
PROSE

The Eyes are not Here- **Ruskin Bond**

Narrate the instances in 'The Eyes are not Here' which indicate that both the narrator and the girl are blind. How do they try to mislead each other?

OR

Attempt a summary of 'The Eyes are not Here' highlighting the climax in it.

Ruskin Bond's 'The Eyes are not Here' is an interesting story with a twist in the end. In this story, we find that the narrator is travelling by train. He is alone in his compartment and at one station, a girl gets in. The narrator is completely blind, but he senses the presence of the girl and tries to pretend that he is not blind. Anticipating that the girl must be good-looking, he starts conversation with her. The girl startles at his voice and says that she did not know anyone else was in the compartment. Actually, the girl is also blind but she too, tries to hide this fact.

The narrator gradually builds up the conversation and remarks that the girl had an 'interesting' face. At this, the girl laughs and says that she liked the compliment. She was tired of people telling her she was beautiful. She too, makes a vague remark, calling the narrator a gallant young man. The narrator pretends to look out of the window and appreciate the landscape.

Soon, the train reaches Saharanpur and the girl gets down. She bids the narrator good-bye. After a while, another man gets into the compartment and reveals the fact that the girl who just left had beautiful eyes, but she was completely blind.

This revelation at the end of the story, gives the story a complete twist. We can imagine the plight of the narrator after hearing this. Both the girl and the narrator were blind and instead of telling the truth, they kept misleading each other. Had they not done so, there could have been a beginning of some relationship among them.

The Romance of a Busy Broker- **O. Henry**

Bring out the absent mindedness of Henry Maxwell in the story 'The Romance of a Busy Broker'.

OR

Attempt a summary of the story 'The Romance of a Busy Broker'.

O. Henry is a master story teller and his stories are famous for twists in the end. 'The Romance of a Busy Broker' is one such humorous story.

Henry Maxwell is a busy share broker in New York. He has a secretary called Miss Leslie but recently, he has asked his clerk Mr. Pitcher to find a new secretary. Accordingly, Mr. Pitcher takes a young lady and

tries to introduce her as a candidate for the secretary's job. To this, Henry replies that he had never asked for a new secretary and asks pitcher not to disturb him. It is an extremely busy day for Henry Maxwell but at the back of his mind, he is thinking of proposing marriage to Miss Leslie. During the lunch hour when things slow down a bit, Henry, intoxicated by the smell of Miss Leslie's perfume, decides to propose to her immediately. He dashes into her cabin and straightway asks her whether she would become his wife. He asks her to give a quick answer as he had no time.

At first, Miss Leslie is surprised by Henry's behavior, but then she suddenly realizes something and with tears of affection rolling down her cheeks, she puts her arm around Henry's neck and reminds him that they were married to each other only the last evening and that the business had driven everything out of Henry's head.

Thus, the charming absent mindedness of this busy broker of New York makes us smile.

Bores

- **E.V. Lucas**

Who, according to E. V. Lucas, is a true bore? How did the author's friend avoid bores?

OR

"Bores thrive because of the incurable weakness and benignancy of human nature"- Discuss.

E. V. Lucas, in his essay 'Bores', tries to give us an account of the boring people and the reasons they flourish. With gentle humour and amusing playfulness, the author discusses the problems of bores and tries to suggest ways to avoid them

At the outset, the author says that everyone is a bore at some time or the other because everyone has a fixed view to communicate. However, there are some people who are typically boring without being aware of it. Bores, as a rule, are always bores. Egotism is their foundation stone. They are always happy often have a lot to tell about themselves. They think that they are always at the centre of everything and are eager to tell this to others. They often tell stories about their adventures and the things that seem interesting to them without thinking about the other person.

Of all bores, the most repelling specimen is the one who comes close up. Lucas calls him 'a buttonholding bore'. Then, there is a bore who begins to tell a funny story and keeps going on even when you tell him that you have heard that story before.

One of the author's acquaintances had found a remedy against bores. He had cultivated the habit of thinking truthfully aloud in the presence of the bore so that he knows he is boring the other person. The author says that we should either cultivate this habit or learn to tolerate the bores, because unless we become downright offensive, the bores will keep flourishing because they take undue advantage of our kindness and benignancy.

