

POETRY

Ozymandias

— Percy Bysshe Shelley

Poem

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said - "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert... Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:

My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away".

Summary

About the Poet:

Percy Bysshe Shelley was a famous English poet from the early 19th century, known for his rich imagery, passionate themes, and radical ideas. Born on August 4, 1792, Shelley became one of the key figures in the Romantic movement, alongside poets like Lord Byron and John Keats. His work is celebrated for its promotion of individualism, political and social reform, and the power of imagination. Despite his early death by drowning at the age of 29 in 1822, Shelley's ideas and poetry have had a lasting impact on literature and thought, inspiring generations of writers and thinkers.

The poem "Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley is about the ruins of a statue in a desert. The speaker heard about this statue from a traveler. The statue was meant to honour a king named Ozymandias, but now it's all broken and decayed. The face of the statue is proud and arrogant, showing how the king must have felt very powerful. Next to it, there's a sign that says Ozymandias is the "King of Kings" and tells people to look at his works and be amazed.

But the strange thing is, there's nothing around the statue. No kingdom, no people, and no "works" to be proud of. Just endless sand. It's like nature has taken over everything. The once-great king and his empire have turned to dust. The statue that was supposed to make him immortal has failed; it's just a broken piece in the middle of nowhere.

This poem makes us think about the idea of legacy. Many people want to be remembered after they're gone. They might build statues, write books, or make laws, thinking these things will make them live forever in people's memories. But Shelley shows that, in the end, nothing lasts forever. Time and nature will eventually take over. Even the mightiest kings and the greatest empires will disappear.

So the poem is a kind of warning. It tells us to be careful about being too proud or thinking we're invincible. It doesn't matter how powerful or important we think we are; we're all part of something much bigger that we can't control. The poem is a lesson in humility and the temporary nature of human accomplishments.

Conclusion: The poem also shows the skill of the poet. Shelley uses irony to convey his message. The words on the statue say one thing, but the ruins say another. The king wanted to show off his power, but what's left makes him look foolish. It's a simple but clever way to make us think about the big ideas of power, pride, and what really lasts in this world.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Comprehension

A. Answer the following questions in 75-100 words.

- Q1. What is the condition of the statue in the poem? Which parts of it remain preserved and what is lost?**

Answer :

The poem "Ozymandias," written by Percy Bysshe Shelley, describes a statue being in a state of ruin and decay. The only parts that remain preserved are the two "vast and trunkless legs of stone," along with a face, half sunken in the sand. The expression on the face is exceptionally well preserved, with a wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command, indicating the sculptor captured the king's character and attitude with great skill.

The remaining statue, including the upper body and the arms, has crumbled over time. Even the inscriptions have disappeared with the lone and level sands.

Conclusion: The poem illustrates the changing nature of power and human achievements and how time destroys even the mightiest monuments.

- Q2. Explain, in a couple of lines each, what the following phrases mean:**
- (a) 'vast and trunkless legs of stone' (c) 'stamped on these lifeless things'
(b) 'sneer of cold command' (d) 'colossal wreck'

Answer :

- (a) **'vast and trunkless legs of stone'**

The phrase "vast and trunkless legs of stone" in the poem 'Ozymandias', written by Percy Bysshe Shelley, is a sharp description of the remaining parts of a majestic statue. The word 'vast' conveys the size and height of the legs, while 'trunkless' indicates the upper part of the statue, including the trunk that has been destroyed.

This picture serves to emphasise the dissection and decay of what was once a symbol of power and dominance. The statue is likely an imposing and proud figure in its prime, now reduced to its legs, standing in isolation in the desert. The king's body and his empire have collapsed, but the legs remain a haunting reminder of what once was.

Conclusion: It's a powerful visual metaphor of the fleeting nature of human achievements and the unavoidable end of the most powerful symbols.

- (b) **'sneer of cold command'**

The lines 'sneer of cold command' from the poem 'Ozymandias', written by Percy Bysshe Shelley refers to the facial expression on the statue's face. The statue has the pride and power of Ozymandias, the king. This sneer (laugh) represents the king's great power and dominance. Despite the fact that the statue is now in rubble, the facial expression remains, and the artist understood and conveyed the character of the king very well.

Conclusion: It is a persistent proof of the king's personality and his rule, but also a reminder that those feelings of power and authority have now crumbled into dust.

- (c) **'stamped on these lifeless things'**

The lines 'stamped on these lifeless things' from the poem 'Ozymandias', written by Percy Bysshe Shelley, demonstrate the talent of the artist, who is able to express the living spirit of a powerful king in a form as rigid as stone. It also serves as a visual example of the permanent impression of art, where the feelings and personality of a person can be captured even after their physical existence has disappeared.

Conclusion: The use of 'stamped' highlights the might and power of the king's personality, as well as his desire to leave a permanent mark on the world. The poem points out the fleeting nature of such glory, as all that is left of the once-mighty king is a collapsed statue in a vast desert.

