in the hotel?
5. Do you think that the father in the story is, more or less, an alter ego of the author, as far as the child is concerned?
6. How do you interpret the expression 'This was a new phase, just this last month, a reality phase'?
7. Why in your opinion, is the smell of roses obnoxious for the mother Skunk?
8. 'That was a long story.' What does Clare want to convey through this assertion?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why an adult's perspective of life is different from that of a child's as given in the story?

Suggested Value points

An adult's perceptive on life is always different - maturity of a person becomes his barometer to judge right & wrong. For him/her everything that occurs has a message. In the story, Jack at no level accepts Jo's worldview that wizard should hit Mommy.

On the other hand - a child's perceptive is limited to his activities - child's perceptive completely different - they love 'action' more than thought - so does Jo in the story - she would delight in hearing the story of Roger Skunk's Mommy being hit by the wizard.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is Jack's way of telling stories? Why is it appealing?
2. What does Jack want to convey through the story of Roger Skunk?
3. How is Jack's childhood interwoven in the story of the stinky skunk?
4. How does Jack assert his authority as a father over his daughter?
5. What part of the story did Jack himself enjoy the most? Why?

'ON THE FACE OF IT'

BY SESAN HILL

GIST OF THE LESSON

- The play depicts beautifully yet grimly the sad world of the physically impaired.
- It is not the actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment that trouble a disabled man but the attitude of the people around him.
- Two physically impaired people, Mr. Lamb with a tin leg and Derry with a burnt face, strike a band of friendship.
- Derry is described as a young boy shy, withdrawn and defiant.
- People tell him inspiring stories to console him, no one will ever kiss him except his mother that too on the other side of his face
- Mentions about a woman telling that only a mother can love such a face.
- Mr. Lamb revives the almost dead feelings of Derry towards life.
- He motivates him to think positively about life, changes his mind set about people and things.
- How a man locked himself as he was scared-a picture fell off the wall and got killed.
- Everything appears to be the same but is different- Ex. of bees and weeds
- The gate of the garden is always open.
- Derry is inspired and promises to come back.
- Derry's mother stops him but he is adamant saying if he does not go now it would be never.
- When he comes back he sees lamb lying on the ground
- It is ironical that when he searches a new foothold to live happily, he finds Mr. Lamb dead.
- In this way the play depicts the heart rendering life of physically disabled people with their loneliness, aloofness and alienation.
- But at the same time it is almost a true account of the people who don't let a person live happily.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. Who is Derry? What self-opinion does he hold?

Ans. Derek, also called Derry was a young boy of 14. He was a quiet, shy and defiant boy. One side of his face was totally burnt by acid. He was a victim of inferiority complex.

Q2. How does Lamb try to remove the baseless fears of Derry?

Ans. Mr. Lamb influences Derry by his optimistic philosophy. He advised him not to give attention on other's comments, try to be internally pure and strong and eliminate the negativity of life.

Q3. What did Derry's mothers think of Mr. Lamb?

OR

Why did Derry's **mother** stop him, going to Mr. Lamb?

Ans. Derry's mother does not hold a good opinion about Mr. Lamb. She has heard many things about the old man, therefore stops Derry to visit Mr. Lamb.

Q5. Why does Derry go back to Mr. Lamb in the end?

Ans. Actually Mr. Lamb has taught Derry, the most important lesson of life. He advises him not to care about the comments made by others. He now no longer cares about his burned face or looks. He is more concerned what he thinks and feels what he wants to hear and see. He knows if he does not go back, he will never go back. Therefore he returns back.

Q6. Comment on the moral value of the play?

Ans. The moral of the play is very loud and clear. The physically disabled should focus on the brighter side of life and not to brood over the shortcomings. The society should accept them as they are and expand their social interactions in this way they can fight out the loneliness, depression and disappointment.

Q7. Mr. Lamb says to Derry; 'it's all relative, beauty and the beast', what essentially does he mean by that?

Ans. Mr. Lamb tells Derry that it all depends upon people's individual perceptions. A thing is a beauty for one while that beauty may be a beast for others.

Extra questions for practice

1. What is the attitude of Mr. Lamb to the small boy who comes to the garden?
2. "I'm not afraid. People are afraid of me," says Derry. What do people think on seeing his face? How do they react then?
3. Why does Lamb's argument fail to console Derry?
4. What makes Derry think that the old man is always alone and miserable? What does he tell the old man?
5. What argument does Derry give to convince his mother why he wants to go the old man's garden?
6. How does Mr. Lamb explain his concept of the world?
7. What does the author want to communicate through the incident of the buzzing/humming of bees?
8. Do you think Mr. Lamb was equally lonely and dejected? Why / Why not?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Q1.** The actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities. What is the kind of behavior that the person expects from others?

Value Points:

Actual pain or inconvenience caused by physical impairment is often less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities – Physical disabilities – caused pain once in life time – But after it this physical disability – set chain for other actions – caused mental agony – -called Lamey lamb. mothers were afraid of sending the children because of his tin leg.

