

Plus One English

Focus Area 2021

**Chapter wise
Important Points & Short Summary**

His First Flight

- By **Liam O'Flaherty**
- It is the story of a **young seagull**.
- He was afraid to fly.
- Lack of confidence and courage made him to stay there.
- It was a real crisis
- His family especially **mother** gave him confidence to fly
- Every child needs courage and support in his life
- It is our duty to support every one.
- This is a good lesson to all parents.

His First Flight - A Short Summary

The short story 'His First Flight' by Liam O'Flaherty narrates how a frightened seagull learns to fly. This story highlights the importance of independence, self-confidence, self-reliance, will power, crisis management and perseverance.

Once, a young seagull was standing alone on a rock in the sea. He was very much afraid to fly. His parents tried their level best to teach it to fly, but in vain. The young seagull was maddened by hunger. He saw his mother tearing a piece of fish. He begged his mother to give him food.

The mother later took a piece of fish in her beak and came flying over him. When she reached over him she became motionless in the air. The young seagull bent forward and jumped at the fish. So he lost his balance and fell down from the cliff into the space. After a moment he felt his wings spreading outwards. He flapped his wings and soared upwards. His parents and siblings flew around him to encourage him. They were extremely happy and they all expressed their joy on his successful flight.

The message of the story is that if we want to succeed in life, we should be self-reliant and should bravely face challenges in our life.

I will Fly

- A speech by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- Kalam inaugurated a programme called '**Sasthrayan**'
- Sasthrayan means the propagation of science.
- Kalam said that the youth of today need not fear about their future.
- A boy from a village expressed his wish to become a marine engineer.
- Kalam valued his question and recited the poem 'I will fly'
- Everyone has ideas and dreams
- Kalam advised the boy to be unique
- You should find the 'Unique You'
- Students must work hard until they reach the goal

I will Fly – A Short Summary

‘I Will Fly’ is the title given to a speech by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. He began his speech on the topic ‘I am born with Wings’. He expressed the hope that the youth of today need not fear about their future.

He speaks about one of his experiences during the programme called ‘Sasthrayaan’ which means the ‘propagation of science’. After the inaugural speech, a number of students raised their hands for asking questions. The questions asked by a teenager from a remote village were really inspiring.

The boy was nervous and he expressed his wish to become a marine engineer. But he was afraid of asking questions to his teachers and friends. Abdul Kalam recited a poem in response to the question. The speaker in the poem says that he has abilities, ideas, dreams and confidence. He has wings too. So he won't crawl. He will fly higher and higher.

After this, Kalam advised him to be unique. Imitating others will not make us unique. Kalam told them that being unique is a great challenge. They must work hard until they reach their goal.

If

- If is a beautiful poem by **Rudyard Kipling**.
- It explains the qualities of a perfect man.
- A gentleman should have a balanced character.
- He should believe in himself.
- He should be patient in waiting.
- He must not listen to lies.
- He thinks and acts well.
- He faces victory and defeat in the same manner.
- Others may twist his words but he never talks bad about them.

If

- He should work hard.
- He should keep in touch with ordinary people.
- He also keeps friendship with kingly people.
- **Figures of speech** in the poem
 - Personification: Triumph and disaster are personified as two imposters.
 - Metaphor: Unforgiving minute for the time that waits for no man.
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If – A Short Summary

Here a father is advising his son:

Stanza 1 : Maintain your coolness when people around you have lost it and blame you for the situation. Trust yourself when all people doubt you, but give allowance for their doubting. Wait and don't be tired of waiting. When people tell you lies, don't follow their example. People may hate you but don't hate them. Don't try to look too good and don't try to talk too wise.

Stanza 2 : You should dream, but do not make dreams your master. You should think but don't make your thoughts your aim. You should view Success and Failure equally. You may say truths but dishonest people may twist them and use them to trap fools. You worked hard to get certain things done, but you find them broken. Then you get ready to build them up using old tools.

Stanza 3 : Collect all your winnings and risk them on one turn of the dice. You may lose the entire thing. But start again without telling anybody about your loss. Continue doing your work even when others have abandoned theirs. Continue to hold on even if you have nothing left except your will.

Stanza 4 : Keep talking with the crowds but maintain your virtue. Walk with kings but don't lose the common touch. Neither your friends nor your enemies should be able to hurt you. All men should be able to count on you for help. But nobody should expect too much from you. You should forgive people who have offended you. If you can do all the above things the Earth and everything in it is yours and you will then be a man.