PROSE

The Lottery Ticket

— Anton Chekhov

Summary

About the Author:

Russian playwright and short story writer Anton Chekhov was well-known. He was born in 1860 and died in 1904. He is regarded as one of the best writers of short stories in all of literary history. Chekhov made a significant artistic contribution, and his works are praised for their rich humor, deep understanding of human nature, and diverse range of characters. His experience in medicine had a significant impact on his writing, since he frequently used clinical accuracy and empathy to portray people's lives in a variety of situations.

Ivan Dmitritch and his wife live an ordinary middle-class life, but everything changes when they discover that the series number on their lottery ticket matches the winning one. With the potential to win 75,000 rubles, their minds start racing with dreams of the luxuries that could become theirs. Excitement fills their hearts as they imagine leaving behind their mundane lives for a world filled with travel, beautiful estates, and carefree living.

Initially, these dreams bring them closer together as they share visions of a better future. They imagine touring Europe, buying fashionable clothing, and hosting lavish parties. The drudgery of daily life seems like a thing of the past, and they are united in their fantasies.

However, as the day wears on, their fantasies begin to turn selfish. Ivan starts to think about how his wife might waste the money on trivial things, while she grows concerned that he might gamble it away or make unwise investments. The unity they felt earlier starts to crumble and is replaced by distrust and resentment. They begin to argue over imaginary scenarios, each growing more bitter and angry at the other.

As they start to look at each other with hatred, the dream that once brought them joy now becomes a source of contention. Their once-loving relationship is strained to the breaking point as they each see the other as a threat to their newfound fortune.

In the end, the bubble bursts when Ivan Dmitritch finally checks the full winning number and finds that they didn't win after all. The luxurious dreams disappear in an instant, leaving them with their ordinary lives, now tainted with irritation, disappointment, and a sense of unfulfilled desire.

The story serves as a powerful commentary on human nature, highlighting how quickly dreams can turn into nightmares when greed and selfishness take over. The once-loving couple's relationship is damaged, perhaps beyond repair, by the allure of wealth that was never theirs. It's a sobering reminder of the importance of keeping perspective and valuing what we have rather than being consumed by what we don't. The lottery ticket, once a symbol of hope becomes a metaphor for the destructive power of materialistic desire.

Post-Reading Questions

1. Do you think Chekhov's story is unrealistic, or do you find the thoughts, feelings and actions of Ivan and Masha Dmitritch believable? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer : Chekhov's story realistically shows how sudden wealth dreams can turn joy into greed and discord, highlighting the quick shift from happiness to misery and relationship decay.

2. Can one lead a happy life irrespective of one's financial position? Discuss this in class

Answer : Happiness depends more on values, relationships, and personal fulfillment than on financial status, suggesting that joy comes from gratitude, simple pleasures, and meaningful pursuits rather than wealth alone.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Comprehension

A. Answer the following questions in 75-100 words.

Q1. Was Ivan Dmitritch a regular lottery player? Why did he take such an interest in the results of this particular lottery?

Answer :

Anton Chekhov was a famous writer from Russia. He wrote a lot of short stories and plays. Besides writing, Chekhov was a doctor. He helped sick people. His early life was tough, but he worked hard to become a great writer. People still like his work, and he is remembered as one of the best writers ever.

Ivan Dmitritch was not a regular lottery player, he had no faith in the lottery. He took interest in the result of this lottery because his wife had a ticket, and she asked him to check the numbers in the newspaper. As he had nothing to do and the newspaper was in front of him, he decided to look up the lottery number. When he found the series number matching his wife's ticket, an interest in winning drew him into further excitement.

Q2. What thoughts about his wife and her relations began to trouble Ivan Dmitritch?

Answer :

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Ivan Dmitritch made himself think about winning the lottery, troublesome thoughts about his wife and her relations began to arise. He started thinking with the idea that his wife would be frugal with the money by hiding it from him. He also thought of his wife's relations, her brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts who would come crawling as they heard of the winning lottery. They would begin whining like beggars with hypocritical smiles. He started to hate his wife, finding her appearance offensive and linking her smell with the smell of cooking. These dark thoughts about her and her family turned his dream of fortune into a bitter and angry thought, reflecting a deep underlying displeasure.

Q3. Why did Ivan Dmitritch read out the final number 'triumphantly'? How did the evening end for the couple?

Answer :

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Ivan Dmitritch read the last number of the lottery ticket in a triumphant way, but it was not a happy moment. He and his wife had started dreaming about winning the lottery, and it was fun at first. But then they began to fight and feel angry with each other. Their dreams turned into something bad.

When Ivan read the wrong number, it was like a way to stop their dreams and also fighting. But it did not make things better. They felt disappointed, and their home felt small and dark. Their food did not taste good.

The story ends on a sad note. The dream of winning money had turned into a fight, and it showed that they had problems in their relationship. It's a reminder that dreams and fantasies can sometimes cause trouble instead of happiness.

Q4. Contrast the last two paragraphs with the first paragraph of the story.

