

## Grade VIII - English

### Lesson 10. The Great Stone Face II

Prose

Soul of the Chapter

#### **The Older Ernest and His Love of Poetry**

As Ernest grew, his wisdom and his popularity grew manifold. He never desired or sought fame, but his wise thoughts paved way for only fame and respect to come his way. His fame spread beyond the valley and people from distant lands came seeking his company. His house was always open for such passer by, to comfort them with his kind and gentle words. During this time, while Ernest was growing up, a poet from the native valley who had been away from the native land had become famous through his sweet poems. Also, the Great Stone Face had attained greater glory, for the poet had celebrated the Great Stone Face in his poetry. Ernest was touched by the songs written by this poet. After the days work was over, besides gazing at the Great Stone face, reading this poet's poetry had become another regular feature of Ernest's routine.

#### **Ernest Believes the Poet to be the Likeness of the Great Stone Face and Wished to Meet Him**

Though Ernest hadn't before seen the poet, he begins to believe the poet to be the likeness of the Great Stone Face. Ernest would ask this question to the Great Stone Face, "is not that man worthy to be your likeness?" and would feel as if the face smiled at his question. Just like Ernest had heard a lot about the poet, so had the poet heard a lot about Ernest. The poet had also thought much about Ernest's character and had wanted to meet him. Ernest's nobility and simplicity with which he had led life had prompted the poet to meet Ernest.

So, one day the poet arrives to meet Ernest. He found Ernest reading a book and in between his reading looking up fondly the Great Stone Face. The poet asked Ernest if he could spend the night at Ernest's house and as Ernest offered his hospitality to the poet, both began to talk.

### **Poet Introduces Himself to Ernest and Ernest's Views**

The poet was much impressed by the wise thoughts of Ernest. Ernest, on the other hand, was admiring the words that he read on the page. Ernest, then, wished to become familiar with his guest. At that point, the poet informed Ernest that the words he was reading, the book he was holding, were his works. He was the poet. Ernest begins to compare the features of the poet to that of the Great Stone Face. But lets out a sigh as he examines them. The poet asks Ernest why he was sad and Ernest replied that he had hoped poet to be the likeness of the Great Stone Face. But, perhaps, that was not true. The poet was not a likeness of the Great Stone Face.

The poet informs Ernest that he could never be a likeness of the Great Stone Face for he had not led a noble life. His thoughts and his words on page did not correspond to the way he had lived. The poet tells Ernest that he himself lacked faith in his own thoughts. The poet becomes sad as he shares these details with Ernest.

### **Ernest Talks to His Daily Audience**

Every evening Ernest was used to addressing the people of the valley, his daily audience. As he speaks to his people sharing his wisdom and thoughts, the poet realises that Ernest's words had reality and depth. This was so because every single word he uttered was truth in itself. Ernest had led his life in accordance with his convictions. The poet felt that Ernest's life was far nobler than his own poetry.

### **The Poet Sees the Image of Great Stone Face**

As the poet was becoming more and more conscious of Ernest's nobility, he sees an image of the Great Stone Face in Ernest. The poet could not help, but shout that at last the old prophecy had been fulfilled in Ernest himself. All people standing there had to merely look up at Ernest and then at the Great Stone Face to confirm what the poet said was true. Ernest, however, refused to entertain any such idea and silently went back home continuing to wait for some man who in future would be the likeness of the Great Stone Face.

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**NCERT Folder**

**Comprehension Check - 1**

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

1. Ernest's words reminded people of the wise old sayings\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Total strangers from far away, who visited Ernest in the valley, found his face familiar\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Great Stone Face confirmed Ernest's view that the poet could be worthy of its likeness\_\_\_\_\_.
4. When Ernest and the poet met, they respected and admired each other equally\_\_\_\_\_.
5. The poet along with Ernest addressed the inhabitants of the valley\_\_\_\_\_.
6. The poet realised that Ernest's thoughts were far nobler than his own verses\_\_\_\_\_.

