

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

SHORT WRITING TASKS

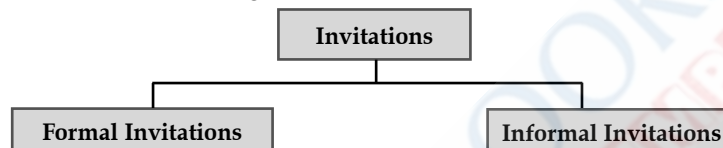
CHAPTER-2 : INVITATIONS

(FORMAL AND INFORMAL)

Introduction

- Invitations are extended to relatives, friends, acquaintances, etc., on auspicious occasions like marriage, birthday, engagement, house-warming etc.

Invitations can be classified under two headings :



While formal invitations are sent for the above-mentioned occasions, informal invitations are usually hand-written and are sent before the formal invitations to make these occasions more personal, cordial and intimate.

Replies are also sent to the invitations. They can be both formal as well as informal in tone.

1. Formal Invitation

- Printed card is preferred.
- Written in third person.
- Short forms and abbreviations are avoided except for RSVP written at the bottom meaning 'Reply if you Please'. RSVP is a French word, its full form is 'Repondez, sil vous plait'. It is written on the extreme left corner of the invitation, along with the sender's name, address and phone number.
- The subject matter is written in the middle with clear details of what, when and where of the function.

Some Useful Tips

Each information in the formal invitation should be in a separate line.

- Name (s) of the host (s) making/sending the invitation
- The expressions usually used are
'request the pleasure of your company'
OR
'feel honoured to invite you'
- The reason for the invitation
- The time, date, and venue of the occasion
- In case a VIP is to be invited to grace the occasion or event, (at an official function) mention his/her name and designation/position
- It is written in 3rd person in simple present tense

Basic features of Formal and Informal Invitations :

Formal	Informal
* Written in both box and letter format	* Written in a letter form
* Written in third person	* First person

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| * Name of host | * Date, time, venue |
| * Date, time, venue | * Occasion/function |
| * Occasion/function | * Informal language |
| * Formal language | |

Format

Formal Invitation Format :

St. Anne's School (Host / Organizer)
Requests the pleasure of your company on the inauguration of their
JUNIOR WING
Little Angels
 as per the details given below

Date : 6 August, 20xx
 Time : 9 a.m. onwards
 Venue : School Campus

Schedule

Hawan	9 a.m.
Lunch	2 p.m.
Cultural programme	4 p.m.

* Map Overleaf *

<i>RSVP</i> <i>ABC</i> <i>98xxxxxxxx</i>	<i>Best Wishes</i> <i>St. Anne's</i> <i>Fraternity</i>
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Formal Invitation Letter Format :

Sender's Address

Date

Receiver's Address

Dear XYZ
*BODY*.....

Date :
Time :
Venue :

Yours truly

Informal Invitation Letter Format :

<i>Sender's Address</i>	
.....	
.....	
<i>Date :</i>	
<i>Dear XYZ</i>	
.....	
.....	
..... <i>Body</i>	
<i>Date</i>	:
<i>Time</i>	:
<i>Venue</i>	:
 <i>Yours affectionately</i>	
<i>ABC</i>	
 Note :	
<i>When we write a letter to invite somebody to grace the occasion, the language should be formal, but when we invite some friends/relatives, then the format and language should be informal.</i>	

Reply to an Invitation

- 1. Formal
 - a) Letter
 - b) Note

- 2. Informal
 - a) Letter

Formal

Note:

- * The note is written in reply of formal invitation only.
- * The note is written in 'third person'.

Refusal :

Mr. Ramakrishan is thankful to Mr. Iyer for his kind invitation and would have been delighted to attend his cousin's wedding, but will not be able to attend it due to a recent knee surgery.

Acceptance :

Mrs. Sharma is thankful to Mrs. & Mr. Kohli for their kind invitation for the inauguration of their new house and has much delight in accepting it.

CHAPTER- 3 : LETTER WRITING

Introduction

- Letter writing is an art. Therefore, it must aim at a certain standard of form and elegance. While writing a letter, we must always think of the person to whom we are writing. The subject matter, no doubt, is important, but we must write it in such a way so that the letter becomes interesting to the person receiving it. A letter written rustically may contain useful information, but it may lack in elegance, and violate the norms which require a good taste. Therefore, one must observe certain standards of form and good taste in the order and structure of one's letters. This means that there should be no carelessness about it, and it should not suggest discourtesy and indifference to the person addressed.
- We should always remember that letter plays an important role in maintaining our communication and relations with friends and relatives, as well as establishing commercial and other kinds of relations with foreigners.

Classification of Letters

Letters may be divided into the following classes :

1. **Business or Official Letters** : For making enquiries, registering complaints, asking for and giving information, placing orders and sending replies.
2. **Letter to the Editor** : Giving suggestions or opinion on issues of public interest.
3. **Application for a Job** : Forwarding your resume for a job opportunity.