Answer :

Anton Chekhov was a famous writer from Russia. He wrote a lot of short stories and plays. Besides writing, Chekhov was a doctor. He helped sick people. His early life was tough, but he worked hard to become a great writer. People still like his work, and he is remembered as one of the best writers ever.

The story begins with a picture of Ivan Dmitritch and his wife living a comfortable and stable life. Ivan is described as a content middle-class man, and their home seems peaceful.

But the story ends with a completely different feeling. The shared dream of winning the lottery has given way to envy, bitterness, and profound disappointment. Their home, which once felt cosy now seems small and dark. Their dinner tastes heavy.

The excitement of the lottery has **turned** into disappointment and even hatred. The dream of winning money exposed problems and **desires** that were hidden before. What started as a normal evening turned into a troubling look at their real lives.

So, the lottery ticket didn't bring them joy; it brought out the dissatisfaction and problems they had. It's a lesson about how dreams and fantasies can sometimes reveal unpleasant truths.

Q5. According to you, what might the lottery ticket symbolise? Justify your answer.

Answer :

Anton Chekhov was a famous writer from Russia. He wrote a lot of short stories and plays. Besides writing, Chekhov was a doctor. He helped sick people. His early life was tough, but he worked hard to become a great writer. People still like his work, and he is remembered as one of the best writers ever.

The lottery ticket in the story isn't just about winning money. It symbolises all the things they wish they had in life. It also shows that beneath the surface, they have some problems and are not truly happy with their lives.

In the end, the lottery ticket shows that dreams of something better can sometimes uncover unhappiness and a desire for more. It teaches a lesson about being careful with what you wish for, as it may reveal things you weren't expecting.

9. Internet Addiction

Hi everyone!

Today, I'd like to talk to you about internet addiction. Internet addiction is a serious problem that affects millions of people around the world. It is characterised by a compulsive need to use the internet, even when it causes negative consequences in a person's life.

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There are many different types of internet addictions, including:

- **Gaming addiction:** This is a type of addiction where people spend excessive amounts of time playing video games.
- **Social media addiction:** This is a type of addiction where people spend excessive amounts of time on social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Internet addiction can have a number of negative consequences, including:

- **Problems with relationships:** Internet addicts often neglect their relationships with family and friends.
- **Problems at work or school:** Internet addicts often have difficulty focusing on their work or studies.
- **Health problems:** Internet addicts often experience sleep deprivation, fatigue, and weight gain.
- **Financial problems:** Internet addicts often spend excessive amounts of money on internet-related activities.
- **Psychological problems:** Internet addicts often experience anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

If you think you or someone you know may be struggling with internet addiction, there are a number of things you can do. First, it is important to talk to a doctor or therapist. They can help you assess the severity of your addiction and develop a treatment plan. There are also a number of support groups available for internet addicts. These groups can provide you with support and guidance as you work to overcome your addiction. There is no shame in seeking treatment, and it is the first step towards a healthier life. Thank you!

WRITING

Memo Writing

A memo, short for memorandum, is an official written note used in workplaces and academic settings to share information quickly and effectively. Memos help circulate plans, updates, and responses within an organization. They're like official letters but are only for internal communication and are usually more straightforward.

Follow the guidelines to write memorandums:

- A memo consists of two main sections: the header on top and the body text below.
- Start by typing 'Memo' or 'Memorandum' at the top. Then list the receiver's name, your name, any reference numbers, the date, and the subject in a brief line. Some organisations use pre-printed memo forms.
- If needed, add a 'CC' line below the main recipient's name to loop in higher-ups who should be aware of the memo.
- Draw a line to separate the header from the body text.
- Kick off the body with a straightforward statement explaining the memo's purpose.
- Memos don't need formal greetings like 'Dear' or sign-offs like 'Sincerely.'
- Write clearly and simply, using short sentences.
- It's okay to use first-person pronouns like 'I' or 'we,' but maintain a professional tone.
- Short memos deal with one issue. For longer ones, use paragraphs or bullet points, and add headings if necessary to make the text easy to follow.
- Wrap up with a conclusion, offering next steps or recommendations. Stick to the point and avoid repeating information.
- Don't include confidential information in memos.
- If you're attaching other documents, note this at the bottom (for example, 'Attachment: Tender Notice').
- Before sending, proofread the memo and add your initials next to your name.

SAMPLE MEMOS

S.V. ENGINEERING COLLEGE

Memorandum

To: Heads of Department
CC: Professor Narendranath , Principal
From: Kamala Sathe, Librarian
Date: 30 June 2023
Subject: **Acquisition of new titles**

Following an increase of 20% in the library's annual budget for 2023-2024, the college management has decided to add to the list of books in the library. The first step towards achieving this has been taken by asking for recent catalogues of general and subject books from leading publishers and preparing lists for different subject categories. I request all heads of department to go through the lists and select 40-50 reference books and possible textbooks each. Besides books on your subjects, you could suggest titles that would be of general interest.

Please send in your recommendations latest by 20 July 2023.