The Lost Child

-Mulk Raj Anand

Write about the demands made by the child to his parents. How did his parents react?

Mulk Raj Anand's story 'The Lost Child' displays the ardent affection of a child for his parents whom he regards more valuable than all the attractive acquisitions of the earth. While roaming in the fair with his parents, the child wanted various things that allured him immensely. But when he loses contact with his parents, his former demands become unimportant and he longs only for a reunion with his parents.

While roaming in the fair watching all the fun, the child gets attracted to various things and demands them. First, he asks his parents for a toy to which his father reacts sternly but his mother consoles him. He then asks for a 'burfi' but knowing that his demand would be rejected, he moves on quietly. Next, he sees a flower-seller selling garlands. He demands a garland but again moves on in disappointment. He then sees a juggler playing tricks and stands there watching him. Then the child comes across a roundabout and wishes for a ride. But to his surprise, he sees that his parents are not around and that he has lost contact with them. A kind man sees him crying and tries to help him. He takes the child around and offers him all that he wanted- first the toy, then the sweets, then the garland and finally the roundabout. But the child is in no mood for all this and keeps asking only for his father and mother.

Thus all other attractions fade for the child when he loses contact with his parents.

Each is Great in his own Place

-Swami Vivekananda

In "Each is Great in his Own Place", how did the birds help those who had taken shelter under the tree? What was the comment of the Sanyasin on their sacrifice?

In the lesson "Each is Great in his Own Place", Swami Vivekananda points out that the concept of duty, morality and ideal vary in human life according to the state of life and the circumstances. Hence, we should not judge men by the same standard every time. All the stages of life are important and a householder who performs his duties well does not essentially differ from a Sanyasin who has renounced everything and devoted himself to God. To illustrate his point, Swami Vivekananda narrates a story.

A King asks a Sanyasin –"Which is the greater man among the householder and a Sanyasin?" To this, the Sanyasin replies that each is great in his own place. To prove his point he asks the King to follow him. Both of them reach a certain kingdom where the princess was choosing her husband. The princess sees a certain young Sanyasin and immediately likes him and puts the garland around his neck. The Sanyasin throws the garland away saying that he was a Sanyasin and to him marriage meant nothing. Saying this, the Sanyasin goes away and the princess follows him so that she could bring the Sanyasin back. Our king and the other Sanyasin also follow the princess. The princess loses her way in the forest. The King and the other Sanyasin come to help her and all three of them take shelter under a tree. On that tree there lived two birds along with their three children. Seeing that guests have come to their place, the male bird decides to sacrifice himself in the fire so that the guests could be fed. Seeing that this would not be enough for the three people, the female bird also jumps in the fire. At the end, their three children also sacrifice their bodies to satisfy the hunger of their guests.

Our Sanyasin then points out to the King that each is great in his own place. If one wants to renounce the world, the renunciation should be like the young Sanyasin and if one wants to be a householder, one should follow the ideal of the birds who sacrifice their lives for their guests.

Thus, Swami Vivekananda illustrates his point that each is great in his own place.

The Postmaster

-Ravindranath Tagore

What did the postmaster say about meeting and parting? Write, with reference to the story how 'The Postmaster' presents a touching story.

'The Postmaster' by Rabindranath Tagore, is a touching tale of the sorrow of separation between the postmaster and Ratan, an orphan girl. The Postmaster gets transferred to a small and remote village called Ulapur. He finds the village a boring place where he has nothing much to do. During his stay, he established cordial relations with Ratan, an orphan girl. Ratan starts doing small jobs in his house and even looks after the postmaster in his illness. She affectionately calls him 'Dada'. In return, the postmaster teaches Ratan to read and write. He is not happy with his posting at all and finds life in the small village absolutely desolate and miserable. So he applies for a transfer but his application is rejected. He decides to resign and leave the village. This news comes as a shock for Ratan. She cannot believe that her Dada is never going to come back. The pain of parting is profound for her.

As the postmaster gets into the boat for his voyage to his native place, he ponders on the meetings and parting in life- including the final parting, Death from where no one returns. It occurs to him that the meeting and parting of people in life is just like the coming together of two logs of wood in an ocean which come together for a moment and then part again. Matthew Arnold has also says in one of his poems:

"Like drift- wood spars that meet and pass upon the boundless ocean plain,

So on the sea of life Alas! Man meets man and quits again "

How I Became a Public Speaker

-G. B. Shaw

Write about Shaw's journey as a public speaker.

