



## TNPSC GENERAL ENGLISH

### ANNEXURE

#### 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOX CONTENTS

##### **Do you know?**

##### **Arribada**

In most parts of the world, Olive Ridleys come ashore alone to lay their eggs. However, Odisha is one of the only three places in the world where a phenomenon known as 'mass nesting' or Arribada takes place. On certain nights during the nesting season, thousands of female turtles come ashore simultaneously to lay their eggs on particular beaches.

##### **Do you know?**

There is an interesting aspect of sea turtle biology. The temperature inside the egg determines the sex of the embryo while it is growing. When the eggs develop at 27 °C – 28 °C only male hatchlings are produced. At 30 °C only female hatchlings are produced. An equal mix of male and female hatchlings is produced only when the eggs incubate at precisely 29 °C – 30 °C.

##### **About the Author**

Shekar Dattatri writes popular articles on wildlife, conservation and film making. He has been interested in nature from childhood. He is an award-winning wildlife and conservation filmmaker.

##### **Do you know?**

The Madras Crocodile Bank is one of the largest reptile zoos in the world. It is a shelter for native wildlife and a secure nesting beach for Olive Ridley Turtles. It is located at East Coast Road, Kovalam in Chennai.

#### **About the Author**

Lewis Carroll was an English writer. His most famous book is 'Alice in Wonderland'.

#### **Do you know?**

India has more than 17000 species of flowering plants. Tamil Nadu with more than 5000 species – nearly 1/3rd of the total flora of India - probably has the highest diversity in India.

#### **Do you know?**

The Western Ghats is home to nearly 325 globally-threatened flora and fauna.

#### **About the Author**

Ruskin Bond is an award winning Indian author of more than 500 books, short stories, essays and novels. He writes poetry and books for children as well as adults. He lives with his adopted family in Landour, in Mussoorie, India. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2014.

#### **Do you know?**

You can tell how old a tree is by counting its rings. This method of tree ring dating is called "Dendrochronology" and was developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Do you know?**

Chillies are cultivated more in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu. Chillies were first known as Govai-mirchi. Soon, there were many different kinds of chillies. Some were long and thin and some were fat and stubby. People in India and Sri Lanka began to use these in their cooking. Soon it spread to many other parts of the world.

#### **Do you know?**

One of the earliest plants that Indians grew was sugarcane. It is valuable both for providing energy and for its great taste.

#### **Do you know?**

Women's Cricket World Cup is older than Men's. The Women's World Cup was first held in England, in 1973, two years before the inaugural of Men's Cricket World Cup.

#### **Do you know?**

India has won all six Women's Kabaddi World cups played from 2012-2017.

### **Do you know?**

The second most popular sport in the world is Badminton. Do you know the first popular one? It is Football.

### **About the Author**

Edgar Albert Guest began his illustrious career in 1895 at the age of fourteen when his work first appeared in the Detroit Free Press. His column was syndicated in over 300 newspapers, and he came to be known as "The Poet of the People". Guest was made Poet Laureate of Michigan, the only poet to have been awarded the title. His poems often had an inspirational and optimistic view of everyday life.

### **Toy Train**

The Nilgiri Mountain Railway was built by the British in 1908. Mountain Train is another showcase of heritage of India. This rail connects Udagamandalam and Mettupalayam. The journey is the most picturesque train ride that mesmerizes travellers of all age groups. This train travels through 208 serpentine curves, 16 tunnels, 250 bridges, waterfall hood, cliff edges and tea estates covering a distance of 26 km. The uphill journey takes almost 4 hours. In the year 2005, UNESCO declared the Nilgiri Mountain Railway as an extension of the World Heritage Site Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. Vintage Steam Locomotive is still retained as an excellent attraction to this train.

### **About the Author**

Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson (13 Nov 1850 - 3 December 1894) was a Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, musician and travel writer. His famous works are 'Treasure Island', 'Kidnapped', 'Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde' and 'A Child's Garden of Verses'.

### **Do you know?**

**WEATHER:** The conditions in the atmosphere like rain, wind or temperature at any time

**CLIMATE:** The general weather conditions of a place. (e.g.) a warm climate, cold climate

**SEASONS:** One of the four periods of the year which has its own typical weather conditions resulting from the earth's changing positions in its orbit around the sun.

### **Do you know?**

There really is a science to laughing. In fact, the science of laughing and its effects on the body is referred to as Gelotology.

Laughter boosts your immune system by enhancing your antibodies – which help fight infections – and increasing your immune cell count. This helps reduce chance of illness and missing out on work.

The American Comedy Awards are a group of awards presented annually in the United States recognizing performances and performers in the field of comedy. It was begun in 1987.

### **About the Author**

William Makepeace Thackeray was one of the great novelists of the English Victorian Age. His 'Vanity Fair' is one of the finest and best-known novels in English literature. Thackeray wrote in a colourful, lively style, with a simple vocabulary and clearly- structured sentences. These qualities, combined with his honest view of life, give him an important place in the history of realistic literature.

### **Do you know?**

There are 109 members in Marapanhalli Laxmayha family who live in Karnataka's Kolar district. It is one among the last few purely joint families in India. 85 members of this massive family live under a single roof that spans 20 rooms. The other 24 live in the fields next to the house.

### **Do you know?**

106 year old, Mastanamma, the great grandmother from Andhra Pradesh, is the star of a YouTube cooking channel with over 2,80,000 subscribers throughout the world. All credit for her newfound stardom goes to her grandson Karre Laxman. Mastanamma passed away in 2018.

### **Do you know?**

The Bermuda Triangle is one of the greatest unsolved mysterious spots in the world. It is a triangular shaped area in the North Atlantic Ocean. Hundreds of people and numerous boats, ships and planes have disappeared inside this triangle. The reason for these disappearances still remains a mystery.

### **About the Author**

Walter de la Mare (1873–1956) was an English poet, short story writer and novelist. He is best known for his works for children. 'The Listeners' is said to be his most famous poem.

### **Do you know?**

Ten core life skills prescribed by WHO are

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Self-awareness    | 6. Problem Solving            |
| 2. Empathy           | 7. Effective communication    |
| 3. Critical thinking | 8. Interpersonal relationship |
| 4. Creative thinking | 9. Coping with stress         |
| 5. Decision making   | 10. Coping with emotion       |

### **About the Author**

George Krokos was born on 30th June, 1951 in Samos, Greece and now lives in Melbourne, Australia. He is an aspiring poet who has written quite a number of poems inspired by nature, science, philosophy and the spiritual aspects of life. He has studied eastern and western religions and associated philosophy for over 35 years and has practised various forms of Yoga and meditation.

### **About the Author**

Sigrun Srivastav is an Indian author of German origin. She is a multi-faceted artist, a writer, a sculptor and an illustrator. As a writer she has written over 25 books for children of all ages.