1. True	2. True	3. False	4. True	5. False	6. True
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**Working with the Text**

**1. How was Ernest different from others in the valley?**

Ernest had become famous and his popularity was known to people beyond the valley. People from distant lands came to meet him and talk to him. He was now a wise man with many wise thoughts to share.

**2. Why did Ernest think that the poet was like the Stone Face?**

The poet had glorified the Great Stone Face in his poem. Also the poet was quite popular. On reading the poet's works and his great thoughts, Ernest felt that the poet must be the much-awaited likeness of the Great Stone Face.

**3. What did the poet himself say about his thoughts and poems?**

The poet confessed before Ernest that his life did not correspond with the thoughts that he had expressed in his poems. Also, many a times he had lacked faith in his own thoughts. The poet also shared with Ernest the fact that he had grand dreams, many of which remain unfulfilled.

#### 4. What made the poet proclaim Ernest was the Stone Face?

When Ernest addressed his audience, the people of the valley, as had become the custom of the land, the poet's admiration for Ernest grew further. The poet felt that Ernest spoke freely and truly and his words had power because there was a perfect harmony between what he thought and what he said and also in the way he had led his life.

#### 5. Write 'Ernest' or 'Poet', against each statement below.

- (i) There was a gap between his life and his words.
- (ii) His words had the power of truth as they agreed with his thoughts.
- (iii) His words were as soothing as a heavenly song but only as useful as a vague dream.
- (iv) His thoughts were worthy.
- (v) Whatever he said was truth itself.
- (vi) His poems were noble.
- (vii) His life was nobler than all the poems.
- (viii) He lacked faith in his own thoughts.
- (ix) His thoughts had power as they agreed with the life he lived.
- (x) Greatness lies in truth. Truth is best expressed in one's actions. He was truthful, therefore he was great.

(i) Poet	(ii) Ernest	(iii) Poet	(iv) Ernest	(v) Ernest
(vi) Poet	(vii) Ernest	(viii) Poet	(ix) Ernest	(x) Ernest

#### 6. (i) Who, by common consent, turned out to be like the Great Stone Face?

Ernest, by common consent, turned out to be like the Great Stone Face.

#### (ii) Did Ernest believe that the old prophecy had come true? What did he say about it?

Ernest had never imagined that he himself would be the Great Stone Face. He had spent much of his life waiting for the 'likeness' of the Great Stone Face to appear. Therefore, for him the old prophecy remained unfulfilled still.

He remained silent on the people acclaim at Ernest himself being the Great Stone Face and continued to hope for the prophecy to come true some day.

**Working with Language**

1. Make the meaning that best fits the word or a phrase in the story.

- (i) (sun) going down
  - (a) becoming smaller      (b) weakening      (c) setting
- (ii) brightening
  - (a) making (it) look bright and cheerful      (b) lending (it) a special glow
  - (c) causing (it) to appear hopeful
- (iii) spacious
  - (a) lonely and wild      (b) big and wide      (c) special and important
- (iv) prophecy
  - (a) proverb      (b) prediction      (c) rumour
- (v) marvellous
  - (a) wonderful      (b) surprising      (c) shocking
- (vi) proclaim
  - (a) reveal      (b) declare      (c) shout
- (vii) cease
  - (a) happen      (b) stop      (c) remain
- (viii) (a night's) shelter
  - (a) stay      (b) safety      (c) hospitality
- (ix) gazed
  - (a) wandered about      (b) stared at      (c) thought of
- (x) took on (an expression)
  - (a) challenged      (b) resembled      (c) assumed

- Ans. (i) (c) setting      (ii) (b) lending (it) a special glow  
 (iii) (b) big and wide      (iv) (b) prediction  
 (v) (a) wonderful      (vi) (b) declare  
 (vii) (b) stop      (viii) (a) stay  
 (ix) (b) stared at      (x) (c) assumed

2. (i) Read the following sentences.

- (a) I do hope **I'll live** to see him.
- (b) He **will come!** Fear not, Ernest; the man **will come**.

(c) Gathergold **is arriving** tomorrow, people said.

(d) Blood- and-Thunder **starts** his journey back to the valley next week, everyone proclaimed.

