

MEMORISE

1. A LETTER TO GOD

Summary

Lencho was a poor but hardworking farmer. He hoped for a good crop, but his fields needed rain. One day, it started drizzling. In the beginning, Lencho felt the falling rain drops as 'new silver coins' falling from the sky. But gradually, the rain transformed into a hail storm. The hailstones fell for an hour. It destroyed his crop completely. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. Suddenly his heart was filled with hope. He had firm faith in God. Lencho knew how to read and write. The following Sunday, he wrote a letter to God mentioning his destroyed crop and asked him for money so that he could sow his field again. Then he put the letter in an envelope, addressed it to 'God' and dropped it in the mail-box. The postman, who took the letter out of the mail-box saw the letter and showed it to the postmaster. The postmaster realised the man's predicament and unshakable faith in God. He decided to help the man. He discussed with his colleagues who collected

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A LETTER TO GOD

money, put it in an envelope and addressed it to Lencho. This letter contained a single word in the form of a signature: God. The next Sunday, the postmaster handed him the letter. He opened the envelope but became angry on counting the money. There were only seventy pesos in the envelope, whereas he had asked for one hundred. He wrote another letter to God. The postmaster took out the letter from the mail-box and opened it. Lencho had requested God to send the rest of the money i.e., thirty pesos. Lencho felt that the people at the post office had cheated him by taking out some money from God's envelope. So, he wrote that God should not send money through mail as according to him, the post office employees were a bunch of crooks.

MEMORISE

2. NELSON MANDELA-LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

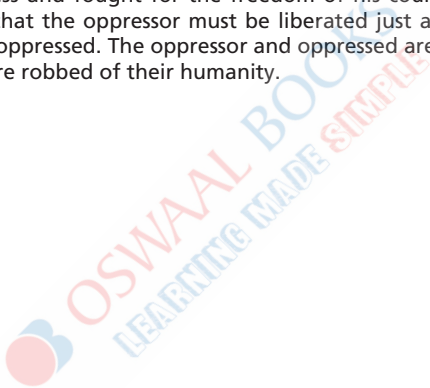
Summary

Nelson Mandela swears in as the first black president of South Africa on 10th May 1994. The swearing in ceremony took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre in Pretoria. He addressed the rainbow gathering with a zest telling that never, never, and never again should it be that that beautiful land would experience the oppression of one by another. He wished that freedom in Africa should reign. The army officials who could have caught and put him in jail before were saluting him to pay respect to the newly born democracy. The two national anthems were sung at the time of his swearing in ceremony. He recalls back the history and pays homage to the national martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of their motherland. He tells that the martyrs were the men of extraordinary courage and wisdom and generosity. The country of South Africa is rich in minerals and gems but the greatest wealth of country is its people. He tells no one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. If people learn to hate, they can be taught to love too. He talks that man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never exhausted. He talks about the twin

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NELSON MANDELA-LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

obligations – obligation towards his family & obligation towards his nation. While discharging his duties, he found he was not free. Hence, he joined African National Congress and fought for the freedom of his country. He knew that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. The oppressor and oppressed are alike – both are robbed of their humanity.



MEMORISE

3. TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

Summary

(A) His First Flight

The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already flown away. When his brothers and sister flew, he failed to gather the courage to fly. His father and mother came to him. They threatened if he did not fly, he would die of hunger there. He had watched his parents and brothers and sisters flying. It was getting very hot. He had not eaten for long. The seagull closed his eyes standing on one leg. His mother was looking at him. She picked a piece of the fish. She flew across to him with it. The seagull waited a moment in surprise. He wondered why his mother did not come nearer. He was so mad with hunger that he dived at the fish. Then a great fear caught him. But it only lasted for a moment. The next moment, he felt his wings spread outwards. He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring slowly downwards and upwards. He was no longer afraid. His father flew over him screaming. Then he saw his brothers and sister flying around him. He commended himself to dive and soar. His parents and his brothers and sister had landed on the green surface of water ahead of him. He dropped his leg to stand on the green sea. But his legs sank into it. His feet sank into the green sea. His belly touched it but he sank no further. He was floating on it. Around

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TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

him was his family, crying and praising him. He had made his first flight.

(B) Black Aeroplane

The author says that he was flying an aeroplane at 1 o'clock at night. He was flying his old Dakota aeroplane over France, back to England. He was dreaming of his holiday. He was looking forward to being with his family. He decided to call Paris control. He told it that he was on his way to England. Paris control acknowledged. It advised him to turn twelve degrees west. Everything was going well. Then he saw the storm clouds. They looked like black mountains in front of him. He knew he could not fly up and over them. So, he took the risk and flew into the storm. He could see nothing outside his aeroplane. Everything was black. He looked at the compass. It was gone. Then in the black clouds, he saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings. He was glad to see another person. He was signalling to follow him. The author thought he was trying to help him. So, he followed him. He had fuel to last for five or ten minutes. He began to feel frightened. Then he started to go down. Suddenly he was on the runway. He wanted to thank him. But the sky was empty. He asked the woman sitting at the control tower where he was. She told that there was no other aeroplane except that of his. The author was wonderstruck as to who was the pilot on the strange black aeroplane, flying in the storm without lights.