Attachment: copies of catalogues

EXAMS ▾

Honey Dew

On the Grasshopper and Cricket Summary

ASK

CONCEPTS

Summary of On the Grasshopper and Cricket

In this article, we will be reading On the Grasshopper and Cricket summary. This poem is a fine piece of Petrarchan sonnet by the famous poet John Keats. He wrote this poem in December 1816. It is inspired by the beauty of nature. Poets usually find beauty and poetry in spring and good weather. But Keats is different as he finds nature beautiful in all seasons including hot summer and cold winter.

The poet symbolizes the grasshopper as hot summer and the cricket as a very cold winter. He says that even when the birds stop singing during the hot summers, the Earth still sings. The grasshopper sings tirelessly during this time flying from the hedge. The poet further says that during the cold winter also the Earth keeps expressing pleasure through cricket. A cricket sings through the stones.

On the Grasshopper and Cricket Summary in English

In the poem 'On the Grasshopper and Cricket', the poet John Keats celebrates the music of the Earth. He finds beauty in hot summer as well as in the cold winter. Here, in this poem, the grasshopper is a symbol of hot summer and cricket is a symbol of cold winter. The poet says that the music of nature or earth is always alive whether it is hot summer or cold

and bleak winter.

During the hot summer, all the singing birds are tired and take rest under the shady branches of trees. But even if they don't sing the song of nature goes on. We can still hear the voice of the grasshopper who runs from hedge to hedge. He keeps singing tirelessly and when tired rests beneath some weed.

A grasshopper carries on the duty of singing the everlasting song of nature. During summers, he is a fun-loving and cheerful creature and is never done with his delights.

Read more Honey Dew Poem Summaries here

During the cold winter season also, the birds are silent. There is utter silence on the frosty winter days. But the earth has its own way of expressing pleasure and joys. The song of a cricket can be heard which breaks this silence.

He sings from the stones but not from the trees. His song appears to be increasing the warmth every moment. People are able to hear it sitting in their houses. However, the poet says that to a person who is half-asleep, it may appear to be a grasshopper's song coming from the grassy hills.

Thus, we can say that the grasshopper and the cricket, two tiny insects, perform a big responsibility. They carry on with nature's continuous and everlasting music irrespective of the extreme climates. The poet has thus personified them. It is thus a symbolic poem. Here, the grasshopper and the cricket are a symbol of the constant joyous mood of nature.

Conclusion of On the Grasshopper and Cricket

PROSE

The Doll's House

— Katherine Mansfield

Summary

About the Author:

Katherine Mansfield, born Kathleen Mansfield Beauchamp in 1888 in Wellington, New Zealand, is a renowned figure in English literature, celebrated for her short stories that capture the complexities of human nature and the subtleties of social interaction. Her work is distinguished by its psychological depth, precision of language, and the vivid portrayal of character and mood within the constraints of the short story form.

"The Doll's House" is a short story by Katherine Mansfield, focusing on themes of social class, innocence, and exclusion within a small community.

The story begins with the Burnell children receiving a beautiful doll's house from Mrs. Hay. It is an extraordinary and detailed object, complete with miniature furniture and a lamp that seems more real than anything else in the house. The doll's house is placed in the courtyard, and the children are allowed to invite two classmates at a time to see it.

However, two girls, the Kelvey sisters, are not invited due to their lower social status. They are the daughters of a washerwoman, and their father is rumoured to be in prison. Everyone, including the teacher, shuns them, and they are often ridiculed by their peers.

As various children from school are invited to see the doll's house, the Kelvey sisters are left out, fueling curiosity and desire among them. The children's mother explicitly forbids her daughters from inviting the Kelveys, reflecting broader societal prejudices.

Eventually, the youngest Burnell child, Kezia, decides to invite the Kelveys on her own. She sees them on the road and impulsively asks them to come and see the doll's house. Lil Kelvey, the older sister, is surprised and hesitant, recalling that Kezia's mother told them not to speak to each other. Kezia dismisses it, insisting they can come and see the doll's house. The story ends with the invitation hanging in the air, leaving readers to ponder themes of kindness, childhood innocence, social division, and the barriers built by adults.

Conclusion : The story provides a rich commentary on class distinctions and the way they are instilled in children, showing how arbitrary and cruel these divisions can be. Mansfield uses the doll's house as a symbol to represent a world that is both idyllic and exclusionary, reflecting the complicated social dynamics within the broader community.

Post-Reading Questions

1. Can children be as unkind as adults? Do you think cruelty is innate in humans, or do you think children learn to be cruel (and if so, from where)?

Answer : "The Doll's House" shows that children's cruelty, like shunning the Kelveys, is learned from adult prejudices, highlighting societal influence on young behaviors.

2. Was there a time you felt unfairly discriminated against within a peer group? Describe the incident and what led to it.

Answer : Being excluded from peer activities due to uncontrollable factors like socioeconomic status can cause isolation and low self-esteem, underscoring the need for empathy and inclusivity.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Comprehension

A. Answer the following in about 75-100 words.

Q1. Who gifted the doll's house to whom, and on what occasion?