### **About the Author**

Sarojini Naidu was a famous Indian poet and a major freedom fighter. She was given a sobriquet Bharat Kokila (The Nightingale of India) on account of her beautiful poems and songs.

### **Do you know?**

Travelling improves memory and reduces the risk of heart diseases. It makes us more intelligent and happier. This has been proved by scientists.

### **Do you know?**

Agra is one of the most visited destinations in India. The main reason is the Taj Mahal. Agra also has other attractions like the Agra Fort, the Sikandra Fort, Akbar's tomb and many other tourist spots.

### **About the Author**

John Masfield (1878–1967) was an English Poet and writer. He was appointed poet laureate of the United Kingdom in 1930.



### **Do you know?**

The "black box" is made up of two separate pieces of equipment: the flight data recorder (FDR) and a cockpit voice recorder (CVR). They are compulsory on any commercial flight or corporate jet, and are usually kept in the tail of an aircraft, where they are more likely to survive a crash. FDRs record things like airspeed, altitude, vertical acceleration and fuel flow. Early versions used wire string to encode the data; these days they use solid-state memory boards. Solid-state recorders in large aircraft can track more than 700 parameters.

An anagram is a word or phrase formed by rearranging the letters of a different word or phrase, typically using all the original letters exactly once. Eg. Seat - east, alert - alter.

### **About the Author**

Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959) was a prolific England-born American poet who was popular in the first half of the 20th century and became known as the People's Poet. His poems often had an inspirational and optimistic view of everyday life.

**Rhyme Scheme:** A rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhymes at the end of each line of a poem or song. It is usually referred to by using letters to indicate which lines rhyme; lines designated with the same letter rhyme with each other.

### **Do you know?**

A bird's eye takes up about 50 percent of its head; our eyes take up about 5 percent of our head. To be comparable to a bird's eyes, our eyes would have to be the size of baseballs.

### **About the Author**

Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878-1972) informally called Rajaji, was an Indian politician, independence activist, lawyer, writer, historian and statesman. Rajagopalachari was born in the village of Thorapalli in the Krishnagiri district. Rajagopalachari was the last Governor- General of India, as India soon became a Republic in 1950. Furthermore, he was the first Indian-born governor- general, since before him the posts were held by British nationals. He also served as leader of the Indian National Congress, Premier of the Madras Presidency, Governor of West Bengal, Minister for Home Affairs of the Indian Union and Chief Minister of Madras state. He was one of the first recipients of India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.

### **About the Author**

Ruskin Bond is a short story writer, novelist and poet, the favourite writer of Indian children. His first novel, Room on the Roof, was published when he was still in his teens. This novel won him the John Rhys Memorial Award in 1957. He also writes about children and the simple hill folk of Uttarakhand. Simplicity and fluency of language and an insight into human nature are hallmarks of his style. His major writings include An Island of Trees, A Bond with the Mountains and The India I Love. He has also been honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his contribution to Indian literature.

"Whatever you like to do, make it a hobby"

**-Warren Buffet**

"Writing is easy. All you have to do is cross out the wrong words."

**-Mark Twain**

### **Do you know?**

The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr C.N. Annadurai, had the hobbies of reading and writing. He wrote many books, stories, plays, thought-provoking articles and cine dialogues which have contributed to reformation of society as we know it today!

### **Do you know?**

Jadav Payeng is better known as the Forest Man of India. He earned this name by spending 30 years of his life planting trees, creating a real man-made forest of 550 hectares.

### **Do you know?**

Wheels, our greatest invention... Man's greatest invention wheel is fundamental to transport, agriculture, industry and the world in which we live today.

### **About the Author**

Nathaniel Hawthorne (July 4, 1804 – May 19, 1864) was an American novelist, dark romantic, and short story writer. His works often focus on history, morality, and religion. He was born in 1804 in Salem, Massachusetts, to Nathaniel Hathorne and the former Elizabeth Clarke Manning. The biography of Sir Isaac Newton was published in Nathaniel Hawthorne's, True Stories from History and Biography (1851).

#### **About the Author**

Mary Ann Evans (1819 – 1880), known by her pen name George Eliot, was an English novelist, poet, journalist, translator, and one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. She wrote seven novels.

#### **About the Author**

Leo Tolstoy (1828 – 1910) was a Russian writer who is regarded as one of the greatest authors of all time. He is best known for the novels War and Peace (1869) and Anna Karenina (1877).

#### **About the Author**

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), Nobel prize-winning Bengali poet, author, philosopher, artist, and educator wrote "Gitanjali" (1912). "My Reminiscences" was written and published in his fiftieth year, shortly before he started on a trip to Europe and America for his failing health in 1912. It was in the course of this trip that he wrote for the first time in the English language for publication.

#### **About the Author**

John Keats (1795 – 1821) was a British Romantic poet. Although trained to be a surgeon, Keats decided to devote himself wholly to poetry. Keats' secret, his power to sway and delight the readers, lies primarily in his gift for perceiving the world and living his moods and aspirations in terms of language. "A Thing of Beauty" is an excerpt from his poem 'Endymion: A Poetic Romance'. The poem is based on a Greek legend, in which Endymion, a beautiful young shepherd and poet who lived on Mount Latmos, had a vision of Cynthia, the Moon Goddess. The enchanted youth resolved to seek her out and so wandered away through the forest and down under the sea.

#### **About the Author**

Manoj Das (born 1934) is an award-winning Indian author who writes in Odia and English. In 2000, Manoj Das was awarded with Saraswati Samman. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2001, the fourth highest Civilian Award in India for his contribution in the field of Literature & Education. Kendra Sahitya Akademi has bestowed its highest award i.e Sahitya Akademi Award Fellowship. His deeper quest led him to mysticism and he has been an inmate of Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Puducherry since 1963.



#### **About the Author**

A dog whistle (also known as silent whistle or Galton's whistle) is a type of whistle that emits sound in the ultrasonic range, which people cannot hear but some other animals can, including dogs and domestic cats, and is used in their training. It was invented in 1876 by Francis Galton and is mentioned in his book "Inquiries into Human Faculty and its Development", in which he describes experiments to test the range of frequencies that could be heard by various animals, such as a house cat.

#### **About the Author**

William Shakespeare invented over 1700 words that have become very common words, by changing nouns into verbs, changing verbs into adjectives, connecting words never before used together, adding prefixes and suffixes and devising words wholly original.

#### **About the Author**

Shanthini Govindan is a widely published, award-winning author of children's literature in English in India, who has written over 50 books for children including poetry, picture books and short stories for children of all ages.