'How I Became a Public Speaker' is an interesting account of George Bernard Shaw's sincere and earnest efforts to become a good public speaker. Shaw begins by telling us, that he was afraid of speaking in public when he first went to the meeting of the Zetetical Society with his friend Lecky. He had, in fact, never spoken in public till then. He did not know a thing about public meetings or their order. He describes himself as "...an arrant coward, nervous and self-conscious to a heartbreaking degree." In the meeting of the Zetetical Society, he spoke for the first time in public but he thought that he had made a fool of himself. So he pledged to join the society and go every week and speak in every debate. He also started attending various other public meetings and spared no chance of speaking in public. Shaw joined a few other societies like the New Shakespeare Society and Browning Society in order to get an exposure in public speaking.

All these efforts finally paid off and Shaw gradually mastered the art of oratory. People started inviting him for lectures on various topics. They even paid him for his lectures but Shaw accepted no payment. "My technique as a speaker", says Shaw "was acquired by practice alone."

At last, there came a time when Shaw used to get so many invitations to lecture that he could not do justice to all of them. So he started speaking on special occasions only. This continued till 1941, when he finally retired from personal performances in his eighty-fifth year.

Prospects of Democracy in India

-Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

In the lesson 'Prospects of Democracy in India', Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar throws light on the social situation and democracy in India. He begins by asking the question whether there is democracy in India. He emphatically asserts that being a republic or having a parliamentary system of government does not necessarily mean that India is a democratic country. There is a deeply rooted caste-system in India. Democracy cannot flourish as long as this system exists because democracy is a mode of associated living. All the people in a democratic country should have common goals and common ambitions. This is not possible if caste-system exists because caste system is based on heterogeneity and inequality. The evil influence of caste system can be seen in every sphere of life. Due to caste system, there is a division of the society into two groups - masters and slaves. There can be no real democracy until the caste system is abolished.

In the opinion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, education can resolve this problem up to some extent. If the people from the lower cast get education, they will be able to resist the caste system. On the other hand if you give education to that section of the society which has a vested interest in maintaining the caste system, it will do no good to democracy in India. In fact, it will put democracy in greater danger.

Hence, it is important to educate the lower strata of society who are interested in blowing up the caste system. It is only after the abolition of caste system that there will be true democracy in India.

POEMS

The World is Too Much with Us**-William Wordsworth.**

Bring out the theme of the poem 'The World is Too Much with Us' to show how it remains relevant even today.

The World is Too Much with Us is a sonnet by William Wordsworth which he wrote when Industrial Revolution was in full swing. The materialism that this revolution brought with it, was the reason for the poet to compose this poem.

The poet laments the fact that everywhere we go, the materialistic thoughts accompany us. We waste our powers in getting and spending money. We have no time to appreciate Nature which exists for us. We have given our hearts to the sordid materialism. The beauties of Nature like the sea shining under a bright moon, the howling winds and sleeping flowers do not move us.

The poet laments this fact and expresses a wish that instead of being a part of this kind of society, he would rather become a pagan so that someday, standing on the sea-shore, he can see the sea-god Proteus rising from the sea or hear the old sea-god Triton blow his horn.

Thus, the poet expresses his anger and sarcasm for a society which is insensitive to the beauties of Nature. Though written in 1802, this poem is still relevant because the present society is also running after material gain neglecting the beauties of Nature.

Once Upon a Time**-Gabriel Okara**

Summarize the poem Once Upon a Time highlighting the message it imparts.

The poem 'Once Upon a Time' by the Nigerian poet Gabriel Okara explains what happens when the traditional African culture meets the onslaught of the Western way of life. This poem is about the artificiality in the human relationship prevailing in the present-day society.

The poet finds the past better than the present. He begins by saying that there was a time when people laughed with their hearts and eyes. Now they laugh only with their teeth. In the past, they shook hands sincerely but now they shake hands just out of formality while their other hand keeps searching your pocket. Words like 'Feel at home' and 'Come again' are but empty words for them which they utter without meaning them. In other words, there is no sincerity in expressing emotions now. This poem is addressed by the poet to his son. He tells his son that in this world of artificiality, he has learnt to wear different faces at different places and learnt to laugh and shake hands without emotions.