Salutations & Subscriptions :

Family & friends —	Dear..	Yours affectionately/ Lovingly yours Or Your loving friend/ son etc.
Strangers —	Dear Sir/ Madam	Yours truly
Business Persons/ Officials —	Sir	Yours truly/ sincerely
Principal/ Teachers —	Respected Sir/ Madam Or Sir/Madam	Yours obediently Or
Editors —	Sir	Yours truly/ sincerely
Useful Expressions		
Enquiry —	I am writing to enquire about Please let us know We'll be glad if you	
Complaint —	It is a matter of great regret that This is to bring to your notice that This is to complain	
Request —	I would be grateful if Kindly oblige me by	
For job application —	With reference to your advertisement dated X/X/XXXX, I offer myself as a candidate Through some reliable sources, I have come to know that	

To Conclude :

- (i) Looking forward to your reply.
- (ii) Thanking you in anticipation of a positive reply.
- (iii) With warm regards.

Format of a Formal Letter

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. Sender's address | 2. Date | 3. Receiver's address |
| 4. Subject/ heading | 5. Salutation | 6. Complimentary close |

Sender's Address
.....
.....

Date

Receiver's Address
.....
.....

Subject : Underline the Subject

Dear Sir,
.....
..... *Body*
.....
.....

Yours Sincerely
Signature
(NAME)

Format for Application for a Job

RESUME

(to be attached with Job Application—RESUME/ BIO-DATA/ CV)

Name	—	.....
Father's Name	—	.....
Date of Birth	—	.....
Address:	—	.....
Phone No.	—	.....
E-mail ID.	—	.....
Hobbies	—	.....
Language Known:	—	.....
Educational Qualification	—	.....
Experience	—	.....
Reference -	—	1.
		2.
Signature	—	.....



CHAPTER- 4 : REPORTS

Introduction

- 1. Report :** A report is a systematic and well-organized presentation of facts and findings of an event that has already taken place somewhere. It is written for a specific readership and intended to be kept as a record. A

report should answer the questions : what, where, when and how.

Format of a Report

Headline
Name of the report writer
Place of report
Date of report
Opening paragraph.....
.....
.....Account of the event in.....
detail.....
.....



Literature - Flamingo

Prose

CHAPTER-1 : THE RATTRAP

–Selma Lagerlof

Introduction

The Rattrap is written by a Swedish writer Selma Lagerlof. The story is an interesting one. It is like a fairy tale. There are many interesting incidents and dialogues. The rattrap seller is a homeless tramp. He stays for a night in the cottage of a crofter. The lonely crofter entertains him like a guest and a trusted friend. He tells him everything, but in the morning, the peddler comes back, smashes a window pane, and steals the crofter's money. Later, there is a turn in his fortune. The peddler gets lost in the forest. The ironmaster mistakes him for an old comrade. The peddler is the ironmaster's guest for about two days and is treated well by him and his daughter Edla. Edla's kindness gradually brings a change in Peddler's heart. He leaves ironmaster's house to pursue his usual profession of selling rattraps. He also left, crofter's money and a Christmas gift and a letter in gratitude of her kindness.

There is a philosophical angle too in the story. The lonely tramp is a philosopher too. Not only does he make rattraps to sell, he thinks that the world too is a rattrap. As rats are lured by pork and cheese to enter the trap, so are men lured by land, food, shelter, clothing etc. These are different baits. Those who touch them are trapped. He knew a few persons who were already trapped and others who were trying to bite the bait and get trapped.

Summary

A rattrap peddler went around selling small rattraps. His clothes were in rags. His cheeks were sunken. He had the looks of a starved man. He made wiretraps. Sometimes, he resorted to begging and a little stealing to survive. The world had never been kind to him. He had no home, no shelter.

The peddler led a lonely life and was given to meditation. One day, while he was thinking about his rattraps, an idea struck him. He thought that the world itself was a rattrap. As pork and cheese serve as baits to trap rats, the world offered land, clothes, foods, joys and riches to trap people. As soon as anybody touched them, the trap closed on them. He was amused to think of some people who were already trapped and some others who were trying to reach the bait.

It was a cold evening in December. He saw a grey cottage on the roadside. He knocked at the door and asked for a night's shelter. The owner of the cottage was a lonely old crofter. He wanted someone to talk to. He welcomed the peddler. He gave the peddler hot porridge to eat and tobacco to smoke. Then, they played cards. The crofter was generous as well as trustful. He told the peddler that he had a cow and that he sold milk and cream. He also told him that he received thirty kronors as payment of the previous month. Then, he took down a pouch and showed him the

money. Then, he put the money back in the pouch and hung it on a nail in the window frame. Next morning, the peddler left. The crofter locked his cottage and went away.

The peddler came back to the cottage. He had been tempted to steal the money that hung like a bait in the window frame. He smashed the pane and stole the money. Now he thought that it was not safe to walk along the public highway. So, he went into the woods. There he walked and walked, but could not get out. He was tired. He looked upon the forest as a rattrap in which he was caught. He thought his end was near. He laid down to die.

After a while, he heard the regular thumping of a hammer's strokes. He knew the sound was coming from some iron mill. He stood up and walked in the direction of the sound. He opened the gate of the works and went into the forge. The blacksmith and his apprentice were there waiting for pig iron to be ready to be put on the anvil. It was the Ramsjo Ironworks.