(e) The great man is **going to** spend his old age in his native town.

**Notice that in the above sentences, verbs in bold type are in four different forms, denoting four important ways of expressing future time.**

**None of these can be said to be exclusively used to show future time, though each is used to refer to some action in future.**

**(ii) Which form of the verb is more natural in these sentences? Encircle your choice.**

(a) I'm not free this evening. **I will work/ am working** on a project.

(b) Have you decided where you will go for your higher secondary? Yes, I have. **I will go/am going** to the Kendriya Vidyalaya.

(c) Don't worry about the dog. It **won't hurt/isn't hurting** you.

(d) The weatherman has predicted that it **will snow/is snowing** in Ranikhet tonight.

(e) Swapna can't go out this evening. Her father **will come/is coming** to see her.

**Ans. (a) I am working (b) I am going (c) won't hurt (d) will snow (e) is coming**

3. (i) Complete these pieces of conversation using will or going to with the verbs given.

(a) Rani: Why are you turning on the radio?

Ravi : I \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to the news.

(b) Rani: Oh! I can't buy this book. I have no money.

Ravi : Don't worry. I \_\_\_\_\_ (lend) you some.

(c) Rani : Look at those dark clouds.

Ravi : I think it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain).

(d) Rani: What shall we have for dinner?

Ravi: I can't decide.

Rani: Make up your mind.

Ravi: All right, then. We \_\_\_\_\_ (have) fried rice and dry beans.

(e) Rani : Why are you filling the kettle with water?

Ravi: I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) coffee.

(f) Rani: We need some bread and butter for breakfast.

Ravi: All right. I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the bakery and get some.

(Before he goes out, Ravi talks to their father.)

Ravi: I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) some bread and butter. Do you want anything from the bakery? Father: Yes, I want some salt biscuits.

Ravi: Fine, I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) you a packet.

Answer:

- a. am going to listen                      b. will lend                                      c. will rain  
d. will have                                      e. am going to make                              f. will go

ii. Let pairs of children take turns to speak aloud the dialogues.

Do it yourself.

**Speaking and Writing**

1. Each of the following words has the sound/f/as in feel. The words on the left have it initially. Those on the right have it finally. Speak each word clearly.

flail	life	fact	tough
Philip	puff	fail	laugh
flowed	deaf	fast	stiff

Ans. Do it yourself

2. Underline the letter/or letters representing /f/ in each of the following words.

file	slough	faint	lift
cough	defence	afford	enough
photograph	staff	tough	aloof
affront	philosophy	sophistry	

Ans.

- (i) file                                      (ii) cough                                      (iii) photograph  
(iv) affront                                      (v) slough                                      (vi) defence  
(vii) staff                                      (viii) philosophy                                      (ix) faint  
(x) afford                                      (xi) tough                                      (xii) sophistry  
(xiii) lift                                      (xiv) enough                                      (xv) aloof

**3. Imagine that you are the poet. You have come to your native valley to meet a famous preacher called Ernest. Narrate the incident of your first meeting with time.**

I have been hearing of Ernest, a famous preacher of my native valley, from a fairly long time. I wished to go and meet him. When I meet him first, I saw him reading my book of poems. I was pleasantly surprised, but also shocked as he believed me to be the 'likeness' of the Great Stone Face.

I was really astonished. We had never met before. Yet, merely because of reading my works, he had invested a lot of faith on me.

On meeting him, I realised that the kind of thoughts I had vaguely expressed in my poems, he was a living embodiment of those thoughts. His nobility was invented in the form of a glow on his face and the simplicity with which he led his life was a lesson for generations to come. He was indeed a pure soul. He was indeed the Great Stone Face.