MEMORISE

4. FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

Summary

A thirteen year old school girl, Anne Frank was under some depression and despair. She started writing a diary but she was in need of a real friend. No one believed that the girl was alone in the world because she was actually not alone. She had her loving parents, a sister and thirty other people. Since the written facts cannot be changed, Anne started writing the diary. That was her everlasting friend. She called that friend 'Kitty'. Anne wrote that her father was the most adorable person. At the age of thirty six, he got married to Anne's mother, Edith. In 1926, her sister Margot was born. Then she was born on 12th June, 1929. They lived in Germany. In 1933, her father emigrated to Holland. She started studying at the Montessori Nursery School. At the end of the year, there was a farewell function. The separation from head mistress was full of tears. Her grandmother died in January, 1942. At Anne's birthday celebrations, a separate candle was lit for the grandmother. In her diary, Anne made a mention of her school-experience. The complete class was nervous about their going to the next form. There were nine teachers. Mr. Keesing taught Maths. He remained annoyed with Anne because of her talkative nature. So, he had given her some extra

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FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

work, to write an essay on 'A Chatter Box'. After the homework, Anne started thinking on the essay. An idea flashed in her mind. She wrote "Talking is a student's trait and I would do my best to control it. But I won't be able to cure this habit since my mother is also talkative. So moving from the inherited trait cannot be done." On reading her arguments, Mr. Keesing had a good laugh. For two whole lessons, nothing went wrong. But in the third lesson, Mr. Keesing, again, was annoyed with her and gave her an essay to write on 'Quack Quack Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox'. At this topic, the whole class roared. Anne too laughed. Anne wrote this essay like a poem. It stated, "There was a mother duck and a father Swan with three ducklings. The ducklings were beaten to death by the father since they quacked too much". The teacher read the poem, gave his own comments. After that Anne was allowed to talk and no extra work was given. Since then, Mr. Keesing too started making jokes.

MEMORISE

5. THE HUNDRED DRESSES-I

Summary

Wanda Petronski was a poor Polish girl. She lived on Boggins Heights. She joined an American school. She was different from other girls in many ways. She wore the same pale blue dress every day. Wanda used to sit in the corner on the last bench where noisy and rough boys, who got low marks, sat. Peggy and Maddie were close friends. Peggy was pretty, had curly hair and wore beautiful dresses. She often made fun of Wanda by asking her questions about her hundred dresses in a mocking but polite voice. Maddie wanted Peggy to stop teasing Wanda. She used to feel uncomfortable of that. Perhaps it reminded her of her own poverty. Wanda told the girls that her dresses were made of velvet or silk. Wanda's absence from school was not noticed for two days but on the third day Peggy and Maddie who missed the fun of laughing at her, waited for her at the corner of Oliver Street but Wanda did not turn up and they got late for school. Next day, it was drizzling. Peggy and Maddie did not wait for Wanda because they were anxious to know the result of the competition. As they entered their classroom, hundred drawings of bright and beautiful and differently designed dresses were displayed all

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THE HUNDRED DRESSES-I

over the room. Miss Mason announced the result. Among the boys, Jack Boggles had won and among the girls Wanda Petronski. She asked the students to give her a special applause (though she was not present to enjoy it). She had submitted hundred sketches and every sketch was worth winning the best price.



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6. THE HUNDRED DRESSES-II

Summary

While the class was going on, there came a note from the Principal's office for Miss Mason. She asked the class to pay attention. She was looking tense. She read a letter from Wanda's father. It gave the information about Wanda's leaving the school since they had shifted to a big city. It said no one would make fun of her name and call her Pollack because there would be many funny names and foreigners like her, in a big city. Maddie could not focus herself in studies. She felt that it was as bad as what Peggy had done. She wanted to tell Wanda that she had never meant to hurt her feelings. She decided that she must do something and find Wanda Petronski. School was over in the afternoon. Both Peggy and Maddie hurried up towards the Boggins Heights. Maddie spoke nothing on the way. Both were proceeding rapidly. On seeing a little white house, they thought it to be the Petronski house but there was no sign of life. Peggy told that they had gone and nothing could be done. But Maddie wondered if anything could be done. That night Maddie could not sleep. As she was unable to sleep, she sat up in the bed and started thinking. After long, she took an important decision. She was never going to stand up and say anything to anyone again. If she heard

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THE HUNDRED DRESSES-II

anyone treated unkindly because of her strange name, she would speak up. On Saturday, both Maddie and Peggy wrote a friendly letter to Wanda telling her about the contest and that she had won. They mailed it to Boggins Heights. Days and weeks passed but there was no reply. Peggy started forgetting Wanda. But Maddie went on thinking about Wanda. The teacher showed the letter of Wanda Petronski to the class. She wrote that girls could keep all those hundred dresses because in her new house she had a hundred new ones. On the way, both the girls held their drawings carefully. After arriving home, Maddie pinned her drawings at the torn places in the pink flowered wall paper in the bedroom. She noticed the head and the face of the drawings. It was exactly Maddie. She thought that Wanda had drawn for her and she ran to Peggy to show her picture. They went where Wanda's drawing was lying. Maddie raised it and said 'look, she drew you'. Both the girls realised that, Wanda liked them very much even though they had teased her.

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7. GLIMPSES OF INDIA

Summary

(I) A Baker from Goa

Goa is very much influenced by the Portuguese. The Portuguese are famous for preparing loaves of bread. The writer tells about his childhood days in Goa when the baker used to visit their friend. In the morning, his jingling sound of the bamboo woke them from sleep. They all ran to meet him. The loaves were purchased by the man-servant of the house. The marriage gifts were meaningless without it. So the bakers' furnace in the village was the most essential thing. The lady of the house prepared sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement. Baking was a profitable profession in the olden days. The baker and his family never starved and they looked happy and prosperous.