The blacksmith hardly took any notice of his presence. It was not unusual for a vagabond to come in for shelter and warmth. The owner of the work was very particular about the quality of the iron he produced. On one of his visits, he came into the forge, he looked intently at the peddler's face. He felt sure that the peddler was one of his old regimental comrades Captain von Stahle, who had fallen on evil days. He invited the peddler to come home with him for Christmas. But the peddler was alarmed. He refused and the ironmaster went home.

The ironmaster sent his daughter Edla to persuade the peddler to come home. She came in a carriage with a large fur coat. She could see that the peddler was unwilling to accept the invitation because he was afraid. Perhaps she thought, he had stolen something or had escaped from jail. She spoke gently to him. She assured him that he would be free to leave when he pleased. They wanted his company only over Christmas Eve. The peddler felt confidence in her. He agreed to go with her. On the way, he was sorry to have stolen the crofter's money that had put him in a trap.

The ironmaster was happy to have his old regimental comrade under his roof. He planned to feed him well and give him some respectable work. The servant cut the peddler's hair and bathed him. The peddler appeared wearing one of ironmaster's fine suits. However, when the ironmaster looked at him in the daylight, he felt he had made a mistake. The peddler was not Captain von Stahle. He thought that the man had deceived him. He even thought of handing him over to the sheriff.

The peddler said that he had not pretended to be what he was not. He had not been willing to go to the iron-master's house. Even then, he was willing to put on his rags and leave. He also told iron master that the world was a rattrap and he too might be tempted by a big bait while getting caught in the trap. The iron master told him to leave at once.

Edla did not like her father's asking the poor peddler to leave. She thought it was unfair to turn away the man whom they had invited. She wanted to have the joy of entertaining a homeless wanderer on Christmas. She stopped the peddler and her father gave in.

Edla served food to the peddler. In the evening, during Christmas party, he was given Christmas presents which he thankfully received. Edla told him that her father's coat that the peddler was wearing was also a Christmas present. She assured him that he would be welcomed again if he liked to spend the next Christmas Eve with them.

Next morning, the ironmaster and his daughter went to Church. There they learned that the peddler was a thief. He had robbed the crofter. The ironmaster was sure that the peddler must have made away with their silver. Edla was dejected. But when they reached home, they learned that the peddler had left. But he did not take away anything. On the other hand, he had left a Christmas present for Edla. Edla opened the present. It was a tiny rattrap. Edla was happy to see that the peddler had left the crofter's money behind. There was a letter also. It was addressed to Edla. He had thanked her for the kindness. He wanted to do a good turn to her, so he had left the crofter's money and had requested her to return it to the crofter. He said that he was brought up as a real captain. That was why he could come out of the rattrap in which he had been caught. He had signed the letter as Captain von Stahle.

□□

CHAPTER-2 : INDIGO

—*Louis Fischer*

Introduction

Louis Fischer was an admirer of Gandhiji. He met Gandhiji several times and wrote his biography, 'The Life of Mahatma Gandhi'. This lesson 'Indigo' is taken from that book.

Gandhiji considered Champaran a turning point in his life. Probably, it was the turning point in the history of India. Gandhiji visited Champaran in 1917. The British government was well-trenched in India at that time. Indian masses had a deep-rooted fear of the British.

An illiterate man Rajkumar, was greatly perturbed by the injustice meted out to Indian peasants by the British landlords.

The cause of the problem was indigo and the greed of the landlords.

The British landlords owned large estates in Champaran. In those days, harvesting indigo was very profitable. The British landlords, through a long-term agreement, forced Indian tenants to plant 15% of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire product to the landlord as rent. Harvesting indigo was an unpleasant job.

However, the things changed. Germany developed synthetic indigo.

Naturally, the prices of indigo were sure to plummet. Harvesting indigo was no longer profitable. Therefore, the landlords offered to release the peasants of the irksome job of harvesting indigo. They demanded compensation for it. Illiterate peasants, who did not know the real motive of the British landlords, gladly agreed to this while there were others who resisted.

Soon, the peasants learnt about the synthetic indigo. Then, those who had paid compensation demanded their money back. The landlords hired thugs to calm them down. The peasants engaged lawyers. At this point, Gandhiji visited Champaran. He felt it was no use going to courts. He wanted to free the peasants from the fear of the British. Gandhiji campaigned their cause and finally succeeded. He remained firm, fearless, and dedicated.

Summary

The annual convention of the Indian National Congress was held in Lucknow in December 1916. A poor illiterate peasant came there to complain against the injustice meted out to the peasants in Champaran. He met Gandhiji. Gandhiji had never heard of Champaran. He had many engagements. So, he did not give any assurance to Shukla, but Shukla was resolute. He followed Gandhiji wherever he went. At last, Gandhiji fixed a date. He told Shukla to meet him in Calcutta on that particular date.

In Calcutta, Gandhiji found Shukla waiting for him. Both of them went to Patna by train. Shukla led Gandhiji to the house of a lawyer, Rajendra Prasad, who later became the first President of India. The lawyer was out of town, but the servants knew Shukla. He had been there several times to request the lawyer to help the indigo sharecroppers. They let them stay on the grounds, as they mistook Gandhiji for another peasant and untouchable. They did not allow them to draw water from the well lest the entire water in the well should become polluted.