Answer :

Katherine Mansfield, born in 1888 in New Zealand, was a famous creative writer known for her short stories and poetry. Mansfield's writing often explored themes of love, human nature, loneliness, and the difficulties of relationships. Some of her most famous works include "The Garden Party" and "The Doll's House."

Mrs. Hay gifted the doll's house to the Burnell children on the occasion of their mother's birthday. Mrs. Hay is a neighbour of the Burnells, and she is well acquainted with the family. She knows that the children are always looking for new toys to play with, and she thought that the doll's house would be a perfect gift.

The doll's house is a beautiful and detailed object, and it is clear that Mrs. Hay put a lot of thought into the gift. The children are overjoyed with the doll's house, and they spend hours playing with it. The doll's house becomes a symbol of their childhood innocence and their imagination.

Q2. Name the Burnell children. In what ways is Kezia different from her sisters?

Answer :

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The Burnell children are named Isabel, Lottie, and Kezia.

Kezia is different from her sisters in how she treats others. While her sisters follow what their family and others say, Kezia thinks for herself. She feels bad for the Kelvey sisters, who are poor and not treated well by others. Even though she's told not to, Kezia invites the Kelveys to see the doll's house. This shows that she's kind, brave, and willing to do what she thinks is right, even if her sisters and others don't agree. Her actions make her stand out from her sisters, who don't seem to question what they're told.

Q3. How are the Kelvey children treated by the other kids in their school, and why?

Answer :

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The Kelvey children, Lil and Else, are treated poorly by the other kids in their school. They are isolated, teased, and generally looked down upon. The reason for this mistreatment lies in their family's social status. Their mother is a washerwoman, and there's a rumour that their father is in prison. The combination of these factors places them in a lower social class, and they are dressed in mismatched, conspicuous clothing made from discarded materials, which makes them stand out even more.

The other children, reflecting the prejudices and class distinctions of their parents and community, exclude the Kelveys from their games and conversations. The Kelvey children are seen as unfit company, and this results in their isolation and the unkind behaviour directed towards them by their classmates. Even the teachers in the school seem to ignore the unjust treatment. The story illustrates how societal norms and class distinctions can influence the way children treat each other, even at a young age.

Q4. How did Aunt Beryl react when she discovered Kezia with the Kelveys, and why?

Answer :

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Aunt Beryl reacted with anger and shock when she discovered Kezia with the Kelveys. She shouted at them, calling Kezia "wicked" and "disobedient," and she shoed the Kelvey children away as if they were animals, telling them never to come back. Her reaction is rooted in the strict social hierarchy of the time and place where the story is set. The Kelveys were considered lower class because of their family background, and it was considered inappropriate for the Burnells to associate with them. Aunt Beryl's reaction reflects the societal attitudes that considered the Kelveys unworthy of interacting with her family. She was also likely concerned about what others in the community might think if they saw Kezia fraternising with the Kelveys. Aunt Beryl's anger also provided temporary relief from a personal crisis she was dealing with, as indicated by a threatening letter she had received earlier in the day. Her harsh reaction towards the children gave her a sense of control and power that she might have felt was lacking in her own life at that moment.

Q5. 'I seen the little lamp'. Who said this to whom? Explain the significance of the line.

Answer :

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The line "I seen the little lamp" is spoken by the younger Kelvey sister, Else, to her older sister, Lil.

The significance of this line is profound within the context of the story. The little lamp in the doll's house is a small but beautiful detail, and the fact that Else noticed it highlights her ability to see and appreciate beauty even in her marginalised and impoverished life. This statement

ADDITIONAL READING

Is It Okay to Kick a Robot Dog?

— Robert Sparrow

Summary

About the Author:

Robert Sparrow is a name associated with academic and philosophical research, particularly in the fields of ethics, technology, and bioethics. Robert Sparrow who is a professor in the Department of Philosophy, it's worth noting that he is known for his work on the ethical implications of new technologies, including robotics, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology. Professors like Robert Sparrow often engage in examining the complex moral questions that arise from advancements in technology and how they impact society.

The article "Is It Okay to Kick a Robot Dog?" by Robert Sparrow dives into the tricky topic of how we should treat robots. While robots can't feel pain, many people still think it's wrong to mistreat them. Sparrow discusses a few reasons why this could be.

First, he talks about property damage. Robots often belong to someone, so kicking a robot would mean damaging someone else's property. But this reason doesn't fully explain why we feel it's wrong to harm a robot.

Secondly, Sparrow talks about the idea that being mean to robots could lead to real-life violence. However, he says there isn't enough proof for this. People have long debated whether violent video games make people more violent, but there's no clear answer.

Thirdly, Sparrow presents his own view, which focuses on what our actions towards robots say about us. If someone treats male robots nicely but is mean to female robots, that suggests the person might be sexist. Even if being mean to robots doesn't make us more likely to be mean in the future, it shows what kind of person we are right now.

The article ends by saying that we should think about what our treatment of robots reveals about us. If someone finds joy in beating a robot that looks like their ex, it's a sign of bad character. It doesn't matter if this will make them act badly in the future; it's wrong right now.