(II) Coorg

Coorg is a heavenly place which lies midway between Mysore and Mangalore. It is the smallest district in Karnataka and has evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantations. The best season is between September and March when the weather is perfect for a visit to Coorg. The people are of Greek or Arabic descent. It is rumoured that a part of Alexander's army drifted here and found it impossible to return. Some peo-

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GLIMPSES OF INDIA

ple say that Coorgis are of Arabic descent as many people wear a long black coat with embroidered waist belt which is similar to the kuffia worn by the Arabs. The people of Coorg are known for their hospitality. General Cariappa, the first Army Chief was a Coorgi. Coorg is also well-known for high energy adventures like river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock-climbing etc. Bylakuppe in Coorg is India's largest settlement of Buddhist monks.

(III) Tea from Assam

'Tea from Assam' is an interesting story about tea, its history and significance. Two boys Rajvir and Pranjol are travelling to Assam. Rajvir tells Pranjol that over 8,00,000,000 cups of tea are drunk everyday throughout the world. Rajvir is very excited but Pranjol, who has been brought up on a plantation, does not share his excitement. Rajvir then tells him about the various legends—Indian and Chinese—behind tea. He tells him how a Chinese emperor by chance discovered tea, back in 2700 BC. Another story was about how ten tea plants grew out of eyelids of Bodhidharma, a Buddhist ascetic. It was only in the sixteenth century that tea came to Europe. By now, they had reached Marian junction where they got down and set off for Dhekiabari Tea Estate. Pranjol's father told Rajvir that he would tell them many more things about tea plantation.

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8. MIJBIL, THE OTTER

Summary

Early in 1956, Gavin Maxwell went to Southern Iraq. He decided to keep an otter as a pet instead of a dog as the place, he was living in Camusfearna, was ringed by water. The author's friend suggested that he should get one from 'The Tigris Marshes' as there were plenty of otters there. They went to Basra to collect their mail but the author's mail had not arrived. When his mail finally arrived, he went to his room and found two Arabs there. They had brought an otter for him.

The otter which looked more like a dragon, completely changed his life. He was covered with mud, which took months to shed.

The author named it Mijbil.

Aloof at first, he soon started taking an interest in his surroundings. He enjoyed playing with water in the bath tub.

Mijbil soon started answering to his name. He would play for hours with a rubber ball. He would often lie on his back and juggle with small objects between his paws. The author feared how he would fly with Mijbil to England as the British Airlines would not allow animals. Finally, he booked a flight to Paris and from there to London. Mijbil had to travel in a box. Mijbil was not used to that and tried to get out by tearing

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MIJBIL, THE OTTER

the inner lining. In the process, he had cut himself badly and was covered with blood. The author had to take him on the flight in that very way.

He took the air hostess in his confidence and she advised him to keep Mijbil on his knee. Soon Mijbil disappeared from his box and created a commotion in the plane as people thought it was a rat.

Mijbil and the author stayed in London for a month. Mijbil played for hours with toys like ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber, fruits, etc. The author used to exercise Mijbil on a lead outside. Mijbil would often take the author towards a primary school and gallop on its outer wall, much to the amusement of the pupils and distraction of the teacher. People wondered what kind of animal he was. Some thought it was a seal, others a squirrel or walrus, a hippo, a leopard etc. The author, however, awarded the highest marks to a labourer who stared at Mijbil and demanded to know exactly what was it supposed to be.

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9. MADAM RIDES THE BUS

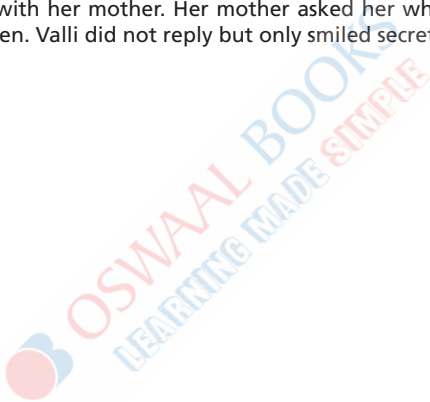
Summary

'Madam Rides the Bus' is the story of a young girl who travels for the first time outside her village by a bus. Valliammai, Valli for short, was an eight year old girl who wanted to know a number of things. She had no one to play with. A bus ran between her village and the nearest town and Valli longed to travel by that bus. Listening to people who had travelled by the bus, she gathered a little details about the trip. She decided to gather enough money to travel by it. When she had the required money, she went on the bus. The conductor was surprised to see a young girl, travelling by herself but jokingly called her 'Madam' and offered her the front seat. Valli observed everything very carefully e.g. the trees that seemed to be running towards them, a cow that suddenly moved in front of the bus and so on. When they reached the town, Valli gaped at everything in amazement—the big shops and so on. The conductor asked her to get down and have a look at the sights, but Valli refused. She said that she had come only for the bus ride. The conductor offered to buy a cold drink for her but she refused. On the journey back, Valli saw a young cow dead by the roadside. The conductor told Valli that it was the same cow they had seen earlier. Valli felt sad. The memory of the

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MADAM RIDES THE BUS

cow haunted her. When they reached the village, the conductor told her to come again, but to remember to bring the fare. When Valli reached home, she found an aunty with her mother. Her mother asked her where she had been. Valli did not reply but only smiled secretly.



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10. THE SERMON AT BENARES

Summary

Gautam Buddha (563 B.C to 483 B.C) was a prince. His parents had named him Siddhartha Gautama. He had been shielded from the sufferings of the world. At the age of twenty five he saw a sick man, an aged man and a dead man. He also saw an ascetic begging for alms. Unable to understand that, he went in search of spiritual knowledge.