Gandhiji decided to break his journey to camp at Muzaffarpur, because he wanted to gather more information that Shukla had been unable to provide. He sent a telegram to Professor J. B. Kripalani whom he had met at Shanti Niketan. Kripalani came to the station with his students to receive Gandhiji. At Muzaffarpur, Gandhiji stayed in the house of Mr. Malkani, a government school teacher. In those days, Indians were afraid to harbour men like Gandhiji who were advocates of home rule, but Malkani had the courage.

The news of Gandhiji's arrival in Muzaffarpur and his mission spread quickly. Sharecroppers came to Muzaffarpur to see him. The lawyers also called on him. They briefed him about their cases. Gandhiji chided the lawyers for collecting heavy fees from poor peasants. He thought the most important thing was to free the peasants from the fear of their British landlords.

British landlords held large estates in Champaran. Indians worked as sharecroppers on their land. By a long term agreement, the sharecroppers were compelled to plant 15% of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire indigo produced to the landlords as rent. Harvesting indigo was an irksome business for the peasants.

Recently, the landlords had heard that Germany had developed synthetic indigo. British landlords knew that the prices of indigo would fall and planting indigo was no longer profitable. They offered to release the sharecroppers from their obligation to harvest indigo. But the Britishers demanded compensation. Many peasants agreed, while a few of them resisted. Soon, the peasants learnt about the synthetic indigo. Those who had paid compensation demanded their money back.

A dispute arose between the landlords and the sharecroppers. The landlords hired thugs. The sharecroppers engaged lawyers.

Gandhiji wanted to get the facts. He visited the Secretary of the British Landlords Association. However, the secretary refused to give any information saying that Gandhiji was an outsider. Gandhiji told him that he was not an outsider.

Then, Gandhiji called on the commissioner of Tirhut Division. He was rude to Gandhiji. He told Gandhiji to leave Tirhut immediately, but Gandhiji did not leave. Motihari was the capital of Tirhut. Gandhiji made it his headquarters. He started his investigations. A peasant was maltreated in a nearby village. Gandhiji decided to go and find the facts, but the police stopped him. He was served with a notice to leave Champaran. Gandhiji wrote back that he would not concede the notice. Consequently, Gandhiji was summoned by the court. Gandhiji sent a report to the Viceroy.

The peasants learnt that the Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Thousands of peasants gathered around the court building. This spontaneous show of their courage baffled the British authorities. They felt powerless. Gandhiji helped them to regulate the trial.

In the court, Gandhiji pleaded guilty. He asked for penalty. He read out a statement. He said he was faced with conflict of duties, he respected the lawful authority. He was not a law-breaker. However, he could not disregard the voice of his

conscience to do the humanitarian and national service.

The judge said he would take several days to deliver the judgement, but he let Gandhiji go free.

Gandhiji asked his lawyer friends what they would do if he went to jail. They replied they would go home. Gandhiji asked again what would happen to the poor peasants. Then, the lawyers felt ashamed. Gandhiji, who was a stranger, was willing to go to jail for their sake. The lawyers claimed to have been serving the peasants. Going home would mean the shameful betrayal. They told Gandhiji that they too would follow him to jail. Gandhiji was pleased. He declared that the battle of Champaran was won.

He, then, divided the group into two pairs and put down the order in which each pair would court arrest.

However, the Lieutenant Governor of the province decided to drop the case against Gandhiji. This was the victory of civil disobedience.

Gandhiji and lawyers now proceeded to conduct an enquiry. They recorded the statements of thousands of peasants. In the meantime, the Lieutenant Governor summoned Gandhiji. After long interviews, the Lt. Governor constituted an official commission of enquiry to go through the indigo peasants' complaints. The commission comprised of British officials, landlords and Gandhiji as the sole representative of the sharecroppers.

The commission collected the crushing evidence against the British landlords. The landlords were nervous. They agreed in principle to refund the peasants' money that they had extorted illegally.

Gandhiji demanded 50% of it, but the landlords offered only 25%. Gandhiji agreed to it. He had won a moral victory.

Gandhiji explained that the amount of money was not important. By agreeing to refund the peasants' money, the landlords had lost their prestige. They were no longer dreaded. The peasants learnt that they had rights and there were people to defend their rights.

The landlords abandoned their estates which went back to the peasants. This was the end of indigo sharecropping in Champaran. Gandhiji was not satisfied by just winning the indigo battle. During his stay in Champaran, he saw that the people of Champaran were socially and culturally backward. He decided to remove their backwardness. Gandhiji decided to open primary schools. He appealed to teachers, two of his young disciples, their wives and several other volunteers. Gandhiji's wife Kasturba taught about personal hygiene and community cleanliness.

Gandhiji had come to Champaran casually at the entreaty of Shukla. He expected that his visit would last a few days. However, he had to stay there for seven months continuously. He kept a distant watch on the Ashram. He called for regular financial accounts. He even wrote to them that it was time to fill in the old latrine trenches and dig new ones.

Charles Freer Andrews was a devoted follower of Gandhiji. He came to Champaran. Gandhiji's lawyer friends wanted Charles to stay on to help them. But Gandhiji opposed the idea. He said they should not seek an Englishman's help in their fight. They must fight their battle themselves. For Gandhiji, self-reliance, India's independence and helping the sharecroppers were all bound together.