Conclusion : Robert argues that we should think carefully about how we treat robots. Even though they don't have feelings, how we act towards them might show something about our own character. It's a complex issue that makes us think deeply about who we are and how we should behave.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**Comprehension**

Answer the following questions in about 50 words.

- Q1. The author reports that a woman impulsively kicked a robot dog. Why does the author call this act 'quintessentially human'?

Answer :

Robert Sparrow is a well-known philosopher. He studies the effects of AI and robots on human behavior and society. The article "Is It Okay to Kick a Robot Dog?" is a study of his thoughtful approach.

The author refers to the act of impulsively kicking a robot dog as 'quintessentially human' because it reflects a complex human response that goes beyond logic. While the robot dog doesn't have feelings, the act of kicking it, reveals something about human nature and emotion. It's a response that is uniquely human, showing our natural reaction to something that resembles a living creature and perhaps also displaying deeper characteristics about our attitudes or character. The author uses this example to look into the complex values of how we treat robots.

- Q2. What argument is made against 'violent' video games, and how is it countered?

(OR)

What are the reasons people say 'violent' video games are bad, and how do others disagree with these reasons?

Answer :

Robert Sparrow is a well-known philosopher. He studies the effects of AI and robots on human behavior and society. The article "Is It Okay to Kick a Robot Dog?" is a study of his thoughtful approach.

People argue that playing 'violent' video games might make players act violently in real life. This idea is also part of the talk about how being violent with robots might lead to real violence. But others say this isn't true because most people know the difference between make-believe and real life. The link between playing violent games and actually being violent isn't proven and many people disagree with this idea.

- Q3. What is the 'obvious reason' to criticise people who damage robots? Do you agree with it?

(OR)

What is the main argument against people who damage robots, and do you agree?

Answer :

Robert Sparrow is a well-known philosopher. He studies the effects of AI and robots on human behavior and society. The article "Is It Okay to Kick a Robot Dog?" is a study of his thoughtful approach.

The 'obvious reason' to criticise people who damage robots is that the robots are often someone else's property. Damaging them is like damaging someone's car or bicycle. This reason doesn't explain why we might feel bad when we see a robot being abused, even if it's owned by the person doing the abuse, but it's still wrong to break other people's things.

As a student, I would say, "I think the obvious reason makes sense. If you damage a robot that belongs to someone else, it's like breaking their stuff. That's not fair or nice. I would be upset if someone broke my things, so I agree that we shouldn't damage robots, especially if they aren't ours."

POETRY

'Hope' is the Thing with Feathers

— Emily Dickinson

Poem

'Hope' is the thing with feathers—
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without the words—
And never stops— at all—
And sweetest— in the Gale— is heard—
And sore must be the storm—
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm—
I've heard it in the chilliest land—
And on the strangest Sea—
Yet—never—in Extremity,
It asked a crumb— of me.

Summary

About the Poet:

Emily Dickinson was an American poet, born on December 10, 1830. She is known for her innovative and distinctive poetry. Her style is marked by brevity and precision, using concise language and imagery to convey profound ideas and feelings. Dickinson's unique approach to poetry, which broke away from the conventional norms of her time, has made her one of the most celebrated and studied poets in American literature. Her work continues to be admired for its depth, beauty, and originality, influencing countless poets and writers.

In the poem "Hope is the Thing with Feathers" by Emily Dickinson, the poem talks about hope being likened to a bird that lives in our soul. It's like a little bird that's always singing inside us, even when times are hard. In spite of the fact that the bird never stops singing and asks for nothing from us, he never stops singing.

The poem says that the sound of hope is the sweetest when we're facing a tough time. Even in a strong storm, the little bird of hope doesn't get scared or silenced. It keeps us warm and helps us get through difficult moments.

Dickinson says she's heard the bird sing even in the coldest places and the most unfamiliar seas. And even in really hard times, hope never asks for anything in return. It keeps singing without needing a "crumb" from us.

The poem tells us that hope is a constant that's always there, no matter what's happening in our lives. It doesn't leave us, even if we're going through a storm or feel lost at sea. It shows us that hope is a tough, strong force that can help us get through anything.

So, the poem is really about how amazing and powerful hope is. It doesn't matter where you are or what you're going through; hope is always there with you. It keeps singing and cheering you on, asking for nothing in return. And because of that, we should also keep hope alive in us, like a little bird that never stops singing.

Conclusion : The poem makes us think more deeply about the importance of hope in our lives. It says that hope is more than just a thought or a wish. It's a strong force that stays with us and helps us get through all kinds of problems. It reminds us to appreciate the hope we have and to never give up, no matter what.

Comprehension

A. Answer the following in about 75-100 words.

Q1. How does Emily Dickinson represent hope in her poem? What qualities and physical attributes are given to this symbol?

(OR)

In the context of the poem? How is hope depicted by Emily Dickinson in her poem, and what characteristics and physical features are attributed to this symbol within the poem's context?