-Derry -burnt face –everyone pities him-only a mother could love that face -Both Mr. Lamb and Derry have been the victims of verbal atrocities – -Mr. Lamb takes comments lightly –

-But Derry does not have the attitude like Mr. Lamb – -Attitude of the people needs to be changed - Do not want sympathy but accept them as they are -Wounds get healed –but bitter comments never forgotten leaves a scar

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What is the theme of the play? How has it been worked out?
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry.
3. What is the bond that unites old Mr. Lamb and Derry the young boy? How does the old man inspire the small boy?
4. Comment on the appropriateness of the title.
5. The play is full of psychological revelations about the adolescent psyche. Discuss

EVANS TRIES AN O-LEVEL

BY OLIN DEXTER

GIST OF THE LESSON

- Evans a kleptomaniac was imprisoned thrice and all the time escaped from the prison. Now he was in the prison for the 4th time and all of a sudden developed curiosity to appear in O-level German Examination which also was an effort to break the prison.
- The Governor takes utmost care to see that he would not be fooled. Every care was taken to make Evans prepare for the exam.
- He was tutored by a German tutor for 6 months. The day before the exam the tutor wishes good luck but makes it clear that he had hardly any 'chance of getting through.' But Evans gives an ironical twist to the tutor's observation by saying "I may surprise everybody."
- On the day of the exam Jackson and Stephens visited Evans cell and took away everything that may help him injure himself. Evans was insisted to take away the hat but he refused saying that it was a lucky charm.
- Evans cell was bugged so that the Governor could himself listen to each and every conversation in the cell. The invigilator Rev. S. McLeery too was searched and left him to complete the task. Stephen sitting outside the cell every now and then peeped into the cell.
- The exam went on smoothly. Stephen escorted the invigilator to the main gate and took a look into Evans cell and found the invigilator (actually Evans) wounded, informed the Governor. The latter was to be hospitalized but informed that he was all right and asked them to follow Evans. Thus he escaped the prison.
- When the invigilator was not found in the hospital they went to the residence of Rev. S. McLeery only to find him 'bound and gagged in his study in Broad Street'. He has been there, since 8.15 a.m. Now everything was clear to the Governor.
- Evans escaped the prison the 4th time. But by taking the hint from the question paper the Governor reached the hotel where Evans was and captured him and came to know how he planned his escape and said that his game was over. Evans surrenders himself to the Governor.
- The Governor tells Evans they would meet soon.
- The moment they are rid of the Governor, the so called prison officer-a friend of Evans-unlocks the handcuffs and asks the driver to move fast and Evans tells him to turn to Newbury. Evans, thus, has the last laugh.

SOLVED SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What kind of a person was Evans?

Ans. Evans was a 'Kleptomaniac' and had broken jail thrice. He was a master planner and was very sociable. He knew how to keep intimate contacts with people. In the words of the Governor, he was a pleasant sort of chap with no record of violence.

2. Do you think Evans' statement, 'I may surprise everybody,' has some special significance?

Ans. Evans seems to be telling his teacher that he may surprise everybody by doing well in the exam, but in reality it is a forewarning that he is going to jolt everybody by his master-minded perfect escape-plan.

3. Why did the Governor instruct Jackson to search McLeery?

Ans. The Governor asked Jackson to search McLeery, the invigilator, just in case he has brought something unwittingly which might prove to be a weapon that Evans could use and try escaping from prison.

4. Why did Evans drape a blanket round his shoulder? What did Stephens think about it?

Ans. In between intervals of Stephens' peeping into the cell, Evans was changing into the Parson's dress to look like McLeery. So, in order to conceal his effort to keep them in place, Evans draped a blanket round his shoulder. Stephens was misled into believing that Evans was feeling cold.

5. In spite of strict vigilance, how did Evans' friend manage to give the material for disguise in the cell?

Ans. Despite all vigilance, Evans' friend disguised as McLeery, the invigilator, managed to smuggle the disguised material into the cell. He came wearing two parson's dresses with black fronts and collars. Apart from it he also brought an extra pair of spectacles. All this was passed on to Evans when Stephens' vigilant eyes were away from the peep-hole.

6. Who were the two visitors Evans received in the morning of the day of his exam?

Value Points: The two visitors --Mr. Jackson, the senior prison officer of the prison's D Wing-- man called Stephens, who had been only recently recruited.

7. What made Evans clip his hair short?

Value Points: Evans' escape prison-- duplicate McLeery (invigilate during the O-level German exam) had short hair. In order to give a practical shape to their plan Evans' hair had to look like McLeery's, hence Evans clipped them short.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What different queries does the Secretary of the Examinations Board make from the Governor before conducting the examination for Evans and why?
2. Who do you think made a call regarding a correction in the question paper? What did it really want to convey?
3. Who is Carter? What does the Governor want him to do and why?
4. How did the Governor manage to reach Evans in the hotel?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What impression do you form of 'Evans the Break'?
2. Comment on the ending of the play 'Evan Tries An O-Level'.
3. How far do you agree with the observation: "He was just another good-for-a-giggle, gullible governor that was all"?
4. Do you think the title 'Evans Tries an O-Level' is appropriate? Give reasons in support of your answer.
5. How did the Governor manage to reach Evans in the hotel?
6. Who do you think is the driver of the van who eventually takes Evans to freedom?

