

13. Read the poem carefully :

## The Snare

1. I hear a sudden cry of pain!  
There is a rabbit in a *snare*<sup>1</sup> :  
Now I hear the cry again,  
But I cannot tell from where.
2. But I cannot tell from where  
He is calling out for *aid*<sup>2</sup>!  
Crying on the frightened air,  
Making everything afraid!
3. Making everything afraid!  
Wrinkling up his little face!  
And he cries again for aid;  
And I cannot find the place!
4. And I cannot find the place  
Where his paw is in the snare!  
Little One! Oh, Little One!  
I am searching everywhere!

– James Stephens

(a) Complete the following passage by writing the missing word in each blank :

The speaker (possibly a boy) hears the (a) cry of a rabbit (b) trapped in a (c) snare somewhere. He hears the cry (d) again but cannot say from (e) where the sound of the cry comes. The cries of the rabbit have filled the whole atmosphere with fear. The rabbit cries again for (f) aid but the speaker cannot find out the (g) place where the paw of the rabbit is caught in the (h) snare.

(b) Find the words in the poem which have the same meanings as :

- (i) full of fear (para 2) frightened
- (ii) looking for (para 4) searching

### VALUE POINTS

#### About the poem

The poem gives expression to a boy's reaction on hearing the cry of a rabbit caught in a snare. The boy wants to help the rabbit but is unable to locate where it is.

#### Stanza 1

- a rabbit caught in a hunter's snare crying
- its cry heard by the speaker (a boy)
- unable to trace the direction of the cry

#### Stanza 2

- the boy unable to know from where the rabbit is crying for help
- the whole atmosphere full of fear

#### Stanza 3

- cries of the rabbit for help
- the boy, highly upset, panicky, as he does not know where the rabbit is

#### Stanza 4

- the boy unable to find the place where the rabbit's paw caught in the snare
- searching everywhere, but in vain

### GLOSSARY

1. snare : a loop of wire to catch and kill a rabbit, used by hunters
2. aid : help

# Worksheet

# 14

## Reading : Comprehension Passage

Date

Name

Roll No.

Class &amp; Sec.

Marks OBT.

### 14. Read the passage carefully :

1. Our country has recently witnessed an unfortunate increase in violence and social unrest, which shows no sign of *abatement*<sup>1</sup>. Rather the cases of violent behaviour and killings are on the increase. (In 2008, fifty thousand cases of violence were reported, as compared to just ten thousand in the year 2002.) During these last five or six years, the cases of violent behaviour have gone up by almost five times.
2. The reasons for this increase in violence and unrest are easy to point out. (Firstly, the increasing *tendency*<sup>2</sup> to get rich *by hook or by crook*<sup>3</sup> together with the decline in moral values is solely responsible for social unrest and violent behaviour. Secondly, the lack of the fear of authority at all levels is no less responsible for increasing violence in our cities and towns.) Thirdly, the western ways of life which promote gun-culture and materialism are also responsible for our youths to indulge in senseless violence.
3. We must take effective steps at all levels to curb violent tendencies. We must realize that the blind rat-race for wealth and material things lead to stress and strain, pains and sufferings.) A balance between material desires and spiritual aspirations must be achieved. The stress should be laid on *inculcating*<sup>4</sup> moral values in our youth. The steps should be taken to ensure that the rule of law and order must *prevail*<sup>5</sup>. Only then can we remove social unrest and check violence.

#### (a) Answer the given questions very briefly :

1. How much rise in incidents of violence and social unrest has been seen between 2002 and 2008 ?
2. What concern does the writer express in this passage ?
3. Is the increase in violence and social unrest normal ? *No*
4. Give two reasons for growing violence and social unrest.
5. What accounts for the modern man's stress and strain ?

#### (b) Complete the following statements :

(i) Inculcating moral values in the youth can reduce stress.

(ii) People want to become rich by hook or by crook.

(c) (i) The synonym of 'decline' as given in paragraph 2 is .....

(a) balance

(b) decrease

(c) fall

(d) increase

### VALUE POINTS

#### About the passage

The author's concern about growing incidents of violence and social unrest, and trying to analyse the causes of it.

#### Para 1

- Increase in cases of violence and social unrest a big concern

#### Para 2

- The reasons quite easy to find, growing materialism, lack of fear of authority and influence of western way responsible.

#### Para 3

- Effective steps needed. A balance to be struck between material desires and spiritual aspirations

### GLOSSARY

1. abatement : becoming less strong
2. tendency : trend
3. by hook or by crook : using any fair or unfair means
4. inculcating : developing
5. prevail : exist

(ii) The antonym of 'spiritual' as given in paragraph 3 is .....

(a) immoral

(b) material

(c) earthly

(d) physical

### Space for Answers

1 ans- In 2008, fifty thousand cases of violence were reported, as compared to just ten thousand in the year 2002.

2 ans- Our country has recently witnessed an unfortunate increase in violence and social unrest, which shows no sign of abatement. Rather the cases of violent behaviour and killings are on the increase.

3 ans- No

4 ans- Firstly, the increasing tendency to get rich by hook or by crook together with the decline in normal values is solely responsible for social unrest and violent behaviour. Secondly, the lack of the fear of authority at all levels is no less responsible for increasing violence in our cities and towns.

5 ans- We must realize that the blind rat-race for wealth and material things lead to stress and strain, pains and suffering.





