

13. Read the poem carefully :

The Snare

1. I hear a sudden cry of pain!
There is a rabbit in a *snare*¹ :
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*²!
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) 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) afraid
- (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

14. Read the passage carefully :

- Our country has recently witnessed an unfortunate increase in violence and social unrest, which shows no sign of *abatement*¹. 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.
- The reasons for this increase in violence and unrest are easy to point out. Firstly, the increasing *tendency*² to get rich by *hook or by crook*³ 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.
- 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*⁴ moral values in our youth. The steps should be taken to ensure that the rule of law and order must *prevail*⁵. Only then can we remove social unrest and check violence.

(a) Answer the given questions very briefly :

- How much rise in incidents of violence and social unrest has been seen between 2002 and 2008 ?
- What concern does the writer express in this passage ?
- Is the increase in violence and social unrest normal ?
- Give two reasons for growing violence and social unrest.
- What accounts for the modern man's stress and strain ?

(b) Complete the following statements :

- Inculcating moral values in the youth while.
- People want to become rich by tendency.

(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

- abatement : becoming less strong
- tendency : trend
- by hook or by crook : using any fair or unfair means
- inculcating : developing
- prevail : exist

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

(a) immoral

(b) material

(c) earthly

(d) physical

Space for Answers

Worksheet 15

Reading : Comprehension Passage

Date

Name

Class & Sec.

Roll No.

Marks OBT.

15. Read the poem carefully :

1. Happy the man, whose wish and care
A few paternal acres *bound*¹,
Content to breathe his native air
In his own ground.
2. Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,
Whose flocks supply him with *attire*²;
Whose trees in summer yield him shade,
In winter fire.
3. Blest, who can unconcern'dly find,
Hours, days, and years slide soft away
In health of body, peace of mind,
Quiet by day.
4. Sound sleep by night; study and ease
Together *mixt*³, sweet recreation,
And innocence, which most does please
With meditation.
5. Thus let me live, unseen, unknown;
Thus *unlamented*⁴ let me die;
Steal from the world, and not a stone
Tell where I lie.

VALUE POINTS

About the poem

The poem tells the golden principle of attaining true happiness with contentment and very limited desires.

Stanza 1

- a happy man has limited desires and so no cares.

Stanza 2

- he is self-sufficient, earning bread from his own simple resources

Stanza 3

- he enjoys good health and mental peace. Time passes smoothly with him.

Stanza 4

- his innocent activities, studies and recreation give him soothing sleep.

Stanza 5

- the poet's desire to live and die peacefully unwept, unsung.

GLOSSARY

1. bound : limit
2. attire : clothes
3. mixt : mixed
4. unlamented : unwept over

(a) Fill in the blanks to complete the summary :

According to the poet that man is happy whose wishes and (a) Care are limited. Such a man feels contented to (b) Breathe his native air in his own (c) ground. His herds provide him with (d) milk and his fields give him (e) bread. Trees growing in his fields (f) yield him shade in summer and (g) fire in winter. Living happily, he can find days and years (h) meanless softly away. He enjoys sound sleep during the night and contented life during the day.

- (b) 1. The word 'yield' in stanza 2 means _____ .
(a) give in (b) give
(c) surrender (d) give up
2. The word 'attire' in stanza 2 means _____ .
(a) food (b) shelter
(c) clothes (d) milk

Worksheet

16

Reading : Comprehension Passage

Date

Name

Class & Sec.

Roll No.

Marks OBT.

16. Read the passage carefully :

1. In the last about three decades, of all genres, Punjabi short story has *dominated*¹ the literary *discourse*². Kesra Ram, who belongs to Hisar, Haryana, is a well-known modern story writer in Punjabi with four collections of stories to his credit. He has done a lot of translation work as well, translating Punjabi literature in Rajasthani and Hindi. He has translated into Punjabi some of the writings of English literary theorist Terry Eagleton which received universal *acclaim*³. The present collection of eight long stories *Thanks a Lot Putra (Thanks a Lot My Son)* deals with the present-day problems spawned by the distortions in the system that has ruffled all categories of our socio-cultural mechanism.
2. In some of these stories like, *Khushbu Khushbu*, an old man Shingara Singh longs for the fragrance of roses that has disappeared under the impact of genetic modification, though flowers of unheard of colours can be seen in the garden. *Thanks a Lot Putra* deals with the predicament of an old couple living in a mofussil town waiting for the arrival of their son working for a multinational company on a senior position in a metropolitan city. The parents keep on waiting for his calls but the son rarely obliges them nor does he respond to their calls. Whenever they get a message of his arrival, the mother prepares his favourite delicacies. But each time he betrays their hope on the pretext of an important meeting. The disappointment of the old people can well be imagined.

— The Tribune

(a) Complete the following statements :

1. Kesra Ram has to his credit his collection of stories.
2. Terry Eagleton is a great English.
3. Translated works of Kesra Ram are available in India.
4. Socio-cultural problems are highlighted in Thanks a Lot Putra.
5. The son always betrayed disappointed.

(b) Say whether the statements are True or False.

1. Kesra Ram is famous only as a translator. F
2. 'Thanks a lot Putra' focuses on snags in our society. T

(c) (i) The synonym of 'ruffled' as given in paragraph 1 is

- (a) made up (b) broken
(c) troubled (d) upset

VALUE POINTS

About the passage

Kesra Ram, modern Punjabi short story writer and translator, deals with the social, economic problems of the day in a satirical manner to bring out the hypocrisy of the society.

Para 1

Kesra Ram, hailing from Hisar, is a great modern Punjabi short story writer along with being an acclaimed translator. His collection of stories deals with modern society and its problems.

Para 2

The story *Khushbu Khushbu* highlights the impact of genetic modification. *Thanks a lot Putra* deals with the predicament of an old couple waiting for the return of their son working in a multinational company.

GLOSSARY

1. dominated : had a great influence on
2. discourse : discussion
3. acclaim : praise