And then Gandhi Came

- Lesson taken from Jawaharlal Nehru's '**The Discovery of India**'
- Gandhiji stood for truth, love and non-violence (Ahimsa)
- He was against all social evils like untouchability and child marriage
- He himself set an example for Abhaya (fearlessness)
- His personality was like a magnet
- Essence of his teaching was **fearlessness and truth**
- Gandhiji was a leader of his people

And then Gandhi Came - Summary

'And then Gandhi Came' is an extract from Nehru's 'The Discovery of India'. In this lesson, he writes about the timely arrival of Gandhiji to Indian politics.

It was really a critical period when Gandhi came to Indian politics. He was like a powerful current of fresh air. He encouraged people to fight against exploitation. He wanted to avoid poverty and misery from the lives of the Indians. His teaching instilled fearlessness and truth. He himself set an example for 'Abhaya' which means absence of fear.

Gandhiji raised his strong voice against all social evils. Though he could not make a total change, a change of attitude was visible among people. They raised their voice against the exploitation and humiliation by the British. Gandhiji stood as a symbol of uncompromising truth.

His call of action was two-fold. First it was directed against British rule, and then against all kinds of social evils like untouchability, class division etc. He dreamt of an ideal India free from the curse of untouchability and intoxicating drinks and drugs. His personality was like a magnet which attracted millions of people all over the world.

The Price of Flowers

- A touching story written by P.K.Mukopadhyay.
- **Gupta** was an Indian living in London.
- One day he met **Maggie** in a restaurant/hotel.
- She was working as a typist
- She was from a poor family.
- Her brother **Frank** is a soldier in India.
- She heard that India is a land of tigers, snakes and fevers.
- Maggie requested Gupta, after looking into the ring that Frank was all right

The Price of Flowers

- Gupta received a letter that Maggy's mother was not well.
- Gupta was shocked to learn that Frank had died in the war.
- Gupta was very sad.
- Maggie gave him a shilling to buy flowers to place on her brother's grave in Punjab.
- He accepted it.
- It gave her joy beyond all price

The Price of Flowers - Summary

'The Price of Flowers' is a story written by P. K. Mukhopadhyay.

Gupta was an Indian living in London. Once he met Alice in a vegetarian restaurant. She was working as a typist in a nearby office. Her mother made cakes to sell on Saturdays. She was from a poor family.

She wanted to know if Gupta was an Indian. Her brother Frank had gone to India as he was a soldier in a military service. Gupta once went to Maggie's house to meet her mother. Her mother was anxious to know about India because she had heard that India was a land of tigers, snakes and fevers.

She believed that most of the Indians had the rare power to see a person living in a distant land by gazing at a crystal ring. Maggie and her mother wanted him to look into the crystal ring and say how Frank was. Gupta told them that he did not possess such a power.

One day Gupta received news that Maggie's mother was not well. He went to their house immediately. Maggie wanted him to gaze into the crystal and say whether Frank was safe. Gupta took the ring and told a lie that Frank was safe. Maggie's mother was happy and soon became well. Later Gupta was shocked to learn that Frank had died in the war. Gupta felt very sad.

In the morning of his last day in London, Maggie came to see him when he was packing up things. She gave him a shilling to buy flowers and place them on her brother's grave in Punjab. He accepted it because it would give her joy beyond all price.

Death The Leveller

- A beautiful poem by **James Shirley**.
- It reminds us the mortality of life.
- The rank, power and position in this life are not permanent.
- Everybody is equal in front of death
- The king and the common man face death in the same manner.
- They go in to the same cold tomb.
- The soldier and the farmer reap their own fields.
- But they yield to death.
- The death put an end to life.
- But the sweet smell of the actions of the just will remain for ever.

Death The Leveller - Summary

In 'Death the Leveller' the poet speaks about the might of death. The high and the low, the mighty and the weak, the rich and the poor – are all equal before Death.

There is no weapon against Fate. The icy hands of death do not spare even kings. The sceptre and crown are symbols of their power and glory. Scythe and spade represent the poor working class.

When death comes all must yield to it. All the glory will be reduced to dust. Some achieve glory in battlefields. Their strength will weaken one day. All must stoop to fate someday.