**4. (i) Put each of the following in the correct order to construct sentences.**

**(a) a resident of Noida near Delhi,/is visually impaired/George Abraham,**

**Ans.** George Abraham, a resident of Noida near Delhi, is visually, impaired

**(b) confidence and competitive spirit/and infuses discipline among the participants/It provides.**

**Ans.** It provides confidence and competitive spirit and infuses discipline among the participants.

**(c) to the blind school in Delhi/It was a chance visit/that changed his life**

**Ans.** It was a chance visit to the blind school in Delhi that changed his life .

**(d) sport is a powerful tool/the disabled/He believes that/for rehabilitation of**

**Ans.** He believes that sport is a powerful tool for rehabilitation of the disabled.

**(ii) Now rearrange the sentences above to construct a paragraph.**

**Ans.** **George Abraham**, a resident of Noida near Delhi, is visually impaired. It was a chance visit to the blind school in Delhi that changed his life. He believes that sport is a powerful tool for rehabilitation of the disabled. It provides confidence and competitive spirit and infuses discipline among the participants.



## Chapter Practice

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

**1. Which new character is introduced in the second part of the story?**

The character of the poet gets introduced in the story, The Great Stone Face, Part II.

**2. Who all came to pay a visit to Ernest?**

People from distant lands that included college professors, active men of the city and many others came to pay a visit to Ernest and converse with him.

**3. Whom does Ernest assume to be a likeness of the Great Stone Face? Does his assumption prove right?**

Ernest assumes the poet of his native land to be the likeness of the Great Stone Face. However, on seeing him, he realises that his assumption was not correct.

**4. What was Ernest's routine every evening?**

After the day's work, Ernest spent time reading the book of the new poet and gazing at the Great Stone Face. Besides this, every evening he addressed a group of neighbours as a preacher.

**5. Was the old prophecy and the Great Stone Face forgotten as the years went by?**

No, Neither the Great Stone Face nor the prophecy related to it was forgotten. Ernest had spent his life waiting for its fulfilment and the poet had glorified it in his poems.

**6. List down the adjectives used by the poet to describe Ernest.**

Worthy, mild, sweet, thoughtful and glorious.

**7 Why does Ernest not respond to the poet's glorification of Ernest?**

Ernest could not believe himself to be that much awaited likeness of the Great Stone Face for whom he had been waiting since childhood.

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### Short Answer Type Questions

**1. Why does Ernest become sad on being introduced with the author of the book he used to read?**

Ernest was greatly impressed by the poet whose book he used to read every evening. Silently, in his mind, he had assumed the poet to be the likeness of the Great Stone Face. On

meeting the poet, Ernest becomes sad because he does not see any resemblance between the poet and the Great Stone Face.

## **2. How different was the poet from Ernest's assumptions of the poet?**

From his reading of the poet's works, Ernest thought the poet to be a very thoughtful and noble person. However, when Ernest meets the poet, the poet admits that his life did not correspond with the thoughts he had penned on the paper. Also, the poet did not resemble the Great Stone Face as Ernest had assumed.

## **3. What draws the poet back to his native land?**

The poet lived far away from his native land. Yet, he had heard much about Ernest and had also spent good deal of time reflecting upon Ernest's character. Ernest's nobility and simplicity of life forced the poet to come back to his native land and meet Ernest in person.

## **4. Write a character sketch of the poet.**

The poet was renowned for the kind of poetry he composed. His poems appeared like sweet music to those who read them. In his poems, he expressed grand thoughts and dreams, glorified a simple way of life. Yet, the poet's character lacked that complete and true nobility and simplicity of life, for he lacked convictions in his own thoughts. There were certain weaknesses in his character. At the same time, he was conscious and honest in admitting these shortcomings before Ernest.

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### **Long Answer Type Questions**

## **1. How different is the old Ernest from the younger Ernest?**

The younger Ernest did not attract much attention from the people of the valley. There was nothing remarkable about him. The older Ernest, however, was popular not just among the people of the valley, but beyond it. He was now a wise man with many a wise thoughts and his company was sought by many people. It was difficult to hide his wisdom. The older Ernest had also taken on the role of a preacher and used to address a group of neighbours every evening.

## **2. What made the poet feel that Ernest was the much awaited likeness of the Great Stone Face?**

The poet accompanied Ernest when he addressed the crowd. In Ernest's words, the poet found the conviction that lacked in his own words.