Answer :

Emily Dickinson was an American poet. She wrote many poems that people all over the world enjoy reading. What makes her poems special is the way she writes them. She used words and punctuation in ways that were different from those of other poets. Her poems often talk about big ideas like love, death, and hope, but she writes about them in a way that's easy to understand.

Emily Dickinson describes hope as a bird in her poem. This bird lives in our hearts and always sings, even when times are tough. The bird is strong and doesn't get scared or tired, even in a big storm. It gives warmth to many and doesn't ask for anything back. The bird is always there, no matter where you are or what's happening. In simple words, hope is like a never-ending song in our hearts that keeps us going.

Q2. Comment on the size of the bird. Why is this important in the context of the poem?

Answer :

Emily Dickinson was an American poet. She wrote many poems that people all over the world enjoy reading. What makes her poems special is the way she writes them. She used words and punctuation in ways that were different from those of other poets. Her poems often talk about big ideas like love, death, and hope, but she writes about them in a way that's easy to understand.

The size of the bird in Emily Dickinson's poem is often imagined to be small, like a little bird that's able to perch within the soul. This small size is important because it symbolises how something as tiny and delicate as a bird can represent a powerful and endless feeling like hope. Even though the bird is small, it's strong enough to withstand storms and keep singing. It shows that hope, though it may seem fragile, has the strength to endure and inspire, no matter the circumstances. The small size of the bird emphasises the contrast between its physical delicacy and the enormous strength and comfort it provides.

Q3. What does 'the gale' represent?

Answer :

Emily Dickinson was an American poet. She wrote many poems that people all over the world enjoy reading. What makes her poems special is the way she writes them. She used words and punctuation in ways that were different from those of other poets. Her poems often talk about big ideas like love, death, and hope, but she writes about them in a way that's easy to understand.

PROSE Packing

— Jerome K. Jerome

Summary

About the Author:

Jerome K. Jerome stands out in the annals of British literature as a celebrated humorist and author, renowned primarily for his novel "Three Men in a Boat." Born on May 2, 1859, in the town of Walsall, Jerome faced financial difficulties early in life, which led him through a variety of occupations before he found his calling as a writer. Jerome contributed to the literary scene as a playwright and magazine editor, engaging with a wide range of social and political themes throughout his career. He passed away on June 14, 1927.

In the essay "Packing" by Jerome K. Jerome, the author and his friends George and Harris face a seemingly easy task: packing for a boat trip. They think it will be simple, but they couldn't be more wrong. The story starts with Jerome trying to pack on his own, but he quickly realises he keeps forgetting items. He unpacks and repacks multiple times, each time finding something new he forgot to include.

Just when Jerome thinks he's got it, George and Harris step in to help. They believe they can do a better job. They start by emptying the bag Jerome packed, saying they will show him how to pack "systematically." But instead of making things better, they make them worse. They forget items just like Jerome did, and they even end up breaking a few things.

The comedy peaks when they try to pack a pie. They struggle to find a spot for it, moving things around in the suitcase over and over. After a long hassle, they realise the pie is squashed and ruined. The whole scene is hilarious and shows how the simplest tasks can turn into big adventures full of errors when you're not focused.

At this point, they finally decide to just throw everything into the bag, giving up on their idea of "systematic" packing. The bag is full of a mishmash of items, not packed well at all. But they're too tired to care. They zip it up, and it's finally done, even if it's not packed properly.

The story is funny because it's relatable. Everyone has had some kind of packing disaster at some point. Jerome uses humour to show the chaos and confusion that can come from not paying attention, even when doing something as simple as packing a bag.

Conclusion: "Packing" serves as a humorous warning. It shows that even when you think a task is going to be easy, you can end up in a messy situation if you're not careful. It's a funny tale full of mistakes, reminding us that sometimes the simplest tasks can be the most challenging.

Post-Reading Questions

1. Rewrite the story you've just read from the point of view of Montmorency the dog.

Answer : As Montmorency, I revel in packing chaos, turning every task into play. From sneaking into bags to causing mishaps, I'm always in the mix, making sure the packing process is anything but boring. My antics bring laughter and frustration, but it's all in good fun. Even when the day ends, my playful spirit doesn't rest, planning my next move in the game of mischief.

2. Form pairs and narrate a short, humorous incident from your life to your partner.

Answer : I tried baking a birthday cake, but ended up creating a kitchen disaster when I knocked the mixing bowl off the counter. My dog joined in the mess, and I slipped, ending up covered in batter. When my friend arrived early, we all laughed it off and decided to buy a cake instead, turning a mishap into a cherished memory.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Comprehension

A. Answer the following in about 75-100 words.

Q1 . What was the narrator's real intention when he offered to pack?

Answer :

Jerome K. Jerome is known for his witty and humorous writing style, and "Packing" is a great example of this. It is a humorous essay from his book, "Three Men in a Boat." It's about the struggles and chaos involved in packing for a trip. The story revolves around the author's attempts to pack a bag for a boat trip with two friends and how it turns into a comedy of errors.