After wandering for seven years, he sat under a Peepal tree and vowed that he would stay there until he got enlightenment. He got that after a week and named the tree as 'Tree of Wisdom'. He himself came to be known as Buddha.

He gave his first sermon at Benares. This sermon contained ten important points. These points were conveyed through the story about Kisa Gotami whose only son had died. She went to people asking medicine for him. At last a man told her to go to Buddha, the Sakyamuni.

Buddha told her that he would cure her son if she brought some mustard seeds from a house where no death had taken place. Kisa went to many houses but was unable to find one where no death had been seen.

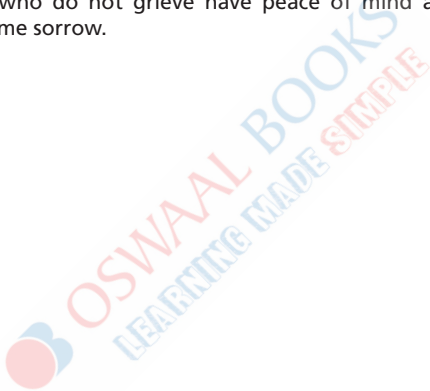
She finally realised that death was common to all and no one could avoid dying. No one can save their rela-

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THE SERMON AT BENARES

tives. People weep over their dead ones. It is only the wise who do not grieve as they have accepted the truth.

If a person weeps, his sufferings only become greater. Those who do not grieve have peace of mind and will overcome sorrow.



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11. THE PROPOSAL

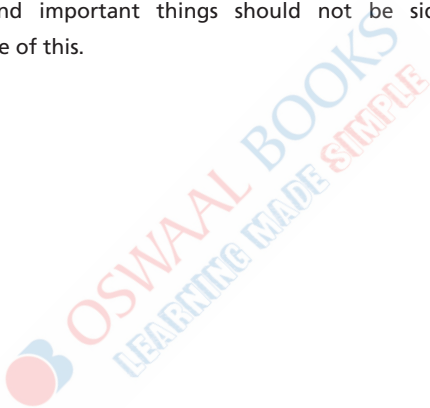
Summary

This play is about how wealthy families seek to tie up with one another through marriages in order to increase their property and wealth. Lomov is a rich bachelor who wishes to marry Natalya, the daughter of Chubukov who himself is a rich man. The play deals with how all the three characters are very quarrelsome. They quarrel over trivial issues and call each other names. Lomov is not really in love with Natalya, but wants to marry her as he feels she is a good house-keeper, beautiful and well educated. He feels that it is the time he should settle down. Natalya, who doesn't know he has come to propose to her, feels that he has come to claim oxen meadows as his own. This results in a quarrel with her father Chubukov joining in. After much mud-slinging, when Natalya comes to know that he has come to propose her, she becomes willing to

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THE PROPOSAL

marry him. The proposal is made and accepted, with the knowledge that quarrels will take place in life, and important things should not be side-lined because of this.



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1. DUST OF SNOW

Summary

'Dust of Snow' is a beautiful short poem, written by Robert Frost. This poem tells that even a simple moment has a large impact and significance. The poet has mentioned crow and hemlock tree in this poem. Crow signifies his depressive and sorrowful mood and hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. Both of these signify that the poet was not in a good mood and so he describes the dark, depressive and bitter side of nature to present his similar mood.

In such a sad, depressive mood, the poet was sitting under a hemlock tree. A crow, sitting on the same tree, shook off the dust of snow i.e., small particles of snow that remain on the surface after the snowfall, on the poet. This simple action changed the poet's mood. He realised that he had just wasted a part of his day repenting and being lost in sorrow. But the change in his mood made him realise that he should utilize the rest of the day in some useful activity. His

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DUST OF SNOW

sorrow was washed away by the light shower of snow dust. His spirit was revived and he got ready to utilise the rest of the day constructively.



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2. FIRE AND ICE

Summary

'Fire and Ice' is a short poem by Robert Frost. In this poem, the poet refers to two predictions of how the world will end. Some say it will end in fire while others say it will end in ice. According to the poet 'fire' stands for desire, greed, avarice or lust. The more you try to satisfy them, the more they grow. There is no end to it. They spread rapidly like fire and engulf your whole life. One becomes selfish and sometimes cruel also. On the other hand, 'ice' according to the poet, stands for hatred, coldness and rigidity. One becomes insensitive and indifferent towards the feelings of others. The poet says that both fire and ice are growing with such a rapid speed that the world will soon perish either way, in fire or in ice.

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3. A TIGER IN THE ZOO

Summary

'This poem contrasts a tiger in the zoo with the tiger in its natural habitat. The poem moves from the zoo to the jungle, and again back to the zoo. In the zoo, he has no freedom. He is kept in a cemented cell behind the bars. He feels angry, frustrated and helpless. This reminds him of his natural habitat, his hiding and sliding in the long grass near the water hole and pouncing upon the fat deer, the way he terrorised the villagers, displaying his sharp teeth and claws. At night in the zoo, he hears the sounds of patrolling cars. The tiger in the zoo appears helpless as a mere showpiece and a source of entertainment to people. The poet wants to convey that it is cruel to keep wild animals in small enclosures of the zoo, away from their natural habitat. They feel angry, helpless and unhappy in the cage. He pays no attention to the visitors who come to watch him. In the silence of the night, he stares at the brilliant stars with his bright eyes.

MEMORISE

4. HOW TO TELL WILD ANIMALS

Summary

'It is a humorous poem. The poet suggests some dangerous ways of identifying wild animals. The suggested ways create humour. He says if you ever visit the jungles in the east and you happen to encounter a lion, a tiger or a leopard, you'll be able to identify them by the way they attack upon you. The idea of 'Identifying while dying' makes you laugh.