In the end, the poet longs to be what he used to be in the past. He wants his son to show him how to laugh wholeheartedly. This desire of the poet to relive the past is, in fact, a yearning for the sincerity, innocence and faithfulness which are absent in today's world.

If

-Rudyard Kipling

What, according to Kipling, are the qualities needed to be a man?

The poem 'If' by Rudyard Kipling is written from the perspective of a father who is imparting advice to his son. This poem was written by Kipling for his son John. In this poem, Kipling expounds the significance of virtue and self-control in life.

The poet says that if you can keep your head while those around you lose theirs; if you can trust yourself when others doubt you; if you can be patient and not lose your temper; if you can handle being lied about but not lie yourself, and being hated but not hating yourself; if you do not look too good or talk too wise:

If you can dream but not let those dreams cloud your reason; if you can think but still take action; if you can deal with both triumph and disaster equally; if you can handle it when others twist your truths into lies, or rebuild the things you have devoted your life to once again:

If you can take all of your winnings and risk them in one uncertain attempt to lose them all and then keep it a secret; if you can use your heart and muscles and nerves to hold on even when the only thing left is your Will :

If you can remain virtuous among people and talk with Kings without becoming pretentious; if you can handle foes and friends with ease; if you see that men count on you but not too much; if you can fill that unforgiving moment of anger with patience:

Then you have all the Earth and everything upon it, and, as the speaker exultantly ends, "you'll be a Man, my son!"

Success is Counted Sweetest

-Emily Dickinson

Attempt a summary of the poem success is counted sweetest.

In the poem 'Success is Counted Sweetest', Emily Dickinson shows how success is valued by those who have longed for it and toiled hard to achieve it.

Emily Dickinson says that just as one requires the sorest need to understand the importance of nectar, the importance of success is also understood only by those who have failed in life. Soldiers holding the flag of victory high and celebrating victory in their purple uniform cannot understand and appreciate the joy of victory as that soldier who is lying on the field- defeated, worn out and dying and on whose ears are falling the sounds of the drums of victory.

Hence, only the defeated can understand the value of victory and only those who have failed can count success as the sweetest.

Laugh and Be Merry

-John Masefield

Why does John Masefield say that man should laugh and be merry?

John Masefield, in his poem 'Laugh and Be Merry' calls on people to be happy and to liberally scatter happiness among all. We should laugh and be merry in our lives because time flies fast and the life is short. So, we should try to be happy and make the world happy and better with a song. We should not be afraid of striking a blow in the teeth of a wrong. We must be proud that we belong to that age old creed called humanity.

We must be happy because God, in his infinite kindness, created Heaven and Earth for spreading joy. He created them with celestial music and filled the wine of His mirth into them. We must learn to drink this wine of mirth from the deep blue cup of the sky. We should join the song of the stars and be merry even while battling and struggling. It is important to laugh and enjoy the feeling of togetherness. This world is like a beautiful inn where we have come for a temporary halt.

So we should be happy and spread happiness among others till the game of life is played with music and lights on.

The Impossible Dream

-Joe Darion

What advice does Joe Darion imparts in his poem?

OR

Summarize the views of Joe Darion as put forth in 'The Impossible Dream'

In his poem 'The Impossible Dream', Joe Darion says that low aim is a crime. We must pursue great aims and have mighty ambitions. It is our duty to dream the impossible dream and to fight the unbeatable foe. We must fight to uphold what is right and good without raising any doubts or questions.

According to the poet, we must possess guts to set right the unpardonable misdeeds. Our love must be pure and chaste. Even if our arms are tired, we should try to reach for the unreachable star, no matter how far it may be. We must be ready to march into hell for a heavenly cause.

The poet says that if you remain true to this quest for excellence, you will die with a calm and peaceful heart and the world will know that here was a man who, instead of all the scars and wounds that he sustained, fought and struggled with all his courage to make the impossible, possible.