Flamingo - Poetry

CHAPTER-1 : A THING OF BEAUTY

—John Keats

Introduction

'A Thing of Beauty' is a poem written by John Keats. John Keats was born in London in 1795. His parents died when he was only fifteen. He became an apprentice to a surgeon, but he was interested in poetry. 'A Thing of Beauty' is an excerpt from his longer poem 'Endymion'. According to the poet, a thing of beauty is a source of joy forever. The sun, the moon, trees, musk roses and daffodils are all objects of beauty. In addition to these objects of nature, man also produces objects of beauty. Art, poetry, stories, mythology etc., are all sources of eternal joy for us.

Summary

Beautiful things are eternal sources of joy. Their beauty can never vanish, nor can it ever diminish. It makes a permanent place in our mind and is a source of health and peace. The world has sufferings and noble people are few, but on account of things of beauty, we weave flowery bands to tie ourselves with this earth. Things of beauty remove the curtain of darkness and gloom from our spirits. The Moon, the Sun, the clear streams, and the thickets in the green

forests sprinkled with musk roses, are all objects of beauty. The grand mythological stories, epics and ballads about the deeds and doom of our heroes are all sources of eternal joy.

1. *A thing of I beauty is a joy forever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
pass into nothingness; but will keep
a bower quiet for us, and a sleep
full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.*

The poet, John Keats, was a nature-lover who loved beauty in any form. He expresses his love for beautiful objects by saying that they are a source of eternal joy and pleasure. Their beauty keeps on increasing with the passage of time and it doesn't fade away. The joy that a beautiful thing provides is eternal. The imprint it leaves on our mind is indelible. Thus, its loveliness can never fade away or die out. Beauty, according to the poet, is not ephemeral but eternal.

The poet feels that a thing of beauty is like a quiet bower or sleep, full of sweet dreams with healthy and quiet breathing. A beautiful thing not only provides peace and serenity, but refreshes and relaxes us by driving away aggression and restlessness. It keeps people away from worldly concerns.

2. *'Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
a flowery band to bind us to the earth,
In spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
made for our searching : 'yes, in spite of all,
some shape of beauty moves away the pall
from our dark spirits.'*

Keats, as a worshipper of beauty, felt that life on earth would not be worth living without its treat of beauty. In spite of misery and gloom, one is inspired to live owing to the moments of beauty which he finds on earth. The delicate and beautiful moments when we enjoy beauty of nature and its memories cause one to stay connected to the earth. Human beings face many disappointments in their life due to the scarcity of noble human beings or by following the unhealthy path of negative thoughts. Still there comes a ray of hope when we look at the same beautiful object, as it takes away the covering of negativity from one's mind and fills it with optimism. This helps us shed sadness from our minds.

Alliteration ® of noble natures

3. *Such the Sun, the Moon, Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon.
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
with the green world they live in; and clear rills.
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake.
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms.'*

The bountiful nature is full of beautiful objects like the sun, the moon, trees, whether old or young, which provide shade to everyone, the daffodils that bloom in the forests, the clear streams that provide cooling effect in the area where they are found against the hot season and make everyone feel comfortable. The mid forest ferns and musk roses also have the same effect on us and give us mental peace and calmness.

Alliteration ® (i) Such the sun, the moon

(ii) themselves a cooling covert make

4. *And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.*

John Keats now describes the literary beauty, the beauty which is found in the tales of the mighty and powerful people who are no more in this world now. The stories of their bravery, which we have heard or read, inspire us to be brave and courageous like those people. All the beautiful things have been compared to the immortal drink which is being poured to us straight from the heaven.

Hyperbole® an endless fountain of immortal drink

Metaphor® Fountain of immortal drink. The beautiful objects have been compared to the drink. As we relish the drink so as natural objects.



CHAPTER-2 : AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS

—Adrienne Rich

Introduction

The poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' depicts the picture of a woman who suffers greatly at the hands of her husband. She shows her feelings by creating tigers on a woollen strip of cloth. She carries the heavy weight of the wedding ring, which has also put metal bands on her movements. She has gone through the trials and torture of marriage. She naturally adopts tigers as her ideal. A tiger is a symbol of strength, self-confidence and freedom.

Aunt creates such tigers who are unafraid of men. Her own fingers are too weak to pull the needle through the wool. Her terrified hands bear the marks of her marriage ring and the cheeks pressed by Uncle will not change even in her grave. The tigers by contrast will continue to enjoy boundless freedom in the forest.

Summary

Aunt Jennifer is creating animals that are so different from her own character. She is perhaps working on a panel or a strip of woollen cloth. With an ivory needle, she is making the figure of tigers, moving freely in the forest. They have bright yellow coat with stripes. They are fearless of the men standing under a tree. They are proud of their freedom and physical strength.

Aunt Jennifer is weak, therefore, her feeble fingers fail to pull even a light needle. She is creating mighty tigers on a panel but her own married life has been an utter failure. Uncle has, perhaps, been much too severe and insensitive to her feelings. The tiger symbolizes what she has missed in her married life.