He also tells you to identify a bear from its friendly, hard bear-hug, a hyena from its laugh and a crocodile from its weeping while swallowing its victim. If you see nothing on the tree, then there is a chameleon as it has the quality to change its colour according to its surroundings.

MEMORISE

5. THE BALL POEM

Summary

Once a boy was playing with his ball. It was bouncing in the street up and down. The boy was happily enjoying the game. While bouncing, suddenly it fell into the water and was lost.

Without the ball, the boy became full of grief. The poet said that there were other balls. He could purchase another since it was not a great loss. There was no need to worry. But, the boy had that ball for a long time so he was deeply grieved due to his attachment with it. It was linked to his memories. The poet thinks that it is of no use to purchase another ball. He must feel his responsibility of the loss.



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6. AMANDA!

Summary

The poem 'Amanda' is about a small child whose parents are forever nagging her about what to do and what not to do. This frequent interference makes her very unhappy. She feels that she is not free to do anything that she wants to do. She wants freedom from all restrictions. She dreams to lead a life of a mermaid in a Languid, emerald sea with her being the only inhabitant there. She feels that an orphan has more freedom than her. She also wishes to lead a calm and quiet life in a tower like that of Rapunzel with nobody to disturb her.

MEMORISE

7. ANIMALS

Summary

In this poem, Walt Whitman has beautifully brought out the contrast between animals and human beings. Animals are generally simple in nature whereas human beings are generally greedy, selfish and very complicated. He is very happy with the easy going nature of animals.

The poet is desirous to live among the animals as he thinks that they are contented and serene. They are wise and this is the reason why they never bewail of their lot and condition. They do not weep for their sins and they have no care to worship even God. They are always satisfied and do not need to possess things. They respect none including their ancestors and they remain indifferent in their pleasure and pain. For this very reason, the poet wishes to learn from animals. They do not have any kind of falsehood. They are free from all types of trivial anxieties, so they are still living their natural life.

MEMORISE

8. THE TREES

Summary

Adrienne Rich's poem, 'The Trees', is a voice with a body engaged in activities and sensing intrusions that are not organic to the conventions of a nature poem. This poem narrates the struggle of a population of trees to escape the confines of a green house or container of nature.

The poet tells us that how trees want to break out of the bondage of man-made things and reunite with their natural surroundings. The message is that the forests have disappeared. So people have planted trees in their homes. Trees are revolting as they have lost their natural usefulness. No bird nests in them, nor do they spread their shadows to the tired people.

MEMORISE

9. FOG

Summary

In this poem, the poet has beautifully shown how the fog comes stealing forward just like a cat does.

The poet Carl Sandburg gives a wonderful comparison between the fog and a kitten. When it arrives, it is so slow that you hardly notice it until you see or feel it. The same happens with the fog. Nobody can predict about the arrival of fog. Fog arrives quietly and engulfs the entire place and stay on for some time. It creates troubles for everyone but stays there. It is not aware of what is happening around it. Fog causes many hurdles and incidents but it does not stay at one place for a long time. As problems are over in due course of time, in the same manner fog also disappears and it becomes clear all around.

MEMORISE

10. THE TALE OF CUSTARD, THE DRAGON

Summary

This is the story of a girl Belinda, who had some strange pets. They had queer names. She called the black kitten Ink, the little grey mouse as Blink, the yellow dog as 'Mustard' and the cowardly dragon 'Custard'. Belinda's, kitten, mouse and dog were very brave but the dragon was a coward. One day, a pirate came armed with a pistol into their house.

Except the dragon, Custard, all others were terrified of the pirate. Custard attacked the pirate and gobbled him up. Belinda then embraced him, while Mustard licked him. Even after this brave incident, Custard did not give up his cowardly ways. He still kept on crying for a safe cage.

MEMORISE

11. FOR ANNE GREGORY

Summary

In this poem, a young man discusses why a person falls in love, i.e. what determines it. According to them, a person is not loved for his basic nature but because of his/her physical feature, i.e., outward physical appearance. It is not possible to love one for oneself. Only God can do so.

The poem 'For Anne Gregory' by W.B. Yeats is a poem of eighteen lines in all. In this poem, the poet addresses young Gregory and tells her that her hair is of the same colour as honey and when it falls, the poet begins to think of her beauty being spell bound. Her hair is so beautiful that every man falls in love with her. At this, Gregory gives response to the poet that man loves her only for her outward beauty while this outward appearance may change at any time. At this, the poet proclaims it a truth since time immemorial that man can not easily judge a woman other than her looks. He tells Anne that she can never be ugly inward or outward even if she wishes to be so.

MEMORISE

1. A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

Summary

Dr. Herriot had pulled up his car when he saw Mrs. Pumphrey with her little dog on the street. The dog was very fat. He had blood-red and rheumy eyes. His tongue lolled from his jaws. Dr. Herriot was shocked to see his appearance. Mrs. Pumphrey called Tricki (the little dog) as listless. He had no energy. So, she gave him extras between meals. But his health could not be built up. Mrs. Pumphrey cut down on the sweet things but relented when Tricki started getting weaker. She gave him his favourite cream, cakes and chocolates. She gave him food at odd and irregular hours. She gave him only little walks and no other exercise. The doctor advised Mrs. Pumphrey to cut Tricki's food right down and to give him more exercise. Mrs. Pumphrey got determined to adhere to the doctor's stern advice. Dr. Herriot watched Tricki's progress but was not satisfied. The doctor suggested that Tricki should be kept under observation in the hospital. Mrs. Pumphrey started wailing when Dr. Herriot took Tricki to his hospital. Tricki could not even wag his tail or kick with his legs. His eyes too had become dull and he lay down motionless on the carpet. The other dogs at the surgery ignored him as an uninteresting object. The doctor gave him plenty of water. He

