

Grade VII

Supplementary 4 : The Cop and the Anthem

Supplementary Reader

Soul of the Chapter

Soapy becomes Restless Seeing the Onset of Winters Recalls Blackwell's Islands:

Soapy, sitting on his seat in Madison Square, observes the signs of winter approaching. Birds begin to fly towards South, people begin to buy new warm coats and so on. A dead leaf fell at Soapy's feet and this was a special sign for Soapy which indicated the onset of winters. Soapy became restless trying to think of ways to sustain himself through the harsh season.

Unlike other people, some of whom thought of sailings away on a ship or some others who thought of the Southern skies or of the Blackwell's Island. Three months in the prison on Blackwell's Island would take care of food and bed for the next three months. For many years, the prison on Blackwell's Island was Soapy's winter home.

Why Soapy Preferred the Prison on Blackwell's Island?

Soapy knew that there were places he could go to, where he would get food and bed. However, in exchange for these things he would have to do certain tasks and pay for what he was getting. He would have to answer questions about his life and he did not like this. He would rather prefer the prison on Blackwell's Island. There were rules in the prison, but he could live there like a free man.

Soapy devices ways to be caught by the cops

The very first plan that Soapy executes in order to be caught by the police and put into the prison was to go to a restaurant, have a lavish dinner and then later tell the restaurant people that he had no money. This would result in cops being called and then he would be put into the jail. However, this plan fails as the guard at the restaurant, seeing his shabby clothes and shoes did not allow him to enter. After the failure of his first trick, Soapy decides to try another trick. He throws stones at a wide glass window shop at a corner of sixth avenue. However, in an expectation to be arrested, Soapy kept standing right there. A cop and other people came running

towards the shop, but refused to believe that Soapy could be the person who would have stoned the shop. They thought it impossible that the culprit would wait near the shop after having thrown stoned. Therefore, the cop ran after a man who was running further in the street and Soapy's second trick too failed.

Soapy's Last Trick and his Miserable Condition

Soapy, then, decided to go to a mediocre restaurant that would allow him to enter despite his shabby clothes and shoes. People who went there were not so rich, so Soapy easily entered the restaurant and ordered a big dinner. Having had the dinner, Soapy told the waiter that he had no money and expected the waiter to call the cops. However, the waiter only called another waiter and both of them threw Soapy out of the restaurant. Soapy tried many other tricks so as to be arrested. He pretended to be a drunk man, stole another person's umbrella, and so on. But, all in vain. No cop arrested Soapy and Soapy's heart grew miserable thinking that he would not be able to reach the prison at Blackwell's Island.

Soapy Goes to his Childhood Home and Thinks of a New Plan

Feeling miserable, Soapy decides to go home, which was nothing but a seat in one of the parks. While walking down to Madison Square, he stopped in a corner, where his childhood home was situated. Soapy had spent many happy these memories. At that juncture, he experienced a change in his behaviour. Soapy realised what was wrong in life-his worthless days, wrong desires, dead hopes and lost power of mind. Soapy decides to change his life by doing something worthwhile. Soapy decides to go back to the man who some time ago had given him a job. He decides to start afresh from the next day.

The Irony

While Soapy was lost in his thoughts imagining a better tomorrow, just then, a cop came and started questioning him as to what he was doing there. When Soapy told the cop that he wasn't doing anything, the cop refused to believe him and put him in the prison on the Blackwell's Island for the next three months.

NCERT Folder

Exercises

What are some of the signs of the signs of approaching winter referred to in the text?

Birds flying to South, people purchasing new coats and falling of dead leaves are some of the signs that indicate approaching winters.

1. Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following.

- (i) Soapy did not want to go to prison.....
- (ii) Soapy had been to prison several times.....
- (iii) It was not possible for Soapy to survive in the city through the winter.....
- (iv) Soapy hated to answer questions of a personal nature.....

(i) False (ii) True (iii) True (iv) True

2. What was Soapy's first plan? Why did it not work?

Soapy's first plan was to go to a big restaurant and order a sumptuous meal. Thereafter, he would tell the waiter that he had no money to pay the bill. This plan, however, failed because the guard at the restaurant did not allow him to enter, seeing his shabby clothes and shoes.

3. "But the cop's mind would not consider Soapy" What did the cop not consider and why?

Soapy threw stones on a big glass windowed shop in order to be arrested by the cops. However, because he continued to stand there waiting for the cops to come, the cop refused to believe that Soapy could be the culprit.

Next Generation School

4. "We have orders to let them shout" What is the policeman referring to?