#### **About the Author**

Zac O' Yeah has published altogether fifteen books in Swedish, many of them important bestsellers - including the Gandhi- biography Mahatma! which was short-listed for the August Prize 2008 for best non-fiction book of the year. His most recent books include the popular comic thriller Mr. Majestic! In 2018, he also published the acclaimed travelogue A Walk Through Barygaza and the popular children's thriller The Mystery of the Cyber Friend. He is also a literary critic and columnist, also contributing now and then to the travel magazines National Geographic and Outlook Traveller. He is also a translator specializing in introducing Indian writing - such as Pankaj Mishra, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Bama and others - to Swedish readers. He has been associated with theatre as a playwright, director, designer, producer, and occasional performer.

#### **About the Author**

Steven Kellogg (born October 26, 1941 in Norwalk, Connecticut) is an American author and illustrator who have created more than 90 children's books. On November 12, 2011, Kellogg was given an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Findlay in Ohio.

### **About the Author**

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar was born on 24th April 1973 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was a former Indian cricketer and captain widely regarded as one of the greatest cricketers of all time. He made an impact in cricket from a very early age, displaying a prodigious talent. The world famous cricketer has set many records in his career and is considered as one of the greatest Batsman of all times. He is the only player to have scored one hundred international centuries, the first to score double century in a One Day International, and the only player to complete more than 30,000 runs in international cricket. He played 664 international cricket matches in total, scoring 34,357 runs. In 2012, Tendulkar was nominated to the Rajya Sabha. He retired from cricket on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013. 'Learning the Game' is an extract from his autobiography Playing it My Way.

### **Do you know?**

Silambam was banned in Tamil Nadu during the British rule. Britishers viewed this martial art as a potential threat in the face of revolts.

### **About the Author**

Robert Frost (1874-1968) was an American poet noted for his realistic descriptions of rural life. Born on 26 March 1874, he spent his first 40 years as an unknown entity. He received four Pulitzer prizes for poetry and was a special guest at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration. Frost became a poetic force and the unofficial Poet Laureate of the United States. Some of his famous works are The Road Not Taken, West Running Brook, Mending Wall, After Apple Picking etc.

### **Do you know?**

Jawaharlal Nehru, the former Prime Minister of India, had the last two lines of this poem written in block letters and placed it on his desk as these lines reminded him of his responsibilities.

### **Do you know?**

Dogs were domesticated from wolves 15,000 years ago. New evidence suggests that dogs were first domesticated in East Asia, possibly China. Over time, hundreds of breeds with a great degree of variation have come into being.

### **Do you know?**

Dogs in warfare have a very long history starting in ancient times. From being trained in combat, to their use as scouts, sentries and trackers, their uses have been varied and some continue to exist in modern military usage.

**Do you know?**

A flying trapeze is a circus act in which people swing from one end of the circus tent on ropes.

**Do you know?**

The Param Vir Chakra is the highest wartime gallantry award, given to soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces, for the display of utmost courage and complete selflessness when facing the enemy. Since its inception in 1950, 21 fearless heroes (14 posthumous) have been awarded the medal till January 2019.

**About the Author**

Ruskin Bond was born on 19th May 1934. He is an award winning Indian author of British descent. He is much renowned for his role in promoting children's literature in India. The Indian council for Child Education has recognized his role in the growth of children's literature in India. He got the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992 for 'Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra'. He was awarded the Padmashri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2014. As a prolific writer, he has written over 500 short stories, essays and novels. His popular novel 'The Blue Umbrella' was made into a Hindi film and was awarded the National Film Award for the best children's film in 2007.

**About the Author**

William Blake (1757 – 1827) was an English Poet, painter and print maker. Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of English poetry. He was born in London. He was a boldly imaginative rebel in both his thought and his art. Some of his famous poems are "The Lamb" and "The Tiger".

**Do you know?**

**Different types of laughter**

- |          |           |                |
|----------|-----------|----------------|
| ❖ Smirk  | ❖ Guffaw  | ❖ Chuckle      |
| ❖ Laugh  | ❖ Snicker | ❖ Convulse.    |
| ❖ Smile  | ❖ Howl    | ❖ Chortle      |
| ❖ Cackle | ❖ Giggle  | ❖ Die laughing |
| ❖ Grin   | ❖ Shriek  |                |

**Do you know?**

In October 2017, the robot became a Saudi Arabian citizen, the first robot to receive citizenship of any country. In November 2017, Sophia was named the United Nations Development Programme's first ever Innovation Champion, and the first non-human to be given any United Nations title.

### **About the Author**

Isaac Asimov, born on January 2nd, 1920 was an American writer and professor of Biochemistry at Boston University. He was known for his work of science fiction and 'popular science'. Asimov was a prolific writer and edited more than 500 books, an estimated 90,000 letters and postcards. Asimov wrote 'Hard Science Fiction' along with Robert A. Heinlein and Arthur C. Clarke. He was considered one of the best science fiction writers during his lifetime.

### **Do you know?**

Punched tape or perforated paper tape is a form of data storage consisting of a long strip of paper in which holes are punched to store data.

### **Do you know?**

The Red Cross Society is an international humanitarian service organisation. It is the biggest, independent non-religious, non-political, non-sectarian and voluntary relief organisation treating people equally all over the world without any discrimination as to their nationality race and religious beliefs. It was established in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland by Jean Henry Dunant, the Father of Red Cross movement and recipient of noble award for peace in 1901.

### **Do you know?**

If you experience an emergency of any kind, accidents or natural disasters anywhere in India, the number you should call is 108.

### **Do you know?**

The fourth oldest dam in the world was built by King Karikala Chola across the river Kaveri in the 2nd Century CE. It is called the Kallanai Dam or the Grand Anaicut.

### **Do you know?**

A research team discovered in 1994 that Everest continues to grow approximately 4mm every year due to geological uplift.

A clause is a group of words that contains both a subject and a predicate (or a verb). There are two types of clauses. They are independent clause and dependent clause.

A Phrase is a group of words that forms a meaningful unit, but it is not a complete sentence. In other words, it does not have a subject or a verb. There are several kinds of phrases in the English language. Some of the common ones are described below.

### **About the Author**

Dr. Gieve Patel is one of the prominent Indian poets. His famous works include *Evening*, *Forensic Medicine*, and *From Bombay Central*. He has also penned three plays. He has been conducting a poetry workshop in Rishi Valley School for more than a decade. This poem is taken from his poetry collection 'Poems' published in 1966.

### **Do you know?**

A ship's cat is a cat that rides along on trading, exploration and naval ships to catch mice and rats which can cause damage to ropes, electrical wirings, crew's food, grains in the cargo and wooden parts of the ship.

### **Do you know?**

- One orange contains our daily requirement of vitamin C.
- Oranges were first grown in India and then they spread to the other parts of the world.

### **Do you know?**

Giving oranges during their New Year season is a festive ritual of the Chinese. They are usually given in pairs as a symbol of friendship.