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A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

became a bit energetic after two days. On the third day, he trotted out and enjoyed the company of other dogs. He also started eating properly. The doctor did not give Tricki any medicinal treatment. All day, he frolicked with other dogs cheerfully. He got out of danger and started convalescing rapidly. Mrs. Pumphrey enquired about Tricki on phone many times a day. Ultimately, she was told that Tricki had recovered from the surgery. She reached by car to collect him. The doctor brought Tricki in his arms. Tricki jumped into Mrs. Pumphrey's lap and started licking her face. Tears were shining in her eyes. She thanked the doctor with trembling lips.



MEMORISE

2. THE THIEF'S STORY

Summary

Hari Singh was an artful thief. One day, he met a young man of twenty-five named Anil, at a wrestling match. He gave him an artificial smile. He desired to have an acquaintance with Anil in order to make him his next victim. Anil avoided him. Hari Singh followed Anil after the match was over. He asked Anil for work. He was ready to work for Anil if he could just feed him. Anil agreed to engage Hari Singh if he could cook food for both. The thief lied that he was a good cook as Anil had to throw the bad meal, prepared by Hari Singh to dogs, on the first day. Anil taught him how to cook, read and write. The thief made the morning tea and bought the daily supplies. Anil was aware of the fact that Hari Singh made a profit from the purchases. Anil was not a rich man. One day, Anil sold a book to a publisher and brought home a bundle of notes. He put the money under his mattress. The thief had not stolen anything since a month of his working there. However, he could not resist the temptation of getting the bundles of notes. The thief got up quietly when Anil had gone to sleep. He took the money and slipped out of the room. He had six hundred rupees in his possession. He reached the railway station just as the Lucknow Express was picking up speed. He could have boarded it but

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THE THIEF'S STORY

something held him back. Hari Singh was left alone on the platform. He was in a dilemma where to go. He did not like to go to a hotel lest he should be suspected. It was drizzling when he went to the maidan and sat down on a bench. His clothes got drenched. It was midnight. He thought and realized that he had let go a chance of being a respectable man. Anil was taking pains to teach him reading and writing. He decided to go back to Anil and reached his home. Anil was still asleep. He slipped the money at its usual place. Anil had made tea before Hari Singh woke up. Anil offered him a fifty rupee note. He also promised him to pay him regularly. The note was still wet. Anil understood everything but he did not expose the thief's doing. Hari Singh felt guilty and smiled shame-facedly.

MEMORISE

3. THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR

Summary

Ausable was a secret agent in an organisation. He was a fat man with a strange accent. He was an American and could speak German and French fluently. He lived in a small room on the top floor of a French hotel in Paris.

Fowler was a young and romantic writer. One day, he visited Ausable in the hope of finding some unusual happenings there. He was also a spy and dealt in espionage and danger. However, he felt disappointed at Ausable's sight.

Ausable and Fowler spent the evening in a French music hall. Fowler was feeling bored. Ausable informed him that he would soon receive an important paper. The paper might affect the course of history. It had also made many men and women risk their lives. He had got a telephone call making an appointment in his room.

Ausable switched on the light after closing the door. There was a man with a pistol standing half way across the room. Fowler was thrilled. Ausable was surprised to see Max (another secret agent belonging to another agent's organisation) in his room. On being asked, Max informed him that he had come there

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THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR

at an odd hour to take from him the prospective report about some new missiles.

Ausable sat in an armchair in a serious and angry mood. He started saying that it was the second time in a month that somebody had got into his room through a balcony. Max had no knowledge about the balcony. He reported that he had a pass key.

Ausable explained that the balcony belonged to the next apartment which used to be the living room. The balcony extended under his window. The management had not still blocked it off and intruders could get in from the apartment. Max asked Fowler to sit down, rather than stand stiffly for half an hour till the report arrived.

Ausable was at a loss to find how Max had learnt about the incoming report. Just then, there was a knock at the door. Fowler jumped at it. Ausable concocted another story that the Police might have come to provide him security for the important paper.

Ausable told Max that the police would enter the room any way and shoot if he did not open the door. Max got unnerved. Max got infuriated and started backing swiftly towards the window. He opened the window with one hand behind. He wanted to escape through the balcony.

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THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR

He informed Ausable that he would wait on the balcony. He would shoot and take his chances if Ausable did not send the Police away. The knocking became louder. Somebody called Ausable repeatedly. Max dropped to the balcony, screamed loudly and died.

A waiter entered the room with a bottle and two glasses set on a tray with the drink ordered by Ausable.

Fowler was perplexed. Ausable explained that he was waiting for the waiter and not for the police. Fowler was afraid lest Max should shoot them from the balcony. Ausable assured Fowler that Max would never return.



MEMORISE

4. A QUESTION OF TRUST

Summary

Horace Danby was generally considered to be a good and respectable citizen. He was a fifty year old bachelor. He lived with a housekeeper. He was an expert lock maker. However, he was not completely honest. He had been to prison, fifteen years ago for stealing jewels. He had no desire to become honest. He was careful lest he should run into difficulties for his dishonesty.