Idioms and Phrases

- 1. See off**
Hari went to the railway station to see his friend off.
- 2. Make pretence of**
It is not proper to make pretence of being rich when one is not.
- 3. For any length of time**
I can listen to my favourite music for any length of time.
- 4. Lean out**
Children should not lean out of the window of a car, bus or a train.
- 5. Get down**
My friend got down at Shegaon to meet me.
- 6. In front of**
My house is in front of the railway station.
- 7. Tired of**
I am tired of listening to the same political speeches by our leaders.
- 8. Belong to**
I belong to a family of doctors.
- 9. Plunged into**
Shrikant plunged into his preparations for IIT entrance exams as soon as the vacations started.
- 10. Lay in heaps**
In the post office, letters and parcels lay in heaps.
- 11. Prompt as clockwork**
The clerk in our college is prompt as clockwork.
- 12. As long as**
Indians need not worry as long as they are guarded by their brave soldiers.
- 13. Instead of**
Instead of going to the college, Jagdish went to see a cricket match.
- 14. Long ago**
It was long ago when I saw my friend for the first time.
- 15. Overcome with surprise**
Everybody overcame with surprise when I told them that I had topped the university exams.

16. Look upon

If you work hard, you will be looked upon with respect.

17. Beyond question

Corruption is, beyond question, India's most glaring problem.

18. At variance with

These two editions of the same book seem to be at variance with each other.

19. Confide in

My friend Raghu always confides in me.

20. Take refuge in

The Chennai flood victims had to take refuge in tents.

21. Deal with

If one has the will power, it is not difficult to deal with the problems in life.

22. Capable of

India is capable of winning the cricket world cup once again.

23. Refer to

When I say my team, I am, of course referring to the Indian team.

24. Brim over with life and laughter

Children were brimming over with life and laughter on the occasion of Children's Day.

25. Evade capture

The notorious criminal Charles Shobhraj evaded capture for a long time.

26. Heavy as a mass of lead

My feet had become heavy as a mass of lead while taking leave of my near and dear ones.

27. Lag behind

Girls are no more lagging behind in any walk of life.

28. Saturated with

The sermon of the preacher was saturated with words of wisdom.

29. Abreast of

While preparing for a competitive exam, one should keep abreast of the latest knowledge.

30. Mingled with

People were mingling with each other in the party.

31. Carried away

One should not get carried away by the glitter of the city life.

32. Acquainted with

He was well acquainted with techniques of selling his product.

33. Go in vain

The sacrifice of the martyrs will never go in vain.

34. Compose of

We all are composed of the same stuff.

35. According to

According to my teacher, I need to work hard to succeed in the exams.

36. Settle down

Ravi has settled down in the USA.

37. Pass through

They had to pass through a lot of trouble before they saw good times.

38. Care for

We should care for all the underprivileged sections of the society.

39. Try one's hand at

I have decided to try my hands at music.

40. Call to mind

The performance of Sehwag called to my mind a similar performance by Sachin Tendulkar.

41. Overflow with

On the day of graduation ceremony, the students were overflowing with enthusiasm.

42. A fish out of water

The day was so hot that everyone was feeling like a fish out of water.

43. At any rate

India will not give in to terrorism at any rate.

44. Allude to

The preacher constantly alluded to sacred texts.

45. At proper intervals

Medicines were being given to the patients at proper intervals.

46. Air of impudence

There was an air of impudence in the country for the cricket team after the humiliating loss.

47. Go under fire

Our soldiers never hesitate to go under fire for the safety of the motherland.

48. Carry on amendment

The parliament carried on an amendment in the Lokpal bill.

49. Hold one's tongue

Children were asked to hold their tongue while the elders were talking.

50. Carry out

To carry out a difficult task requires a lot of patience.

51. Afflict with

Terrorism has afflicted many injuries on the world.

52. Accustomed to

Commandos are accustomed to tackle difficult situations.

53. Devote to

Gandhiji was devoted to non-violence.

54. Point of view

Having different points of view should not stop us from being friends with each other.

55. Glaring form

The attacks of 9/11 was terrorism in its most glaring form.

56. At the mercy of

We were at the mercy of God when we were stuck on our way due to landslide.

57. Assign to

The mission to eliminate the terrorists was assigned to the NSG commandos.

58. Different from

Life in the USA is totally different from the life in South Asia.

59. Conceive of

They could conceive of no other plan than to attack the enemy when the enemy struck.

60. On a pittance

The poor labourers were working on a pittance for the most of their lives.