### **Do you know?**

William John Francis Naughton, known as Bill Naughton (1910- 1992) was an Irish-born British playwright and author. He worked as a weaver, coal-bagger and lorry-driver before he started writing. His preferred environment was working class society, which is reflected in much of his work. He wrote many novels, short stories, plays and children's books. He is best known for the play *Alfie*. His 1977, children's novel *My Pal Spadger* is an account of his childhood in 1920s Bolton.

### **About the Author**

Mary Botham Howitt (1799-1888) was an English poet. She was born at Coleford, in Gloucestershire. She was educated at home and read widely. She commenced writing verses at a very early age. Together with her husband William Howitt, she wrote over 180 books.



"that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth" – Abraham Lincoln

### **A Note about the Novel**

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" is a novel about a young boy Tom Sawyer growing up along the Mississippi River at St. Petersburg. Tom Sawyer lives with his Aunt Polly and his brother Sid. He is up to all sorts of mischief. But very cleverly he escapes from the punishments that are given to him. He finds school life miserable. But after Becky Thatcher's arrival in town, he is a bit happy to go to school. Even that happiness does not last long as Becky falls ill and does not come to school for a very long time. Bored of school, Tom, with his best friends Joe Harper and Huck runs away to an island in the Mississippi called Jackson's Island to become a pirate. People in their home town think that they are dead, but to the pleasant shock of everyone they arrive at their own funeral.

"The Cat and the PainKiller" is one of the episodes of Tom Sawyer where we find him playing pranks on his Aunt Polly, who loves him very much, but does not show her love outwardly in order to make Tom a good boy.

### **About the Author**

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), better known by his pen name Mark Twain, was an American writer, humourist, entrepreneur, publisher and lecturer. Twain was raised in Hannibal, Missouri, which later provided the setting for his novels.

His famous works are The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

### **Do you know?**

#### **The Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

- It is the world's largest collection of floating trash.
- It is in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California and is often described as "larger than Texas"
- Approximately 7 million tons of plastic and other debris up to 9 feet deep are floating.
- By estimation 80% of the plastic originates from land; floating in rivers to the ocean and the remaining 20% of the plastic originates from oil platforms and ships
- These trash piles are the biggest threat to the sea animals.

#### About the Author

Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (7 November 1888 – 21 November 1970) was an Indian physicist born in Tiruchirappalli. He carried out ground-breaking work in the field of light scattering, which earned him the 1930 Nobel Prize for Physics. He discovered that when light traverses a transparent material, some of the deflected light changes wavelength. This phenomenon, subsequently known as Raman scattering, results from the Raman Effect and to commemorate it, February-28 is celebrated as National Science Day. In 1954, India honoured him with its highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.

#### About the Author

Caroline Ann Bowles (1786-1854) was an English poet and the wife of Robert Southey, the poet laureate of Britain. She was a poet of great merit and produced some of the best work at the threshold of the Victorian era. She wrote various other works including 'The Little Ladybird', 'Chapter on Churchyard' and 'Tales of the Factories'.

#### Poetic Devices

**Anaphora** is the repetition of a certain word or phrase at the beginning of successive lines of writing or speech.

(e.g.)        Sea that line hath never sounded,  
               Sea that sail hath never rounded

**Epithet** is an adjective or phrase expressing a quality or attribute regarded as characteristic of the person or the thing mentioned.

(e.g.)        Little river

Imagery is the name given to the elements in a poem that sparks the senses. It need not be only visual; it can relate any of the five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell)

(e.g.)        yellow pebbles

#### About the Author

William Temple Hornaday, Sc.D. (December 1, 1854 - March 6, 1937) was an American zoologist, conservationist, taxidermist, and author. He was a pioneer in the early wild life conservation movement in the United States. During his life time he published many books and articles on the need for conservation of wild life.

### **Do you know?**

In 1902, American President Theodore Roosevelt also known as Teddy participated in a bear-hunting trip in Mississippi. While hunting, Roosevelt declared the behavior of the other hunters "unsportsmanlike" after he refused to kill a bear they had captured. As news of the hunting trip spread, many newspapers around the country featured political cartoons starring "Teddy" and "the bear." Meanwhile, in Brooklyn, New York, a shop owner named Morris Michtom saw one of the cartoons and had an idea. Michtom and his wife created plush, stuffed bears and placed them in the front window of their shop. With permission from Roosevelt, Michtom named the bears "Teddy bears".

### **About the Author**

Norman Littleford (18 May 1889 - 20 May 1947) was an American poet, born in Maryland, USA. Most of his works focused on life and nature. His poems are simple but deep in thought and provoke the readers to absorb the ideas beyond the usual.

### **Do you know?**

- On October 2008, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) launched its first unmanned Lunar Space Probe "Chandrayaan-1".
- India became the fourth nation to place its flag on the Moon and collected soils and detected water-ice on the Moon for the first time using Minerology mapper.
- On August 28, 2009 the mission ended as the probe stopped sending radio signals.

### **About the Author**

Jawaharlal Nehru (14 November 1889 – 27 May 1964) was the first Prime Minister of India and a central figure in Indian politics before and after independence. He emerged as an eminent leader of the Indian independence movement under the tutelage of Mahatma Gandhi and served India as Prime Minister from its establishment as an independent nation in 1947 until his death in 1964. He is considered to be the architect of the modern Indian nation-state: a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. He was also known as 'Pandit Nehru' while many Indian children knew him as 'Uncle Nehru'.

## **Figure of speech**

### **Personification**

Personification is a figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is given human qualities or abilities.

E.g. It's the stick-together family that wins the joys of earth,...

### **Imagery**

Imagery means to use figurative language to represent objects, actions, and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our physical senses.

E.g. That hears the sweetest music...

### **Metaphor**

Metaphor is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics

E.g. It's the old home roof that shelters....

There you find the gladdest play-ground...

### **About the Author**

Aaron Shepard (October 7, 1950) is the award-winning author of *Savitri: A Tale of Ancient India*, *The Legend of Lightning Larry*, *The Sea King's Daughter*, and many more children's books. Aaron's specialty is retelling folktales and other traditional literature from around the world. His work has been honoured by the American Library Association, the National Council for the Social Studies, the American Folklore Society, the New York Public Library, and the Bank Street College of Education.

### **Do you know?**

"Aung Lang Syne" is a Scots poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional folk song. In many English-speaking nations, it is traditionally sung during the New Year's Eve. The song's title may be loosely translated as "for the old times" or "long long ago".

### **About the Author**

Liam O'Flaherty (1896–1984) was an Irish novelist and short story writer and a major figure in the Irish literary renaissance. He was a founding member of the Communist Party of Ireland. A native Irish-speaker from the Gaeltacht, O'Flaherty wrote almost exclusively in English, except for a small number of short stories in the Irish language. He spent most of his time in travelling and lived comfortably and quietly outside the spotlight.