The garlands which adorn the head will dry and wither away. The victorious king will soon become the victim of Death. He will be like an animal sacrificed on the altar of death. After death, only our just actions will be remembered like sweet smelling flowers

Message: Death levels everyone. He treats all alike. All, kings and clowns, scholars and the illiterate, the rich and the poor, end up in dust.

The Sacred Turtles of Kadavu

- It is about a strange **ritual** on a **Fijian island**.
- Long ago a beautiful princess called **Tinaicoboga** and her daughter **Raudalice** lived in a lovely village **Namuana**.
- One day they went for fishing.
- Fisherman of **Nabukelevu** seized the two women.
- The two women cried for help.
- Suddenly there was a huge storm.

The Sacred Turtles of Kadavu

- They saw that those two women were turned into giant turtles.
- The fishermen were afraid.
- They threw the turtles into the sea and ran for their lives
- Even today, the women from Namuana village dressed in mourning sing for their beloved ones.
- The turtles come up to the surface when the Namuana villagers sing the song

The Sacred Turtles of Kadavu - Summary

'The Sacred Turtles of Kadavu' speaks about a strange ritual on a Fijian island. The ritual is connected to a story from a village in Kadavu. There, the women chant to call turtles.

Long ago in the lovely village of Namuana, lived a beautiful princess Tinaicoboga. She was the wife of the chief. The chief and his wife had a daughter, Raudalice. Raudalice often went for fishing with her mother.

One day, while they were so engrossed in fishing they didn't notice the stealthy approach of the fishermen of Nabukelevu. The fishermen came close and seized the two women. They bound the women, and tossed them into the canoe, and set off. The two women cried aloud to make them free. But the fishermen were so cruel that they laughed at them.

But the gods were not pleased with the fishermen's cruelty. Suddenly they sent a huge storm and started tossing the canoe. Also the two women were turned into two giant sea turtles. To save themselves from this horror filled situation, the fishermen threw the two turtles into the sea. Then the sea became calm and the fishermen ran for their life.

The Fijians still believe that Tinaicoboga and Raudalice live in the waters of that bay. Even today, the women from Namuana village are dressed in mourning clothes to chant the song for their beloved turtles. They think that the giant turtles would rise to the surface of the bright blue waters.

The Serang of Renaganji

- The Story is written by **Dr. A J Cronin**.
- **Hasan** looked ugly with his short legs and disproportionate head.
- **Miss. Jope-Smith** ridiculed him calling 'a comic creature'.
- Some of the crew got infected with **small pox**.
- It was the duty of **A J Cronin, the doctor of the ship**, to control the spreading of disease.
- Haan voluntarily agreed to take care of the patients.
- He sponged the patients with permanganate solutions.
- He gave medicines in time.
- He supported the Doctor in many ways
- He is a symbol of love, care, affection, sincerity, devotion, dedication and responsibility.

The Serang of Renaganji - Summary

The story 'The Serang of Ranaganji' by Dr. A. J. Cronin speaks about the selfless and sacrificial service rendered by a serang.

The story begins with a fashionable lady's remark about the serang. He was an ugly man with short legs and a large head. He was the boatswain of the ship 'Ranaganji'. They spoke of him as a comic creature. His name was Hasan. A. J. Cronin, the physician of the ship overheard this remark. The ship was crowded with tourists and most of them were accompanied by their wives and families.

One morning, the serang appeared with two lascars at the doctor's cabin. They were suffering from smallpox. Cronin reported the matter to the captain. He requested the doctor to arrange an isolated area for the patients. The serang helped to make a canvas shelter on the deck. Hasan helped the doctor without any fear. The next day, six or seven men came with signs of smallpox. Again, Hasan took much care to treat them. He sat watchful when one of the victims was in a coma state.

The serang was really from Punjab. His parents had wandered to South India. It was at that time that he took a seafaring life. He had no place on shore and remained unmarried. He had no savings too. Cronin expressed his wish that Hasan should be paid extra for this extra service. But he was not interested. He was happy and contented with what he had.

When two of the patients died, Hasan himself sewed their shrouds, read aloud a short passage from the Ramayana and threw their bodies overboard. When the voyage ended, some of the patients showed signs of improvement and the severely affected ones were moved to the hospital.

As Hasan was unloading the baggage, that lady's voice was heard again. She was surprised to see the serang. She asked Cronin where he had kept that dirty creature during the whole voyage. To this question, Cronin agreed that it was in a cage that he had kept him, but all the animals were outside the cage.