The poet felt that there was a perfect harmony between what Ernest preached and the life Ernest led. Therefore, his words had power; his thoughts had a certain reality and depth. The worthiness of Ernest made the poet sure of Ernest being the likeness of the Great Stone Face.

### Value Based Questions

3. Assume yourself to be one of the native people. Express your views on finding out that Ernest was the likeness of the Great Stone Face.

I was pleasantly shocked when I got to know that Ernest was the likeness of the Great Stone Face. He had lived amongst us, yet we ignored his remarkable features that bore resemblance to the features of the Great Stone Face. Like many other people of my valley, I am shocked at how we could ignore Ernest to be our man, the man of the prophecy. His character revealed all strains of nobility and simplicity. He was our preacher, our guide; yet an outsider had to come and make this revelation. At the same time, I am much glad to have been alive to see the fulfilment of the prophecy.

### Extract Based Questions

#### Extract 1

**Extract Based Questions Extract 1 Directions (Q. Nos. 1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.**

"You hoped," answered the poet, faintly smiling, "to find in me the likeness of the Great Stone Face. I am not worthy to be its likeness."

"And why not?" asked Ernest. He pointed to the book. "Are not those thoughts worthy?" "You can hear in them the distant voice of a heavenly song. But my life, dear Ernest, has not corresponded with my thoughts. I have had grand dreams, but they have been only dreams. Sometimes I lack faith in my own thoughts."

1. Whose life had not corresponded with his thoughts?

- (a) Poet                      (b) Ernest                      (c) The Great Stone Face                      (d) Ernest's mother

Ans. (a) Poet

2. Which word from the passage means the same: "a person notable or important in a particular sphere"?

- (a) Conviction      (b) Worthy      (c) Faith      (d) Correspond

Ans. (b) Worthy

3. The poet thinks himself to be a failure because\_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) his dreams remained unfulfilled  
(b) he could not hear the distant voice of a heavenly song  
(c) he lived far away  
(d) Ernest was much better than him

Ans. (a) his dreams remained unfulfilled.

4. Why does the poet admit his flaws before Ernest?

The poet admits his flaws before Ernest because Ernest was assuming him to be a worthy likeness of the Great Stone Face.

5. State the reasons for the lacking faith in poet's own thoughts.

The poet lacked faith in his own thoughts because he could not lead his life in accordance with the thoughts that he expressed in his poems.

6. What is the reaction of Ernest after meeting the poet?

Ernest feels disappointed after meeting the poet as there was no resemblance between the poet and the Great Stone Face.

**Extract 2**

Directions (Q.Nos. 1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

"Ernest threw a look of familiar kindness around upon his audience. He began to speak to the people what was in his heart and mind. His words had power, because they agreed with his thoughts; and his thoughts had reality and depth, because they harmonised with the life he had always lived. It was not mere breath that the preacher uttered; they were the words of life. A life of good deeds and selfless love was melted into them. The poet, as he listened, felt that the life and character of Ernest were a nobler strain of poetry than he had ever written."

1. What does the poet compare Ernest's life with?

- (a) The Great Stone Face      (b) Poetry      (c) Himself      (d) Ernest's mother

Ans. (b) Poetry

**2. Who all were part of Ernest's daily audience?**

- (a) A group of neighbours
- (b) College professors
- (c) Doctors
- (d) The poet

**Ans. (a) A group of neighbours**

**3. Find a phrase from the passage that indicates regularity of action.**

- (a) Familiar kindness
- (b) Reality and depth
- (c) Nobler strain
- (d) Harmonised

**Ans. (a) Familiar kindness**

**4. Why does the poet admire Ernest's words?**

The poet admires Ernest's words because in them he found depth and reality. They harmonised with the daily life that Ernest had led.

**5. What according to the poet was most noble?**

The poet feels that Ernest's life was more noble than the poems poet had composed. The way Ernest had led life was nobler than the artificial thoughts the poet had expressed in his poems.

**6. Make a list of adjectives used to describe Ernest's way of life.**

Kind, noble, selfless and loving.

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