### **About the Author**

Henry Van Dyke (1852 - 1933) was an American author, poet, educator, and clergyman. He served as a professor of English literature at Princeton University between 1899 and 1923. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and received many other honours.

The word sonnet is derived from the Italian word "sonetto," which means a 'little song' or 'small lyric'. In poetry, a sonnet has 14 lines, and is written in 'iambic pentameter' (A line with ten syllables, accented on every second beat). The first eight lines of a sonnet is known as "octave" and the last six lines is known as "sestet". Sonnets can be categorized on the basis of their rhyme scheme.

### **About the Author**

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. He was an English poet, playwright and actor. He is widely regarded as both the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. His surviving body of work includes 37 plays, 154 sonnets and two narrative poems, the majority of which he penned between 1589 and 1613.

### **Do you know?**

- ❖ The play 'The Tempest' was written between 1610 and 1611.
- ❖ Many critics and historians believe it to be one of the last plays of William Shakespeare.
- ❖ It is considered to be one of Shakespeare's well-written plays.
- ❖ It is believed that the play 'The Tempest' was based on an actual wreck of a ship called Sea Venture off Bermuda that was headed to Virginia. There is strong evidence that Shakespeare used elements of the story of the wreck.

### **About the Author**

James Grover Thurber (1894-1961) was an American cartoonist, author, humourist, journalist, playwright, and celebrated wit. He was best known for his cartoons and short stories published mainly in The New Yorker magazine, such as "The Catbird Seat", and collected in his numerous books. He was one of the most popular humourists of his time, as he celebrated the comic frustrations and eccentricities of ordinary people.

### **Do you know?**

George Maede was an Army officer who served during the American civil war. Stonewall Jackson was a Confederate General, who fought against Maede.



### **Do you know?**

RHETORIC is the art of using eloquence (grand, effective speech) for persuasive effect in public speaking. It was taught in medieval universities and included techniques such as elaborate figures of speech (e.g. simile, metaphor), memorisation and delivery (how it was said). The Romantics said it was sincere and far too grand. Today we use it to describe writing that PERSUADES the reader.

### **About the Author**

L. M. Montgomery, (1874–1942) was a Canadian author best known for a series of novels beginning in 1908 with *Anne of Green Gables*. Montgomery went on to publish 20 novels as well as 530 short stories, 500 poems, and 30 essays. A prolific writer, Montgomery published over 100 stories between 1897 and 1907. Montgomery's work, diaries and letters have been read and studied by scholars and readers worldwide.

### **About the Author**

Asha Nehemiah born in 1958 at Chennai has lived, studied and worked in 8 different cities and small towns and is now a resident of Bangalore. She has always been interested in writing. Her love for reading, led her to study Literature in college. If she had not been a writer, she would have been a teacher. Humour, fantasy, mystery and adventure are the strong elements in her work. She loves baking, walking, reading and travelling.

### **Do you know?**

The first Indian solo circumnavigation was undertaken by Capt. Dilip Donde, (Retd.) from August 19, 2009 to May 19, 2010 on board another India-built vessel INSV Mhadei. The first Indian non-stop solo circumnavigation was undertaken by Cdr. Abhilash Tomy, from November 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

### **About the Author**

Rakhi Nariani Shirke is an academican with a passion for writing poems as a medium of self-expression. She is a post graduate, with a Bachelor's degree in Education.

### Do you know?

- Breakdancing is a style of street dance consisting of improvised acrobatic moves. The pioneers of this dance credit Kung Fu as one of its influences. Moves such as the crouching low leg sweep and “up rocking” (standing combat moves) are influenced by choreographed Kung Fu fights.
- Many people have a misconception that Chinese Kung Fu is about fighting and killing. It is actually based on Chinese philosophy and is about improving wisdom and intelligence. Taoist philosophy is deeply rooted in and had a profound influence on the culture of Chinese martial arts.
- The five traditional animal styles of Shaolin Kung Fu are the dragon, the snake, the tiger, the leopard and the crane. The union of the five animal forms clearly displayed the efficacy of both hard and soft movements, of both internal and external energy - this form of Chinese martial arts was known as Shaolin Kung Fu, named after the temple in which it was developed.
- Kung Fu - ‘kung’ meaning ‘energy’ and ‘fu’ meaning ‘time’ - is a Chinese martial art whose recorded history dates back to around 525 CE, during the Liang dynasty. The man credited with introducing martial arts to China is said to be an Indian monk known as Bodhidharma.
- Hua Mulan is a legendary Chinese warrior from the Northern and Southern dynasties (420-589) period of Chinese history, originally described in the Ballad of Mulan. In the ballad, Hua Mulan, disguised as a man, takes her aged father's place in the army. Mulan fought for twelve years and gained high merit, but she refused any reward and retired to her hometown.

### About the Author

Satyajit Ray (1921 - 1992) was an Indian film maker, screen writer, graphic artist, music composer and author. He was born in Kolkatta. He authored several short stories and novels meant primarily for young children and teenagers. He revived the children's magazine ‘Sandesh’ (which his grandfather had started in 1913) and edited it until his death in 1992. Ray was more interested in writing, rather than film making. His stories have been translated in Europe, the United States and many other countries. Ray received many awards including 32 National Film Awards by the Government of India, notably the Padma Bhushan in 1965 and the highest civilian honour ‘Bharat Ratna’ shortly before his death.

### Do you know?

Nankhatai - Nankhatai is an authentic Indian sweet which is popular in India and Pakistan.

### **About the Author**

'Aesop's fables' is a collection of fables credited to Aesop, a slave and a story teller believed to have lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 564 B.C.E. These fables became popular when they emerged in print. Several stories are attributed to Aesop even today. The process of inclusion is continuous and new stories are being added. Collections of Aesop's fables were among the earliest books to be printed in many languages.

### **Do you know?**

Cricket is a brown or black insect related to the grasshopper but with shorter legs. It is a small insect that produces short, loud sounds by rubbing its wings together.

### **About the Author**

Matsuo Basho (1644-1694) is one of the most famous poets of Japan. In Japan, many of his poems are seen on monuments and traditional sites. Basho was introduced to poetry at a young age, and he quickly became well known throughout Japan. He made a living as a teacher but later travelled throughout the country to gain inspiration for his writing.

### **Do you know?**

Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was concerned about people with disability and, along with his team, developed lightweight prosthetics from space-age material to enable disabled children to walk easily.

### **Do you know?**

The first e-mail was sent by Ray Tomlinson in 1971. Tomlinson sent the e-mail to himself as a test e-mail message, containing the text "something like QWERTYUIOP." However, despite sending the e-mail to himself, the e-mail message was still transmitted through ARPANET.