Soapy began to shout and cry as loud as possible in yet another attempt to be arrested by the cops. The cops again refused to consider arresting him because they thought he was one of those college boys who would shout but not harm anyone. And the cops had the orders to let these boys shout.

5. Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following

- (i) Soapy stole a man's umbrella.....
- (ii) The owner of the umbrella offered to give it to Soapy.....
- (iii) The man had stolen umbrella that was now Soapy's.....
- (iv) Soapy threw away the umbrella.....

(i) True (ii) True (iii) True (iv) True

6. "There was a sudden and wonderful change in his soul" What brought about the change in Soapy?

Soapy was very upset because all his plants failed one after the other. While walking towards the Madison Square, Soapy came across his childhood house. Reading the house, Soapy was overpowered with happy memories, of his mother and flowers.

Discuss the following topics in groups.

1. Suppose no cop came at the end. What would Soapy's life be like through the winter?

At the onset of the story, it seemed that if no cop came at the end, it would have been impossible for Soapy to survive through the winters. However, by the time the story comes to an end, it seemed that Soapy would have managed to survive and sustain himself even if no cop came. Soapy had found a meaning and direction for his life.

2. Retell an episode in the story which is a good example of irony in a situations.

The Titanic ship was promoted as a cent per cent unsinkable ship, but in 1912 it sunk on its very first voyage. This is an example of irony.

CHAPTER PRACTICE

Very Short Answer Type Questions

What was the special sign which reminded Soapy of the approaching winters?

Dead leaf falling on Soapy's feet was a sign of approaching winters.

1. What did the richer New Yorkers do during winter?

The richer New Yorkers made their plans to go to Florida or to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea each winter.

2. For how long did Soapy wish to be put into the jail on Blackwell's Island?

Soapy hoped to be put into the jail on Blackwell's Prison for three months; that would take care of food and bedding during the winters.

3. In the absence of sufficient warm clothes, what way did Soapy devise to keep himself warm?

Soapy would stuff three big newspapers under his legs to keep himself.

4. Where was the big and brightly lighted restaurant situated?

The big and the brightly lighted restaurant was situated at a point where the great street called Broadway and Fifth Avenue met. Only the rich people came to this restaurant.

5. Why was Soapy happy considering his dinner at the big restaurant?

Soapy was happy considering his dinner at the big restaurant to not be very expensive. So, the restaurant people would not be very angry. At the same time the dinner would not be very angry. At the same time, the dinner would leave him filled and happy.

6. In his miserable state, what did Soapy compare the Blackwell Island with?

In his miserable state, Soapy thought of Blackwell Island as a far away and distant star.

Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. What reason did Soapy give to convince himself that he would be entertained in the big restaurant?**

Soapy thought that his face was clean and he looked alright above his legs. Also, his coat was good enough. Even though his trousers and shoes were shabby, Soapy believed that once he got a table, the waiter could see only the upper portions of his body, above the table and therefore he would be entertained.

- 2. Why did the head waiter not allow Soapy to enter the big restaurant?**

The moment Soapy entered the big restaurant, the head waiter saw Soapy's broken shoes and torn clothes that covered his legs. Since, only the rich people came to that restaurant, the head waiter did not feel Soapy a befitting customer at his restaurant. He, therefore, quietly and quickly turned him out.

- 3. What was Soapy's plan regarding the shop with a wide glass window?**

Soapy saw a shop with a wide glass window at the corner of the Sixth Avenue. He decided to throw stones on it, expecting Soapy chose not to run after having stoned the shop, the cop did not believe that he was the culprit.

Long Answer Type Questions

- 1. What did Soapy see as he was thrown out of the second restaurant? Why did his heart grow miserable?**

After being thrown out of the second restaurant, Soapy walked a little and came near a place which had several theatres.

In that part of the city he saw rich people in warm clothes happily moving around the city and enjoying the winter air. Soapy's heart grew miserable thinking that the cops won't arrest him and he would have neither food nor bed to sustain himself during the winters.

2. Describe the umbrella episode.

After several failures it being arrested by the cops, Soapy stole a man's umbrella thinking that finally he would succeed in his attempts. For the same reason, he asked the man to call the cop since, he was running away with that man's umbrella did not belong to that man. The umbrella man had picked up the umbrella from a restaurant and therefore was afraid to call the cops. Soapy failed yet again.

3. How different was Soapy's past life from the current one?

Soapy looks at his past life with fond and happy memories. His past life had important relations like mothers and friends; It contained things like flowers, pleasant music, high hopes, clean thoughts and clean clothes.

