

Class: B. Sc.- I
Semester- II

Subject: English Compulsory
Paper- II (English for Communication)

Notes: Reading Skills (20 Marks)

Module V (B) Lost Forest by Johannes Jensen (A Short Story)

Jensen was a Danish writer and sportsman who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1944. "Lost Forests" is a story set in rural Jutland about a master, Korra, and his slave. Korra buys a slave to help on his farm, but the slave falls ill and pines for his home in the forests. Korra promises to give him his freedom after five years of hard work. The slave works hard and even after the five years, works for two more years to earn money to travel west to find his forests. He comes back dejected, unable to find them. Korra takes care of him and whips him to make him obedient. Korra's farm yields rich produce, and he buys new lands and a female slave. Their family grows, and Korra teaches his sons the value of hard work and longing for a better life. The story shows the importance of feeling belonging, whether to a forest or a farm, and the bond that develops between the master and slave, even after the slave is freed.

Module V (C) Stopping by Woods - Robert Frost (A Poem)

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" is a poem by Robert Frost that describes a man's contemplation while standing in a snow-covered forest. The speaker, who is traveling through the woods on horseback, is captivated by the beauty of the snow-covered trees and the peacefulness of the surrounding landscape. He is tempted to stay longer and watch the snow fall, but he knows he has obligations and a long journey ahead of him.

The speaker personifies the woods and describes them as "lovely, dark, and deep," creating an almost mystical atmosphere. However, he also acknowledges that he has "promises to keep" and "miles to go before [he] sleep[s]."

The poem is often interpreted as a meditation on the tensions between duty and desire. The speaker is drawn to the peacefulness of the woods, but he ultimately chooses to continue on his journey, fulfilling his responsibilities despite the temptation to stay.

Module VI (B) Putting Data to Effective Use by Satish Tripathi (An Article)

In his article "Putting Data to Effective Use," Satish Tripathi argues that data is only valuable if it is used effectively. He emphasizes that collecting and analyzing data is not enough; organizations must also be able to turn that data into actionable insights.

Tripathi believes that this requires a "data-driven culture" in which decision-making is based on empirical evidence rather than assumptions or intuition. This culture can be fostered by creating an environment in which data is easily accessible and understandable to all members of an organization.

Additionally, Tripathi suggests that organizations should prioritize their data collection efforts and focus on gathering the most important data rather than trying to collect everything. He also stresses the importance of using data to measure progress and adjust strategies accordingly.

Overall, Tripathi argues that data is a valuable resource that can drive better decision-making and improve outcomes, but only if it is used effectively and with a clear purpose in mind.

Module VII (B) An Epithet by W.H.Davies (A Poem)

"An Epithet" is a poem by W.H. Davies that explores the power of words and the human desire to be remembered after death. The speaker reflects on his own mortality and the legacy he will leave behind, questioning what others will say about him after he is gone.

The title "An Epithet" refers to a brief phrase used to describe someone, often used as a memorial inscription. The speaker imagines different epithets that could be used to describe him, ranging from simple descriptions of his appearance to more profound statements about his character and achievements.

Ultimately, the speaker realizes that the words used to describe him are less important than the way he lived his life. He suggests that the best way to be remembered is to live with integrity and kindness, and to make a positive impact on the world.

The poem encourages readers to reflect on their own lives and consider what kind of legacy they want to leave behind, reminding us that our actions and values are more important than the words used to describe us after we are gone.

Module VIII (A) The Golden Touch by Nathaniel Hawthorne (A Short Story)

"The Golden Touch" is a story written by Nathaniel Hawthorne and first published in 1851. The story follows the life of a king named Midas, who is obsessed with wealth and the acquisition of gold. One day, he is granted a wish by the god Dionysus, and he chooses to have the power to turn anything he touches into gold.

Initially, Midas is thrilled with his newfound power, as he is able to turn anything he touches into solid gold, including his food and drink. However, he soon realizes that this power comes with a terrible cost. He is unable to touch his daughter, who he loves more than anything, without turning her into gold. He is also unable to eat or drink anything without turning it to gold, leaving him hungry and thirsty.

As Midas begins to regret his wish, he seeks out Dionysus to ask him to take back his power. The god agrees, but only on the condition that Midas will learn to appreciate the value of things that cannot be turned into gold. Midas agrees, and Dionysus takes back the power of the golden touch.

The story ends with Midas realizing the value of his daughter, his health, and the simple pleasures of life that he had taken for granted. He learns to appreciate the things that cannot be bought with gold and lives the rest of his life in contentment.

Overall, "The Golden Touch" is a cautionary tale about the dangers of greed and the importance of appreciating the non-material aspects of life.

Module VIII (B) Offering in the Temple by Desika Vinayakam Pillai (A Poem)

"Offering in the Temple" is a poem written by Desika Vinayakam Pillai that describes the Hindu ritual of making an offering to the gods in a temple. The poem begins with the speaker describing the temple's beauty and the peaceful atmosphere inside. The speaker then talks about the different offerings that people make, such as flowers, fruits, and incense, and how these offerings symbolize devotion and surrender to the gods.

The speaker also reflects on the significance of these offerings, as they represent the devotee's desire to attain enlightenment and release from the cycle of rebirth. The speaker emphasizes the importance of making these offerings with pure intentions and a humble heart.

In the final stanza, the speaker expresses gratitude towards the gods for their blessings and asks for their continued protection and guidance. Overall, "Offering in the Temple" is a poem that celebrates the beauty and spiritual significance of the Hindu ritual of making an offering to the gods.