Horace Danby hated prison. He was heartily fond of rare and expensive books. He used to commit one theft a year on an average. The stolen money lasted for the year. He chose the house at Shotover Grange to commit his next burglary. He studied the design of the house carefully for a fortnight. He found that the family had gone to London and the servants to the movie. He broke into the house one afternoon. He hoped to get fifteen thousand pounds worth of jewels from the safe. The jewellery would enable him to buy the books he wanted. He put on his gloves. He took the key from its usual place. He pac-

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A QUESTION OF TRUST

ified the pet dog by addressing it with love. He reached the safe, placed in the drawing room behind a painting. He was suffering from hay fever. The smell of the flowers at the table made him sneeze.

Just then, a young beautiful woman in red clothes entered the house. She posed to be the mistress of the house. She suggested him that he should see a doctor if he was serious about his work. His sneezing had brought her down from the top of the house. She thanked her stars that she had returned in time not expecting to see a burglar in the house. To avoid trouble, Horace started conversing with her in a pleasant manner. He replied that he too had not expected to find her there. She got furious when he asked her to let him go. She threatened to get him arrested. The thought of going to prison made Horace shudder. He pledged that he would never repeat such kind of thing if he was let off.

The woman took a cigarette from a silver box. Horace took off his gloves and held his lighter towards her. She promised to let him go if he did something for her. Horace readily consented to the proposal. The woman said that

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A QUESTION OF TRUST

she had come to take her jewels as she had to attend a party. She had forgotten the numbers to open the safe. She requested Horace to open it. She would get the safe repaired. Horace broke the safe open and gave her the jewels. Then, he was allowed to go.

Horace's fingerprints were found on the safe. He was arrested for the jewel robbery on the third day. The house lady was an aged woman of sixty. He realised that he was befooled by a lady who was also a thief.



OSWAYAL BOOKS
LEARNING MADE EASY

MEMORISE

5. FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET

Summary

Griffin, a brilliant scientist, carried on experiments and swallowed certain rare drugs to become an invisible person. He set fire to the house of his landlord to take revenge. He removed his clothes, became invisible and began to wander about the streets of London. He struck into the mud that made his footprints left behind as he walked. Two boys followed those footprints without feet but Griffin easily dodged them. It was mid-winter and he was without clothes. He slipped into a big London store and found warm clothes for himself when the store is closed. On wearing them, he became visible. He had cold meat, coffee, sweets and wine in the kitchen. Then he slept on a pile of quilts. On seeing the assistants next morning, he got nervous and began to run. They chased him. Then he quickly took off his clothes, became invisible and escaped from there. Then he robbed the shopkeeper of a theatre company for the bandages he wore round his forehead, dark glasses, false nose, big bushy whiskers and a large hat. Griffin left London and reached the village of Iping where he booked two rooms at a local inn. There he told Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife, that he had come there to work in solitude. He paid the rent in advance. But when his

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FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET

entire stolen money was spent, he admitted that he had no ready cash. He said that he was expecting a cheque and then he would make the payment. Griffin became invisible again and stole money from the Clergyman's desk to pay rent. The Clergyman and his wife did not find any trace of the burglar in their house. That morning the landlord and his wife found that the scientist is missing from his room. The clothes and bandages, that he always wore, were lying in the room. Later when the invisible scientist entered the room, he attacked Mrs. Hall with the bedroom chair. Mrs. Hall was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits and the scientist is liable for that. The neighbours also felt that the trouble was caused by witchcraft. They also suspected the scientist for the burglary at Clergyman's house. Their suspicion was strengthened when he suddenly produced some ready cash because only a day before, he had admitted that he had no money. They secretly called the village constable. When Mrs. Hall saw the scientist emerging from his empty room, she demanded explanation. The scientist became furious and threw off his bandages, whiskers, spectacles, false nose to become headless man. Meanwhile the constable, Mr. Jaffers, arrived and struggled hard to arrest that headless man. The people who tried to assist him also received blows from the invisible scientist. Mr. Jaffers was knocked unconscious. Griffin had shaken himself free and ran from there.

MEMORISE

6. THE MAKING OF A SCIENTIST

Summary

'The Making of a Scientist' is the incredible story of Richard Ebright, a scientist, who has done wonders in the field of science. He was the only child of his parents, who had a great fascination for butterflies, right from when he was very young. His mother always encouraged him and he soon had a wonderful collection of fossils, rocks, coins and butterflies. Guided by Dr. Urguhart, he started tagging Monarch butterflies, but when there was no feedback, he started losing interest. Right from the eighth grade, he started doing real experiments. He soon started winning award after award. He then realised the importance of cells and showed how a cell would divide and develop into normal butterfly wing-scales. He won the first prize at the International Science Fair. Then he got a new blue print of its DNA. DNA is the blueprint for life. Other than Science, Ebright was a good debater, canoeist as well as an expert photographer.

MEMORISE

7. THE NECKLACE

Summary

'Matilda was a pretty lady, born in a poor family. She was married to a clerk. She suffered a lot of misery as she felt that she had been born for better things. One day, her husband came home very happy. He had an invitation to a Ball for both of them from the Minister of Public Instruction. He thought his wife would be happy, but she only got angry and threw the invitation card on the table. On being asked why she reacted in such a manner, she replied that she did not have proper dress for the party. Her loving husband gave her all the money he had set aside. When the dress was ready, Matilda's husband saw that still she was not happy. On being asked the reason, she said that she had no jewels. He told her to borrow jewellery from her dear friend — Mrs. Forestier. Matilda borrowed a diamond necklace from her. She was a great hit at the party. On reaching home, she decided to take a final look at herself. She was terribly shocked when she found the necklace was missing. They looked everywhere for it, but it was nowhere to be found. They went to the police and also put an advertisement in the papers. In the meantime, they wrote to Madame Forestier that the clasp was broken and

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THE NECKLACE

also that they would get the necklace repaired and return it. When the necklace was not found, they decided to replace it with a similar necklace. They bought it for forty thousand Francs, and had to take a loan for it. In order to repay the loan, they took a rented room and turned away the maid. Mr. Loisel took up overtime work to save money. This life continued for almost ten long years. One day she happened to meet Mrs. Forestier who still looked young. Matilda told her the whole story. Shocked at the story, Mrs. Forestier told her a shocking truth i.e. the diamond necklace that she had lent to Matilda had been made of artificial diamonds and was worth only five hundred francs.

