

ENGLISH STUDY MATERIAL

II SEMESTER GENERAL ENGLISH

PROSE

The Doll's House by Katherine Mansfield

Katherine Mansfield is the most popular modernist writer. Her short story 'The Doll's House' reveals multi layers of meaning. But the underlying theme exposes the social evils prevalent then. Social discrimination against the down trodden was the norm in those days.

The Doll's House' mainly deals with the Burnells proud possession. The entire story revolves around the beauty and details of the doll's house. Isabel describes it to their schoolmates, asking them to see it. The main part, however, is the denial of that chance to the Kelveys as they belonged to a poor family. Kezia, the youngest Burnell, gave the Kelveys an opportunity to see their doll's house. It is assumed that even God opens the doll's house calling it as world and visits us with his Angel.

How to avoid foolish opinions by Bertrand Russell

Bertrand Russell is one of the most prominent writers of 20th century England. He is a versatile personality. His writings reflect his varied interests. The present prose work 'How to avoid foolish opinions' deals with a major problem mankind faces.

Foolish opinions trouble a lot. Most of us do not realize what our weakness is. Those who are aware of it, do not know how to avoid it. Here Russell presents a list of ways to avoid foolish opinions. 1. Observation 2. Being ready to reconsider our opinions when opposite opinions result in anger 3. Need to accept the fact that different societies hold different views. 4. Making ample use of psychological imagination and 5. Keeping self esteem within our limitation.

The Night Train at Deoli by Ruskin Bond

Ruskin Bond is one of the greatest writers in Indian writing in English. All his works are rich in themes. They mostly picture the bond between man and nature. He is good at employing simple diction. His credibility lies in his narrative technique.

The narrator lives in Delhi. He loves nature. As he is humane, he always shows concern for others feelings. Being a keen observer, he is emotionally rich. He visits his grandmother's place in summer holidays. He tells us one of his experiences at Deoli railway station, when he was 18. We get an insight into his inner nature here. We see his readiness to help the basket girl whom he finds at the station. The narrator is very much attracted by the innocence of the girl. Since the girl does not appear at the station in his next trip, he reconciles himself to Life's realities.

POETRY

Ode to The West Wind by P.B Shelley

P.B Shelley is one of the prominent romantic poets. His poems are remarkable for their artistic beauty. His poetry contains reformatory and revolutionary ideas. The present poem 'Ode to the west wind' projects the west wind both as the destroyer and the preserver.

The Ode is a master piece in terms of both theme and form. As a poet of revolutionary ideology, Shelley wants reform and revolution to take place. He projects the west wind as the powerful medium of proposed change. As a destroyer, the west wind can blow out the dead leaves. As a preserver, it brings fresh leaves and fragrant blooms. The all powerful West wind can complete 'the mission change' successfully. Imagery and symbolism add a rich colour to the poem. Similes employed are both artistic and suggestive.

Upa Gupta

Upa Gupta is a philosophical poem. Rabindranath Tagore, known as multifaceted and master craftsman, created this thought provoking poem. It narrates two contrasting incidents. They symbolically show the variation between materialism and spiritualism. Here Upagupta and the dancing girl represent these two opposite ideologies.

The poem exposes the impermanence of youth, beauty and wealth. It highlights the universal love as the lasting grace. It also advocates simple living and high thinking. It emphasizes selfless service. It asserts that inner beauty outlives physical beauty. Modern man yearns for material pursuits. Upagupta sets a model to such person.

Coromandel fishers by Sarojini Naidu

Sarojini Naidu is popularly known as Nightingale of India. Her greatness lies in her projection of Indian culture and traditions. 'Coromandel fishers' is filled with artistic beauty and thematic excellence. The themes centres round the fisher's daily routine.

The poet becomes one among them and motivates them in their sailing expedition. They set out at dawn with their nets. They plunge into the sea to catch the fish. They row till the sunset and come back in moonlight. They willingly surrender themselves to the sea mother And the sea god. Though the fishes become the subject, the poem is addressed to everyone to move on their life's journey having complete faith in their God. Nature also finds full expression in the poem.

Non-detailed

Florence Nightingale by Abrar Mohsin

Abrar Mohsin is associated with the field of education. His work 'Florence Nightingale' is an inspiring biographical sketch on angelic woman. This graphic portrait of the 'Lady with the Lamp' moves the heart of everyone.

Florence Nightingale was destined to become a nurse with many divine traits. Despite having all the worldly possessions, she chose to serve the sick. In the beginning, she faced many hurdles. But she stood firmly and served the needy. Her concern for war victims is highly commendable. She won the hearts of all patients. Her care, concern, compassion and commitment made her as an ideal nurse.

Florence Nightingale by Abrar Mohsin

Abrar Mohsin is closely connected with the field of education. He rendered his services in various positions. His popular work 'Florence Nightingale' is an inspiring biographical sketch of a noble lady.

Florence Nightingale dedicated her life for the sake of sick and needy. She had abundant unconditional love. Without expecting anything in return, she cared for the needy. Yet came returns in tons as gratitude from those she nursed. They adored her a lot. They kissed her shadow as she passed by. They try to touch shawl. They idolized her. Their tears of gratitude immortalized Florence Nightingale. They considered her as their ministering angel. She served them with indomitable will power.

An Astrologer's Day by R.K Narayan

R.K Narayan is one of the distinguished novel writers in India. His works are known for lucid style, gentle humor and familiar themes. 'An astrologer's day' presents a Peculiar problem the astrologer has been facing for a long time. The ending surprises the reader and offers much needed relief to the lead character.

The Astrologer is a hard working man. Astrology is not his cup of tea. An unintended dispute compelled him into this profession. He is a shrewd and keen observer. He appears attractive with his painted forehead under a Saffron turban. His eyes exhibit a sharp gleam that attracts clients to him. His Presence of Mind and appealing words endear him to them.

GRAMMAR

Skimming

Skimming is a rapid reading tool. We read text quickly to get glimpse of that text. With skimming we find general information about the given text. It is very useful in the following situations.

1. When we want to just preview a text to have a general idea.
2. When time at our disposal is limited.
3. When we wish just review a text.

4. To revise a few hours before an examination.

Scanning

Scanning is a rapid reading strategy. Its efficacy depends on the following proper procedure. To get best results, first you should have a clear understanding of your purpose. Then search for the keywords only. Let your eye float down the text till you locate the keywords. Then read around that keyword for the specific point. Check if your purpose is served or not. Thus one can make maximum use of scanning.