The narrator's real intention when he offered to pack was to take charge of the task, showing off his supposed expertise. He expected George and Harris to follow his directions while he bossed the job. However, instead of helping as he expected them to, they just sat back and relaxed, allowing him to do all the work. This irritated the narrator, who wanted to teach them how to pack properly but ended up doing everything himself while his friends watched and even laughed at his mistakes.

Q2. How did George and Harris react to the narrator's offer to pack? How did the narrator feel about this?

Answer :

Jerome K. Jerome is known for his witty and humorous writing style, and "Packing" is a great example of this. It is a humorous essay from his book, "Three Men in a Boat." It's about the struggles and chaos involved in packing for a trip. The story revolves around the author's attempts to pack a bag for a boat trip with two friends and how it turns into a comedy of errors.

George and Harris reacted to the narrator's offer to pack by quickly agreeing and then taking it easy. George put on a pipe and relaxed in an easy chair, and Harris put his legs on the table and lit a cigar, leaving the narrator to do all the work. This was not what the narrator had intended; he had planned to guide them in packing and expected them to follow his lead. Their relaxed attitude irritated the narrator greatly, making him feel annoyed that they were sitting around doing nothing while he was working hard. It was the opposite of the cooperative effort he had envisioned, and their lack of assistance angered him.

Q3. What 'horrible idea' occurred to the narrator after he had finished packing? What did this lead to?

Answer :

Jerome K. Jerome is known for his witty and humorous writing style, and "Packing" is a great example of this. The story begins with the protagonist, who is packing for a trip, making a series of comical mistakes. Jerome's writing is marked by a funny and playful style, often focusing on the little things and ironies of everyday life. He began his career as an actor and journalist before turning to writing novels, essays, and plays.

ADDITIONAL READING

Why We Love Holiday Rituals and Traditions

- Dimitris Xygalatas

Summary

About the Author:

Scientist Dimitris Xygalatas is renowned for his multidisciplinary work that unites psychology and anthropology. His research frequently centers on the examination of religious behavior and rituals, their significance in human communities, and their effects on people's emotions and thought processes. Xygalatas has studied how rituals support social cohesiveness, individual identity, and collaboration among people via fieldwork in a variety of cultural contexts, such as Greece and Mauritius.

The article "Why We Love Holiday Rituals and Traditions" by Dimitris Xygalatas talks about why holiday traditions are so special to us. These traditions bring smiles to our faces and make us feel warm inside. They are important markers for special events like birthdays, Thanksgiving, or religious holidays like Christmas. These rituals are rich in sights, sounds, and smells that make them unforgettable.

The article also talks about the science behind this. Studies show that traditions help us mentally. They give us a break from our daily routine and help us feel closer to our family and friends. They also lower our stress levels. Having something to look forward to, like a family dinner or exchanging gifts, can really help us feel more in control of our lives.

Food is a big part of these traditions. Whether it's roasting a lamb for Easter in Greece or making 'seven curries' for a Hindu festival in Mauritius, special dishes bring people together. Cooking and sharing meals help us bond with each other. The time we spend cooking also makes the food taste even better.

Gifts are another part of the holiday season. While it might seem like exchanging gifts is just about buying and receiving stuff, it's much more than that. Giving gifts helps us create a network of friendships and social support. Even though we might give each other lists of what we want, the act of giving and receiving adds to the joy of the season.

Lastly, the article talks about the 'glue' that keeps families together. Especially for those who live far away from each other, meeting up for the holidays can strengthen family bonds. Kids, too, benefit from these traditions. They feel a greater sense of belonging and this helps them as they grow up.

Conclusion: While holidays may come with their own set of challenges – like delayed flights or the odd family argument – they provide a lot more good than bad. They give us a chance to pause, enjoy the moment, and look forward to the next year.

Q4. Why is taking part in collective rituals important for an individual?

Answer :

Dimitris Xygalatas, a historian, researches how rituals and religion affect emotions and behavior in different cultures. His work explains why traditions are important and how they connect people with their communities.

Joining in group traditions is good for a person because it helps them feel like they belong and know who they are. Doing the same things over and over in a group can make the world feel more familiar and less scary. These shared activities mean friendship and let people get closer to each other. They make the group feel more united and kind to one another. When people take part in these traditions, especially on holidays, it makes relationships stronger, helps celebrate important times, and makes people feel like they're really part of a family or community.

Q5. How do children benefit from holiday traditions and rituals?

(OR)

What are the advantages for children in participating in holiday traditions and rituals?

Answer :

Dimitris Xygalatas, a historian, researches how rituals and religion affect emotions and behavior in different cultures. His work explains why traditions are important and how they connect people with their communities.

Holiday traditions and rituals are good for children because they make them feel like they belong and are connected to their family and friends. Doing things together as a group makes them feel like an important part of their community. These happy times become special memories of fun and family togetherness.

When they grow up, they might do the same things with their own families. The regular and repeated actions in these traditions are comforting to children and help them learn about who they are and what's important in their culture. It teaches them good things that can help them all their lives.