MEMORISE

8. THE HACK DRIVER

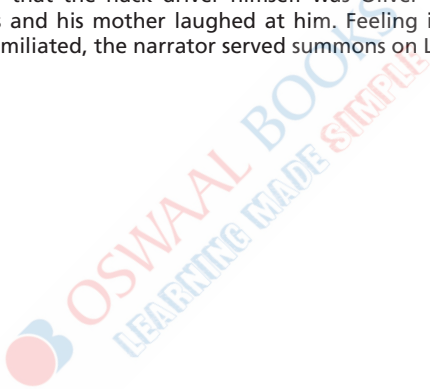
Summary

This story is about a junior assistant clerk. His job was to serve summons. As he hated this work, he thought about running away to his own home town, and become a lawyer right away. One day, he was asked to serve summons on a man, called Oliver Lutkins as he was a witness in a law suit. On reaching New Mullion, he found that a delivery man (hack driver) was willing to help him find him the person in quarry. He would charge two dollars an hour for that work, as it would be very difficult to locate Lutkins. The hackman started talking to him and said that Lutkins never parted with his money. Wherever they went, he told the narrator to keep out of sight, while he enquired for Lutkins. They went to Fritz's where Lutkins played poker and from there to a barber and then a poolroom. They were not able to find Lutkins. In the afternoon, the narrator decided to buy lunch and offered to pay for the hack driver's lunch also. The driver got the lunch prepared by his wife and charged him half a dollar for it. Finally, the hack driver took him to Lutkin's house. When Lutkin's mother heard that they had come to serve summons on her son, she seized an iron rod and marched on them. She also threatened to burn them if they did not go away. The narrator returned

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THE HACK DRIVER

to his city. He was asked to go back and somehow serve summons on Lutkins. A man who knew Lutkins went with him. On reaching New Mullion, the narrator was shocked to find that the hack driver himself was Oliver Lutkins. Lutkins and his mother laughed at him. Feeling insulted and humiliated, the narrator served summons on Lutkins.



MEMORISE

9. BHOLI

Summary

The main character of this story is a simple girl, named Bholi. Her real name is Sulekha and she is the fourth daughter of Numberdar Ramlal. She fell out of her cot when she was ten months old and probably, a part of her brain was damaged. Her body was disfigured at the age of two by an attack of smallpox. She could not speak clearly and so children made fun of her. Bholi was the weakest child. When a primary school was opened in their village, Bholi's father who was a revenue officer, wanted her to study there. He sent Bholi to school even though her mother protested against it. Dressed in new clothes, she was sent to school. Happy to see other girls there, she hoped that one of them would become her friend. The teacher smilingly encouraged her to speak. She also asked Bholi to come to the school daily. She gave her a book with many colourful pictures in it. She also told Bholi that she would soon be able to read it and everyone would treat her with respect. Bholi was filled with hope. When Bholi was of marriageable age, her father fixed her match with a person named Bishamber, as he had a big shop, house and a large bank balance. He was a widower and had grown up children. The day of her marriage came, and

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BHOLI

Bishamber arrived with a big baraat. He was pleased with the arrangements but when Bholi's silken veil was removed, he was shocked to see her pock-marked face. He refused to garland her, and said that the marriage would go through only if an additional five thousand rupees were given to him. Ramlal brought the money. When Bishamber was about to garland her, Bholi flung the garland into the fire. She very clearly told her father that she would not marry that man, who was not just old and lame but also a mean and greedy person. She took a vow never to get married. She decided that she would become a teacher and serve her parents in their old age.

MEMORISE

10. THE BOOK THAT SAVED THE EARTH

Summary

This play is set in the twenty-fifth century at the museum of Ancient History. A historian tells the students how the Earth had been invaded by Martians in the twenty-first century, but was saved by a book of nursery rhymes.

The ruler of Mars, 'Think-Tank' was an arrogant fool. He planned to invade Earth. He confided his plan to Noodle and instructed him to gather information of where his crew was on the Earth. Noodle found out that they, i.e., Captain Omega, Lieutenant Iota and Sergeant Oop were in the Centerville Public Library. They were trying to identify the objects there, but as they had never seen books, could not identify them. Think-Tank thought that the books were a kind of crude refreshment—may be sandwiches. Iota and Omega were ordered to eat them.

Then Think-Tank guessed that it was a communication satellite. He ordered them to take vitamins to help them transcribe the code.

Omega managed to read some of the nursery rhymes like—'The Cat and the Fiddle', 'Mistress Mary' and 'Humpty-Dumpty'. Think-Tank interpreted the

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THE BOOK THAT SAVED THE EARTH

dreams in his own way and concluded that the earthlings were more powerful than them and that they were planning to attack them.

Think-Tank got scared and decided to migrate to Alpha Century, which was one hundred million miles away from Mars. Noodle who had become friendly with the people on the Earth, took over as the leader. In that way, a book of nursery rhymes was able to save the world.