Someday, Aunt Jennifer will quit this world. She would be lowered into the grave. Her weak and terrified hand will still have the mark of her suffering. She will remain a slave in her grave. The tigers, however, created by her will go on playing merrily forever, proud and fearless.

1. *Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.*

'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' addresses the constraints of married life that a woman experiences. They highlight the patriarchal attitude of the society. Aunt Jennifer, too, is the victim of such society. She has an unhappy married life, as she's dominated by her husband. She embroiders jumping tigers on a panel to give vent to her pent up emotions. The tigers are golden in colour. They are not afraid of the men sitting under the tree, as they themselves are a symbol of bravery, courage, and fearlessness. They are shown to be moving about with great confidence which Aunt Jennifer herself lacks.

2. *Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

She is so terrified of her husband that her fingers tremble when she pulls out the needle through wool which is very light. It symbolises her physical as well as emotional weakness. The wedding ring which she is wearing seems heavy to her, as she finds it difficult to go ahead as her married life has taken away her freedom from her.

Alliteration® fingers fluttering

3. *"When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie.
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go prancing proud and unafraid."*

Aunt Jennifer is so dominated that even death would not be able to free her from the terror of her husband. Her hands would still be ringed by the ordeals of her married life. On the other hand, the tigers which she has embroidered

will keep on prancing, showing the contrast between art and human beings. It tells us that art is immortal and always survives death.

Alliteration ® prancing proud

Pun ® The word 'ring' has different connotations. First, the ring refers to the wedding ring which permanently binds a husband and a wife into matrimony. The 'ringed' also means surrounded or bound by. Together with 'mastered' it invokes the image of a circus ring where her husband is the master and she must carry out his orders and stay in constant fear of him.



VISTAS-SUPPLEMENTARY READER

CHAPTER-1 : SHOULD WIZARD HIT MOMMY?

—John Updike

Introduction :

In 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?' John Updike presents the world view of a little child. Jo warmly responds to her father's story telling. But she can't excuse Roger Skunk's mother for making poor little Roger smell bad again. Her hero must smell like roses and must not stink at any cost. So, she wants her father to make a little change in the story. She wants him to tell a different story in which the wizard takes a magic wand and hits Roger Skunk's mommy.

Summary :

Jack used to tell stories to his daughter Jo in the evenings and for Saturday naps. Every story was a product of his head. This custom began when she was two. Each new story was a slight variation of the basic tale. Every story had a small creature usually named Roger. It could be Roger Fish, Roger Squirrel or Roger Chipmunk. In every story, Roger went to the wise owl and the owl would send Roger to the wizard.

Today's story was about Roger Skunk. It was a new animal. They must talk about it at the nursery school. Jack had got a new hero. He started the story : "Once upon a time, in the deep dark woods, there was a tiny little creature by the name Roger Skunk. He smelled very bad. He smelled so bad that the other little creatures would not play with him. They would run away from him. Roger Skunk would stand there all alone. Two little round tears would fall from his eyes. Little Jo could already guess what would be the story line next. She asked, "Won't he see the owl"? Jack continued. There lived a big wise owl in the tiptop of a tree. Roger Skunk told him his pathetic tale. The wise owl advised him to go to the wizard.

At last, Roger Skunk came to a little white house after crossing the dark woods and the swamp. A little old man came out. He had a long white beard and a pointed blue hat. Roger Skunk told the wizard how all the little animals ran away from him. He smelled very bad. The wizard asked Roger not to get very close to him. Inside the house, all magic things were jumbled together in a big dusty heap. The wizard demanded seven pennies. Roger had only four. He started crying. The wizard sent him to a magic well where Roger found three pennies. He took them back to the wizard. The wizard was happy and made him smell like roses. All other little animals gathered around him. Now, he smelled so good. They played games and laughed all afternoon.

Roger Skunk's mommy asked him what that 'awful smell' was. Roger replied that he himself smelled like roses. The wizard made him smell like that. She told Roger that they were going right back to "that very awful wizard". But Roger cried that he smelled so bad earlier that all other little animals ran away. The mother said that she didn't care for that. Roger Skunk would smell the way a little Skunk should smell. They went to the wizard and he made him smell very bad again.

Jo didn't like the end of the story. Poor little Roger Skunk was made to smell bad again. She wanted her father to make a little change in the story. She wanted her father Jack to tell her that the wizard took "that magic wand and hit that mommy." She insisted on making that change in the story.



CHAPTER-2 : ON THE FACE OF IT

—Susan Hill

Introduction

This is a play featuring an old man Mr. Lamb and a small boy named Derry. Derry suffers from a complex. After one side of his face gets burnt, he always remains withdrawn and defiant. He doesn't like to be near people as he can't stand their uncharitable looks and remarks. Mr. Lamb himself has a tin leg, but has a very positive attitude towards life and people. He shows the right way of judging men, matters and life to young Derry.

Summary

Derry walks slowly and cautiously through the long grass. He enters Lamb's garden. Mr. Lamb speaks to him when he is close at hand. Derry is startled. He is apologetic. He didn't know if there was anybody there. Mr. Lamb tries to make Derry comfortable. Mr. Lamb says that he can pick up crab apples. Derry need not go away on Mr. Lamb's account. Mr. Lamb doesn't mind who comes in the garden. The gate is always open. Derry did not need to climb over the wall of the garden. Derry says he didn't come there for stealing apples. Mr. Lamb assures him that he can stay there.