### **About the Author**

Rudyard Kipling was born on December 30, 1865, in Bombay, India. He was educated in England but returned to India in 1882. A decade later, Kipling married Caroline Balestier and settled in Brattleboro, Vermont, where he wrote The Jungle Book (1894), among a host of other works that made him hugely successful. Kipling was the recipient of the 1907 Nobel Prize in Literature. He died in 1936.

#### **About the Author**

Jules Verne (1828–1905) was a French poet, playwright and novelist but he earns his place on this list of great writers because of his futuristic adventure novels. He has been called the father of science fiction and has had an incalculable influence on the development of science fiction writing. More interesting, perhaps, is his place as a prophet or predictor of technology which wasn't to be invented until long after his death. He put a man on the moon, including its launch from a Florida launch pad to its splashdown in the Pacific; in 1863 he predicted the internet: Paris in the 20th Century (1863) depicts the details of modern life: skyscrapers, television, Maglev trains, computers, and a culture preoccupied with the internet.

#### **About the Author**

Alphonse Daudet (1840-1897) was a French novelist and short-story writer. The Last Lesson is set in the days of the Franco-Prussian War (1870- 1871) in which France was defeated by Prussia led by Bismarck. Prussia then consisted of what now are the nations of Germany, Poland and parts of Austria. In this story the French districts of Alsace and Lorraine have passed into Prussian hands.

#### **About the Author**

James Falconer Kirkup (1918-2009) born James Harold Kirkup, was an English poet, translator and travelogue writer. He wrote over 30 books, including autobiographies, novels and plays. Kirkup wrote his first book of poetry, The Drowned Sailor at the Downs, which was published in 1947. His home town of South Shields now holds a growing collection of his works in the Central Library, and artefacts from his time in Japan are housed in the nearby Museum. His last volume of poetry was published during the summer of 2008 by Red Squirrel Press, and was launched at a special event at Central Library in South Shields.

#### **About the Author**

Mary Mapes Dodge (1831–1905) was an American children's author and editor, best known for her novel Hans Brinker. She was the recognized leader in juvenile literature for almost a third of the nineteenth century. Dodge conducted St.Nicholas for more than thirty years, and it became one of the most successful magazines for children. She was able to persuade many of the great writers of the world to contribute to her children's magazine – Mark Twain, Louisa May Alcott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Tennyson etc.

#### **Do you know?**

Joseph Bell (1837-1911) was born in Edinburgh. He was a lecturer in medicine whose detective approach to diagnosis inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's character Sherlock Holmes. The wider picture in Scotland at the time is set out in our Historical Timeline.



#### **About the Author**

Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was a British writer best known for his detective fiction featuring the character of Sherlock Holmes, which are generally considered milestones in the field of crime fiction. Doyle wrote short stories featuring the famous detective. The story is narrated by the character, Dr. Watson, originally a physician. In 1887, he published *A Study in Scarlet*, the first of four novels about Holmes and Dr. Watson. His notable works include *Stories of Sherlock Holmes* and *The Lost World*.

#### **About the Author**

Nadia Bush - 'The House on Elm Street' was published by Nadia Bush, a budding poetess, in April 2017. Born on Sep. 24th, she lives in Somerset, Pennsylvania. She used this poem for her English class because she was told to write a 'dark' poem. The poem describes the mysterious house and a never-growing tree. The poet fears going inside the house.

#### **About the Author**

Silas Weir Mitchell (1829-1914) was a neurologist by profession. He was among the famous physicians of his time and a prolific writer of both scientific and literary works. He was born in Philadelphia, studied at the University of Pennsylvania and received the degree of M.D. in 1850. He is considered the father of neurology as well as a pioneer in scientific medicine. He published more than 25 literary titles and his medical experiences and background enabled him to write historical fiction with much psychological insight. Many honorary degrees were conferred upon him by several Universities at home and abroad. The American Academy of Neurology award for young researchers is named after him.

#### **About the Author**

Khushwant Singh is an Indian novelist and lawyer. He studied at St. Stephen's College, Delhi and King's college, London. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1947. As a writer, he is best known for his keen secularism, sarcasm and love for poetry. He served as the editor of several literary and news magazines as well as two newspapers. Khushwant Singh was awarded with Padma Bhushan in 1974, Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India and Sahitya Akademi Fellowship by Sahitya Academy of India. *The Mark of Vishnu*, *A History of Sikhs*, *The Train to Pakistan*, *Success Mantra*, *We Indians* and *Death at my Doorstep* are some of his brilliant works.

#### **Do you know?**

The American writer Henry James has written a novel, which is also titled 'The Portrait of a Lady'.



#### **About the Author**

Gabriel Okara (born 1921) is a Nigerian poet and novelist. His verse has been translated into several languages. His poem *The Call of the River Nun* won the best award for Literature at the Nigerian Festival of Arts in 1953. Some of his poems were published in the influential periodical *Black Orpheus*, and by 1960 he established himself as an accomplished writer. He was honoured with the Commonwealth Poetry Award. Okara's typical poem transits from everyday reality to moments of delight and moves back to reality, making a complete circle. Okara infused African thought, folklore, and imagery into both his verse and prose. His first novel, *The Voice*, is an outstanding linguistic experiment. His later works include a collection of poems *The Fisherman's Invocation* (1978) and two books for children, *Little Snake and Little Frog* (1981) and *An Adventure to Juju Island* (1992).

#### **About the Author**

O. Henry (1862 – 1910) is a popular American short-story writer whose original name is William Sydney Porter. His works romanticized the life of ordinary people in New York City. His stories are well-known throughout the world. They expressed the effect of coincidence on character and often had unexpected twists in the end. His stories are also noted for their witticism and clever wordplay. O. Henry's prolific writing period began in 1902 in New York City, where he wrote 381 short stories. He wrote one story a week for *The New York World Sunday Magazine* for over a year. O. Henry's short story 'After Twenty Years' was first published in the Sunday edition of the *New York World* in 1905. The story was included in the 1906 anthology *The Four Million*, and it has since been re-published in many short story collections. A few of his other popular short stories are *The Gift of the Magi*, *The Cop and the Anthem*, *The Ransom of Red Chief*, *A Retrieved Reformation* and *The Third Ingredient*.

#### **About the Author**

Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom is a boxer and the winner of five World Boxing Championships and an Olympic Bronze Medal in 2012. As a school girl she used to play a variety of sports – hockey, football, and athletics. Inspired by Manipuri boxer Dingko Singh who won gold at the Asian Games in 1998, Mary Kom took up boxing. She won the first medal of silver in Pennsylvania, USA, in 2001. She is the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the six World Championships. She was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2010 and the Padma Bhushan in 2013 for her wonderful achievements in the field of sports. She wrote her autobiography 'Unbreakable' in 2013.

### **Do you know?**

Muhammad Ali was an American professional pugilist (boxer) and an activist. He was widely regarded as one of the most significant sports figures of the twentieth century.