His current life, however, was marked by acute absence of all these. He neither had family members nor friends.

He neither had food nor shelter. His clothes were dirty and his mind was full of wrong desires and dead hopes. In place of a house he now had a swat in parks.

Value Based Question

"He would make a man of himself again" Comment.

Soapy realises that his life was full of wrong desires, worthless thoughts, dead hopes and spirits. It was a meaningless life that he was leading. It was no better than the life led by animals.

At that moment, Soapy decides to change his life; pull himself out of the mud and make himself a man again. The phrase means to rekindle a man again. The phrase means to rekindle the lost hopes and desires and make one's life meaningful and worthy. Soapy decides to give up on wrong deeds, search for a job and lead a better life.

Grade VII

Lesson 4. Paragraph Writing

PARAGRAPH WRITING

A paragraph is a short composition consisting of several sentences written on a particular topic theme or idea. The sentences are well written, well organised and arranged logically. A good paragraph contains sentences that lead to development of one thought after another, all arranged systematically. The length of a paragraph depends upon its purpose/function, material etc. In other words a good paragraph should focus clearly on a single idea, it should not deviate from its direction. Clarity and connectivity are the key words to be kept in mind while writing a paragraph.

Features of Paragraph

A paragraph has the following features

1. Central Idea A paragraph should be cantered around a single, main or central idea. Sub-ideas related to the main idea can be woven around it.
2. Unity All the sentences should be arranged in unity i.e. should lead to the central idea.
3. Logical/Lucid The sentences should be logical, meaningful and lucid. One thought should lead to another in a systematic way. In other words, a paragraph should be coherent.
4. Division A good paragraph is often divided into three main parts: Introduction, Middle (expansion of the idea) and Conclusion.
5. Length As mentioned above, the length should depend on the purpose of the paragraph. Irrelevant thoughts or expansion should be avoided.

Guidelines for Writing the Paragraph Writing

- ❖ A good paragraph should contain an apt title clearly referring to its topic. The title should be short, concise and interesting and not in the form of a sentence.
- ❖ A paragraph should be indented, i.e. a short distance from the margin should be kept while writing it.
- ❖ The division of the paragraph is very important: Introduction (it carries the main idea of the paragraph in the beginning), middle part (it comprises of supporting sentences

stressing the main idea) and conclusion summarises/restates the main idea discussed in the above parts.

- ❖ The tense and person should remain same throughout the paragraph. Variations in them should be avoided.
- ❖ As far as the language of the paragraph is concerned it should be interesting, less repetitive and engaging.

Paragraph Writing for Based on Verbal Inputs

Solved questions

1. **Develop a short paragraph on the topic 'My Role Model'. Your role model could be any person whom you respect most and who inspires you most e.g. your mother, father, teacher etc. You may make use of the following.**
 - . Your ideal personality.
 - . His/her virtues (like selflessness, helpful/dynamic nature, sacrifice etc).
 - .How he/she inspire you?
 - .How much you respect him/her

My Role Model, The Person I Like the Most

Everybody has a role model, an inspiration that they look up to in life. My role model is my mother. She is a gem of a human being and a great personality. The spirit of giving and making others happy by sacrificing her own happiness is deeply rooted in her. This is the quality that I like the most in her and want to emulate in my life. In today's times, everybody is concerned with fulfilling their own interests, so the quality of unconditional care and love comes as a refreshing change. I would like to be a lovely human being with a golden heart just like my mother.

Paragraph Writing for Based on Given visual inputs

1. Write a paragraph based on the given visual inputs.

Write your views on 'Pollution: A Killer' in a paragraph.



Projected premature annual deaths due to urban air pollution, total and by Economic group or region, 2001-2010

Regions	Premature Deaths (thousand per year)
Established market economies	20
Former socialist economies	200
China	590
India	460
East: Asia and the Pacific	150
Latin America and the Caribbean	130
South Asia	120
Middle East Crescent	90
Sub-Saharan Africa	60
World	1810

Pollution has proved itself to be a notorious killer in recent times. The above visual clues promptly prove the above statement. Incessant use of natural resources like water, coal etc., and in turn greatly damaging them has brought us to this state. Water is polluted, plastic is thrown in the open, factories emit deadly smoke, green cover is cut in large quantities to fulfil man's selfish and every growing needs, all this leads to irreparable damage to the atmosphere. As a result, people are dying prematurely as can be seen clearly from the second clue. Time has come to save our Earth by going green, planting more trees, using resources judiciously and not being greedy.