Derry says that people are afraid of him. They look at his face and find it terrible and ugly. Even when, he himself sees his face in the mirror, he is afraid of himself. Mr. Lamb says that he will get the ladder and a stick and pull down crab apples. He makes jelly from them. Derry doesn't want Mr. Lamb to change the subject. He wants to talk about himself. Mr. Lamb thinks that perhaps Derry's face got burnt in a fire. Derry corrects him. Derry says he got acid all down on that side of his face and burnt it all way. The acid ate up his face.

Mr. Lamb is old. Derry is young. Derry has got a burnt face. Lamb has got a tin leg. Similarly, one green plant is called a weed and another a flower. All are life. Mr. Lamb lost his leg. Some kids call him "Lamey-Lamb". A tin leg and a burnt face are not the only things to be taken notice of or to be stared at. There are so many other things like crab apples, weeds and sunflowers. They deserve our attention and Mr. Lamb enjoys life and people as much as he can.

Derry says that people have already told him many fairy stories to console him. They say that it is not important what you look like. People tell these comforting lies only to console him. But Derry knows that he will not change. He will stay as a 'monstrous beast'. No one will kiss him ever. Only his mother and she too kisses him on the other side of his face. He doesn't care if nobody ever kissed him. Mr. Lamb asks Derry if he doesn't care to be kissed by pretty girls. Girls with long hair and large eyes. Will he not like to be kissed by the people he loves? Derry replies that no one will ever kiss and love him. He is grieved that he won't ever look different. Even when he grows as old as Mr. Lamb, he will look the same. He will still only have "half a face". Mr. Lamb replies that Derry may have a 'half face', but the world has got a 'whole face'. He should look at it.

Derry is obsessed with what people say and comment. People remind Derry that there are people even worse than him. They might be blind, dumb or may be mad by birth. Sometimes people can be very cruel. A woman looked at him. She said to another woman, "Look at that, that's a terrible thing". She told her that only a mother could love such a face. Mr. Lamb advises Derry to keep his ears shut. Derry says that he doesn't like being close to people. He can't stand people staring at him and passing cruel comments about him.

Mr. Lamb reminds Derry that he can't lock himself up in a room and never leave it. Then, he narrates to him the story of a man who was afraid of everything in the world. So, he went into his room, locked the door and stayed there. A picture fell off the wall on to his head and killed him. Mr. Lamb says that he enjoys life as it comes. He sits in the sun and reads books. He is not fond of curtains. Mr. Lamb motivates Derry. Derry has got two arms, two legs, eyes and ears. He has got a tongue and also a brain. He can get on the way he wants like all others. And if he chooses, he can "get on better than all the rest". Derry asks, "How?" Mr. Lamb replies that Derry can live the same way as he himself does. For him everybody is welcome. The gate is always open. Derry says that there are some people whom he hates. Mr. Lamb says that hatred is more harmful than a bottle of acid. Derry gets up and prepares to go. He says he will come back. Mr. Lamb says that generally people say so but never come back.

Derry comes home. His mother warns him not to go back there. Derry assures her that she need not fear. Only an old man with a tin leg lives there. He has a huge house and a garden. He is Mr. Lamb. He says things nobody else has ever said. Derry runs to Mr. Lamb's garden. He opens the garden gate. He cries that he has come back. Suddenly, there is a crash. The ladder falls back, Mr. Lamb also falls down with it. He dies. Derry begins to weep. He goes on crying "Lamey-Lamb ! I did come back".



CHAPTER-3 : EVANS TRIES AN O-LEVEL

—Colin Dexter

Introduction

In 'Evans Tries An O-Level', author Colin Dexter describes how Evans proves that all attempts of the prison officers like Jackson and Stephens and good-for-a-giggle Governor failed to stop him from escaping. All precautions have been made to see that O-level German examination, in the prison arranged for Evans, doesn't provide him with any means of escape. But in spite of all this, it is Evans who had the last laugh.

Summary

It was early March. The Secretary of the Examination Board receives a call from the Oxford Prison. A chap called Evans started night classes in O-Level German last September. He is very keen to get some sort of academic qualification. The Governor enquires about the procedure. The Secretary asks him not to worry about it. He will be sending him all the forms and other necessary things. He enquires about Evans. The Governor assures him that there is no record of violence against Evans. It is decided to examine him in his prison cell. One of the persons from St. Mary Mag is arranged to invigilate.

The prison officers call him 'Evans the Break'. He had escaped from prison three times. At 8:30 in the morning, Evans had two visitors. Jackson was the senior prison officer of D Wing. He and Evans had already become 'warm enemies'. Stephens was a burly-surlly officer. Evans's face is unshaven. He wears a dirty red and white bobble hat upon his head. They make sure that his razor and nail-scissors are taken away. He is given half an hour to smarten himself.