*"I hated every minute of training but I said, Don't quit.  
Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion."*

**-Muhammad Ali**

### **About the Author**

Frederic Ogden Nash (August 19, 1902 – May 19, 1971) was an American poet well known for his light verse, of which he wrote over 500 pieces. With his unconventional rhyming schemes, he was declared the country's best-known producer of humorous poetry. His light verse even earned him a place on a postage stamp.

### **About the Author**

Hector Hugh Munro (18 December 1870 – 14 November 1916), better known by the pen name Saki, and also frequently as H. H. Munro, was a British writer whose witty, mischievous and sometimes macabre stories satirize Edwardian society and culture. He is considered a master of the short story, and often compared to O. Henry. Besides his short stories he wrote a full-length play, *The Watched Pot*, in collaboration with Charles Maude.

### **Do you know?**

Human memory begins to work when the foetus is just 20 weeks old in the mother's womb.

### **About the Author**

Robert Wilson Lynd (1879 – 1949), an Irish writer, is one of the greatest essayists of the 20th Century. He began his career as a journalist. He penned numerous articles for the leading newspapers and magazines like *Daily News*, *The New Statesman* and *Nation*. He wrote under the pseudonym 'Y.Y.' His essays cover a wide range of simple and interesting topics. They are humorous, delightful, ironical and satirical. Robert Lynd was awarded with an honorary literary Doctorate by Queen's University, Belfast in 1947. He was also honoured by the Royal Society of Literature with a silver medal and by *The Sunday Times* with a gold medal for *Belles Lettres*. In his essay 'Forgetting', Robert Lynd takes a humorous look at the nature and effects of forgetfulness.

#### **About the Author**

William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850) was a major English poet who, with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to launch the Romantic Age in English Literature with their joint publication- Lyrical Ballads. Wordsworth was Britain's Poet Laureate from 1843 until his death. He was popularly known as a Nature Poet. Some of his famous poems are Daffodils, The Solitary Reaper, To the Cuckoo, The Tables Turned and Lines composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey.

#### **About the Author**

Christopher Victor Burgess is known as C.V Burgess. He is a humorous playwright. His situational humour intensifies the emotions of the characters in the play. His plays usually accommodate a number of characters. His famous works are 'Short Plays for Large Classes', 'Teach yourself Speech Training' and 'Classroom Playhouse Verse in Action'.

#### **Do you know?**

-logy is a suffix used in the names of science or bodies of knowledge, e.g. ecology. The suffix -logy is most frequently found preceded by the connective vowel 'o' so that many words end in -ology. e.g. Technology, Pathology. Interestingly, Cynology is the study of dog training; Ichthyology is the study of fish; Ornithology is the study of birds and Oology is the study of birds' eggs.

#### **Do you know?**

The British farthing (1/4 d) coin, from four things was a unit of currency of one quarter of a penny. It was minted in bronze which replaced the earlier copper coins. It was used during the reign of six monarchs: Victoria, Edward VII & VIII, George V & VI and Elizabeth II, ceased to be legal tender in 1960.

#### **About the Author**

Edward Verrall Lucas, (1868 – 1938) was an English humorist, essayist, playwright, biographer, publisher, poet, novelist, short story writer and editor. Born to a Quaker family on the fringes of London, Lucas began work at the age of sixteen, apprenticed to a bookseller. After that he turned to journalism, and worked on a local paper in Brighton and then on a London evening paper. He was commissioned to write a biography of Bernard Barton, the Quaker poet. This led to further commissions, including the editing of the works of Charles Lamb. Lucas joined the staff of the humorous magazine Punch in 1904, and remained there for the rest of his life. He was a prolific writer, most celebrated for his short essays, but he also produced verses, novels and plays.

### **About the Author**

Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888 – 1965) was an essayist, a critic, a playwright and a pioneering poet of the twentieth century. He attended Smith Academy in St. Louis and then Milton Academy in Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard University and then left for France and the Sorbonne to study philosophy. He returned to Harvard and deepened his knowledge by reading Indian philosophy and studying Sanskrit. He also finished his advanced degree at Harvard. Some of his popular poems include 'The Wasteland', 'Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock', 'Ash Wednesday', 'Four Quartets', 'Journey of the Magi', 'After Strange Gods' and 'Naming of Cats'. He won the Order of Merit and received the Nobel Prize for Literature in the year 1948.

### **Do you know?**

There are two types of photography – wet photography and dry photography.

### **About the Author**

Stephen P. H. Butler Leacock – FRSC (1869 – 1944) was a Canadian teacher, Political Scientist, Writer and Humourist. He was educated at Upper Canada College in Toronto and the University of Toronto from which he graduated in 1891. He received a Fellowship in Political Economy and took his Ph.D. in 1903. Between the years 1915 and 1925, he was the best known English speaking humourist in the world. He is known for his light humour along with criticism of people's follies. Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town, Arcadian Adventures, With the Idle Rich, Economic Prosperity in the British Empire, The Dawn of Canadian History, Moonbeams From the Larger Lunacy, The Unsolved Riddle of Social Justice, My Discovery of England, Wet, Wit and Dry Humour are some of his brilliant writings.

### **Do you know?**

The Purananuru song conveys the philosophy of Tamilians. It celebrates the selfless spirit and courage of people who served society by sharing everything with their fellowmen, even something as precious and unique as the nectar of immortality. They would never do a wrong deed even if they were offered the world as a reward. It is because of such men that the world continues to exist.



### **About the Author**

Dr. Conjeevaram Natarajan Annadurai (15 September 1909 - 3 February 1969), popularly called Arignar Anna was an Indian politician who served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu (1967 - 1969). He was a great orator and an acclaimed writer in Tamil. Jawaharlal Nehru hailed him as one of the greatest parliamentarians. He has published several novels, short stories and plays which incorporate political and social themes. C.N. Annadurai was awarded the Chubb Fellowship at Yale University, the first non-American to receive this honour. The same year he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Annamalai University.

### **Do you know?**

The earliest democracy in the world began in Athens, in 510 BC (BCE). All the adult men who held Greek citizenship were allowed to cast their votes.

### **About the Author**

Prof. V.C. Kulandaiswamy (1929 -2016) known as Kulothungan is an eminent technologist, a man of letters and an educationist known for his pioneering contributions in Hydrology, Literature and Education. He has authored six volumes of poems and seven of prose essays which earned him the Thiruvalluvar Award from the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1999. He won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1988 for his book Vaazhum Valluvam. His works deal with themes that reflect the gamut of human progress and the all-pervasive human effort.

### **About the Author**

Kathleen Mansfield Murry (1888 - 1923) was a New Zealand short story writer who wrote under the pen-name Katherine Mansfield. She left New Zealand at the age of 19 and settled in the United Kingdom where she gained the friendship of great writers such as D.H. Lawrence and Virginia Woolf. Bliss and The Garden Party were collections of short stories written by her. She wrote many poems and her collected letters were a great success.