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. What were the precautions taken for the smooth conduct of the examination?

Since Evans had already escaped from the jail on three earlier occasions, there was always a lurking fear that he might make another attempt to escape. Therefore all possible precautions were taken to see that the O-level German examination arranged in the prison did not provide him with any means of escape. The Governor personally monitored all security arrangements and heavily guarded the Recreation Block from where he expected the prisoner to make another break.

Evans cell was thoroughly checked by Jackson to ward off the possibility of the presence of an incriminating material which might hamper the smooth conduct of the examination. His nailscissors, nail-file and razor were taken away; and to keep a strict watch on the activities of the cell during the examination, the Governor got it bugged. A police officer Stephens was posted to keep a constant vigil on his activities. The invigilator, too was frisked to make sure that he carried no objectionable material with him.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

BY ZITKALA SA & BAMA

GIST OF THE LESSON

PART - I

- The first part deals with the account of Simmons, An American Indian, who fought against the prejudices of the society against American Indians.
- She describes her experiences on her first day at the Carlisle Indian School.
- The customs and rules of the place were strange and new to her.
- She was forced to wear clothes that were considered undignified in her culture
- At breakfast, she was embarrassed as she did not know the routine of the place.
- When she comes to know that they were planning to cut her hair, she protests by hiding under the bed, even though she knew it was futile. In her culture, it was the cowards whose hair was shingled.
- She felt like an animal driven by a herder.

PART - II

- The second part is an excerpt from the autobiography 'Karukku' by Bama – a Tamil Dalit.
- She was in her third grade when she becomes aware of the indignities that the lower caste people face.
- She happens to see an elderly person from her community abase himself in front of a higher caste person as he was not supposed to touch the food that he was ordered to fetch for the landlord.
- Later, her brother explains to her that the incident was not at all funny as she initially thought, but very pathetic. The people from the lower caste were treated as untouchables.
- She was deeply saddened and decided to study hard to overcome discrimination.

Short Answer Questions with Sample Answers

1. What were the indignities that the new girls were subjected to at Carlisle Indian School?

Ans. The girls were scrutinized thoroughly and supervised by a grey-haired woman. They were made to wear tight fitting immodest clothes and stiff shoes. During breakfast a systematic and regimental discipline was observed. The girls with long hair had to get them shingled and they had to submit to the authorities who were strong, unfeeling and cruel.

2. On learning that her long hair would be cut the author decided to struggle first. What does this tell us about the author?

Ans. The author knows that she could never prevail against the authorities, yet she struggles against the injustice. Her mother had told her that only cowards had their hair shingled and she firmly believed that she was not one. To prove her point as well as raise her voice against the indignity, she struggles.

3. Why did Bama take half hour to an hour to cover the distance to her home that would normally take only ten minutes?

Ans. Bama would dawdle along, watching all the entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets. She would gaze at the shops and the bazaar enjoying the street scenes and so she would take at least an hour to reach home.

4. What was the incident that made Bama laugh as well as feel so provoked and angry?

Ans. Bama saw an elderly man of her street carrying a packet of 'Vadais' by the strings and walking gingerly, holding the parcel away from his body. Bama found his manner of carrying the parcel very funny. But her brother explained to her the higher caste people believed that if the lower caste people touched the parcel it would be polluted. That's why the elder was carrying it in that manner. This provokes and angers Bama.

Short Answer Questions for Practice:

1. Zitkala-Sa's friend Judewin tells her that it is better to submit to authority. What kind of a person do you think Judewin was?
2. Why did Zitkala-Sa start crying in the dining hall?
3. Why does the author feel 'Spirit tore itself in struggling for its lost freedom, all was useless'?
4. 'Now I was only one of many little animals driven by a herder!' Explain.
5. When and how did Bama come to know of the discrimination faced by the marginalized people?
6. Why didn't the author want to her hair to be cut short?

Long Answer Questions:

1. Had Bama not been guided properly by her elder brother regarding untouchability, she would have grown up into a complex-torn woman. Do you agree? Justify.

Value points:

Annan an understanding and considerate elder brother – guides her properly – explains the social stigma of untouchability – Elder carrying Vadai not comical but pathetic – victim of social prejudice – Bama angry and provoked – Frustration might have lead to open and futile revolt – Timely advice of Annan guides her in right direction – He believe that people of their community should study and outshine others to earn respect of society. Bama follows his timely advice and grows up to be a balanced and well respected individual of the society.

Long Answer questions for Practice:

1. Bama's brother's right advice at the right time helped her progress in academics thereby throwing away the chain of untouchability of which dalits like her are victims of. Justify with reference to 'Memories of Childhood'
2. Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa are victims of discrimination that is practiced in the society. What kind of experience did both of them go through?
3. What are the similarities in the lives of Bama and Zitkala though they belong to different countries?
4. Describe how Zitkala tried in vain to save her hair from being cut. Why did she want to save her hair?
5. Does the twin stories hold any relevance today? Analyse with reference to the incidents in the story and the present society.