McLeery carries a brown suitcase. It contains all the necessary papers, including a sealed question paper envelope. The two hour examination is scheduled to start at 9:15 a.m. Stephens brings two small square tables and two hard chairs and places them opposite to each other. They are taking no chances with Evans. Stuart McLeery is greeted by Jackson at D Wing in the prison. It will be very difficult for Evans to make another break. He is sitting in a locked cell and all the prison officers are on high alert. The invigilator's duty is to ensure that the strictest silence is observed. The Governor is worried about McLeery. If he has brought something, even a Jack-knife, Evans can hold him hostage with such a weapon.

The examinee and the invigilator have already been introduced by Stephens. McLeery asks Evans to write his name and index number on the paper. At 9:40 a.m., the Assistant Secretary speaks to the Governor. They had forgotten to place a correction slip in the examination package. Jackson fears whether the phone call is fake or is it some signal. But everything seems to be all right. Evans sits staring straight in front of him holding his pen between his lips. And opposite him sits McLeery. At 10:50 a.m., Evans wants a blanket round his shoulders as he is feeling cold. At 10:51 a.m. Stephens is surprised to see a grey blanket draped around Evans's shoulders. Stephens wonders if Evans is not planning anything in the blanket. At 11:20 a.m., McLeery informs Evans that only five minutes are remaining. At 11:22 a.m. Governor wants to speak to Stephens. He wants him to accompany McLeery to the main gates. At 11:25 a.m. McLeery announces, "Stop writing, please". Stephens walks with McLeery to the main gates. Two abnormalities can be noticed here. McLeery's Scots accent seems broader than ever. His long black overcoat is reaching almost to his knees.

Stephens wants to take just one last look at Evans. He makes his way to Evans's cell. He opens the peep-hole once more. "Oh, no, Christ, No", Stephens cries. In Evans's chair a man is lying. His blanket is slipping from his shoulders. His tufted hair is awash with red blood. The man is McLeery. Stephens shouts loudly for Jackson. McLeery gives a long moan and tries to speak. He asks them to get the police. He knows where Evans has gone. Almost immediately, sirens start sounding. And within a minute McLeery, with Jackson and Stephens supporting him on either side, is greeted by the Governor. McLeery shows him a photocopied sheet cleverly super-imposed over the last page of the question paper. The Governor reads, "... Don't hit him too hard—remember, he's a minister! And don't overdo the Scots accent when" McLeery cries, "Elsfield Way". Evans has gone there. The Governor is furious. He asks who took Evans to the main gates. Stephens says that he acted as he was directed. The Governor is angry again. He calls Stephens 'a blithering idiot'. It was not he who rang them at 11:20 a.m. He also tells Jackson that his "skull's empty". It was Jackson who had spent two hours in Evans's cell and reported that there was nothing hidden there. And yet Evans managed to conceal a false beard, a pair of spectacles and also a sort of weapon with which he had given McLeery such a terrible blow. The Governor read the last line of the paper left by Evans in German " ... make your way to ... to Neugraben".

The Governor lights a cigarette. It is a "beautifully laid plan." He has left that question paper behind. Perhaps he was careless to leave that clue. He is sure that 'Mr. clever-clever Evans's will be back inside his cell again. Then information comes that McLeery has spotted Evans driving off along the Elsfield Way.

The Governor asks Carter if he has managed to get McLeery to hospital properly. He is told that McLeery is in the Radcliffe hospital. A few minutes later, the Governor rings the hospital. The reply comes that no one named McLeery

is there. The ambulance was sent to Elsfield to pick him up, but he vanished. A quarter of an hour later, they find S. McLeery, securely bound and gagged in his study in Broad Street. He has been there since 8:15 a.m.

And by that time, everyone in the prison knows what has happened. It is not Evans, impersonating McLeery, who has walked out, it is Evans, impersonating McLeery who has stayed in.

Evans walks up to the reception desk of the Golden Lion Hotel. He had to do a long and tricky operation. He was lucky that Jackson didn't take his hat off. Sticking a beard was one of the worst things. Evans now collects his key. He asks for an early morning call at 6:45 a.m. He, himself, whistles softly to him. He thanks God that everything has gone "beautifully smoothly." He unlocks his bedroom door and, then, stands frozen at the spot. Sitting on the bed is the last man in the world that Evans had expected. He was the Governor.

Evans is visibly shaken. For several minutes, there is utter silence. He is beaten at his own game. He tells that the correction slip killed two little birds with a single stone. It gave the name of the hotel for Evans and the exact time the exam started. Then, Evans asks how the Governor could locate the hotel in which he was staying. The clue came from the paper itself. Evans wrote Index Number 313; Centre Number 271. The six figure reference 313/271 landed him there. The Governor stands up. He asks Evans to tell him how he got all that blood to pour over his head. Evans replies that it was 'pig's blood' from the slaughter house. But to stop it from clotting one has to mix actual blood and a chemical. In the end, the Governor asks how he could manage to plan all this business. Evans replies that he has many friends. The German teacher is one of them.

A silent prison officer handcuffs the recaptured Evans. He does not resist. Two men clamber into the back seat of the prison van. The Governor says farewell to him like a good old friend.

The prison van turns right on to the Oxford Road. The silent prison officer unlocks Evans's handcuffs. He asks the driver to 'move on' to Newbury. "It won't take them long to find out—". Thus, Evans moves on to freedom proving that the Governor was a fool and only "good-for-a-giggle". The man who removes his handcuffs is Evans's own man.