### **About the Author**

William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616), an English poet and playwright is widely regarded as the greatest writer in English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He was born and brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. He wrote about 37 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and a few other verses. He was often called England's National Poet and nicknamed the Bard of Avon. The first publishing of Shakespeare's works is the 'The First Folio'. Playwright Ben Jonson wrote a preface to this book including the quote '(Shakespeare) is not of an age, but for all time.' His plays have been translated into every major living language and are constantly studied and performed throughout the world.



#### **Do you know?**

Shakespeare wrote about 37 plays, which are broadly categorized under three heads, namely tragedies, comedies and histories. The historic play 'Richard II' is the only play written entirely in verse.

#### **Do you know?**

The full name of Shakespeare is William Arden Shakespeare, where 'Arden' is his mother's family name. This makes Shakespeare one of the few celebrities that took their mother's name.

Never be weak, you must be strong: you have infinite strength within you. Strength is life; Weakness is death.

**- Swami Vivekananda**

#### **About the Author**

Cedric Mount is a considerable distinguished playwright of his age. He wrote some thoughtful plays, which include Twentieth Century Lullaby, To cut a Long Story Short and Nature Abhors a Vacuum. His one act plays are easy to perform, satirical, witty and insightful. These one act plays expose the shams of contemporary society besides delicately admonishing the guilty.

#### **About the Author**

Archibald Joseph Cronin (1896–1981) was a Scottish novelist, dramatist and physician. A doctor by training, Cronin was one of the most renowned storytellers of the twentieth century. Many of his stories have emerged from his medical career and are noted for their narrative skill, deep social conscience and finely drawn characters. Cronin's books were not only bestsellers but some of them (such as The Citadel and The Keys of the Kingdom) were made into successful films and were adapted for radio and television. His novella Country Doctor was adapted for a long running BBC radio and TV series.

#### **About the Author**

Edwin Muir (1887-1959) was a renowned Scottish poet, novelist, translator and critic. He was remembered for his vivid poetry. He began writing poetry at a relatively old age, and over the course of several years worked out an individual, philosophical style for which he gained recognition later in his life. First Poems and Chorus of the Newly Dead contain Muir's initial attempts. Muir's later collections include Variations on a Time Theme, The Narrow Place, The Voyage and Other Poems, The Labyrinth, and One Foot in Eden.

#### **About the Author**

Leo Tolstoy was born on September 9, 1828, in Tula Province, Russia. He is best known for the novels War and Peace (1869) and Anna Karenina (1877), often cited as pinnacles of realist fiction. He first achieved literary acclaim in his twenties with his semi-autobiographical trilogy, Childhood, Boyhood, and Youth and Sevastopol Sketches, based upon his experiences in the Crimean War. Tolstoy's fiction includes dozens of short stories and several novellas such as The Death of Ivan Ilyich (1886), Family Happiness, and Hadji Murad. He also wrote plays and numerous philosophical essays. Tolstoy died on November 20, 1910 in Astapovo, Russia.

#### **About the Author**

Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903–21 January 1950), better known by his pen name George Orwell, was an English novelist, essayist, journalist and critic whose work is marked by clear prose, awareness of social iniquity, opposition to totalitarianism and candid support of democratic socialism. Orwell wrote literary criticism, poetry, fiction and polemical journalism. He is best known for the allegorical novella Animal Farm (1945) and the dystopian novel Nineteen Eighty-Four (1949). In 2008, The Times ranked him second on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".

#### **Do you know?**

'Cup of tea' is an idiom which means one's favourite activity. One may say "Teaching English is my cup of tea."

#### **Do you know?**

An article is a written work published in a print or electronic medium for propagating news, research, analysis, etc.  
e.g. Scientific papers, blogs, use nets, e-papers and news articles

#### **About the Author**

Toru Dutt (1856 - 1877) was a Bengali poet from the Indian subcontinent, who wrote in English and French. She was the third daughter of the family. The Dutt family was a family of distinguished intellectuals and poets. She also had the advantage of being taught by excellent English tutors at home and later on of the long stay in Europe and England. Toru, with all her exposure to and involvement in Western life and culture loved the land of her birth and remained thoroughly Indian in her consciousness and sensibility. Besides her well-known collection of poems with the title 'Ancient Ballads' and 'Legends of Hindustan' (1882) she has to her credit a volume of poems in French titled 'Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields' (1875). 'Our Casuarina Tree', the most well-known of Toru's poems, was included in her 'Miscellaneous Poems'.

### About the Author

Yann Martel was born in Spain to French Canadian parents. Martel's father worked as a diplomat and the family moved to Costa Rica, France, Mexico and Canada during Martel's childhood. He grew up speaking both French and English. Martel studied philosophy at Trent University in Ontario, and later spent a year in India visiting religious sisters and zoos. His first three books received little critical or popular attention but with the publication of *Life of Pi* in 2001, Martel became internationally famous and he was awarded the Man Booker Prize in 2002.

### About the Author

Christiaan Neethling Barnard was born in rural South Africa in 1922 to poor parents as their fourth child. He evinced great interest in his academics and was determined to pursue medicine, after the loss of his brother to a cardiac ailment. He won many scholarships and pursued his higher studies specializing in cardiac surgery. As a cardiac surgeon, Barnard focussed on congenital and complicated cardiac conditions for which there was no cure at that time. After experimenting with heart transplantation on animals, he performed the world's first human-to-human heart transplant in the year 1967. He gained worldwide recognition and went on to develop many surgery techniques, which are being adopted till date. Barnard has penned fourteen books and 235 scientific articles that have been published in reputed journals. Some of his books are, 'One Life', '50 Ways to a Healthy Heart', 'The Best Medicine' and 'The Faith'. A pioneer in cardiac surgery, he obtained a Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Cape Town. This was followed by 11 honorary doctorates, bestowed upon him by universities all over the world. He has also received 36 International Awards. In his late years, he established the Christiaan Barnard Foundation to serve and promote the cause of underprivileged children throughout the world and died at the age of 78 in the year 2001.

### Do you know?

Know the words depicting different age groups.

Age group	Word	90-99	nonagenarian
10-19	denarian	100&above	centenarian
20-29	vicenarian		
30-39	tricenarian		
40-49	quadragenarian		
50-59	quinquagenarian		

Age group	Word
60-69	sexagenarian
70-79	septuagenarian
80-89	octogenarian

#### About the Author

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was a prolific writer during the Elizabethan and Jacobean ages of British theatre (sometimes called the English Renaissance). Shakespeare's plays are perhaps his most enduring legacy, but they are not the only things he wrote. Shakespeare's poems remain popular to this day. Shakespeare's rich and diverse works have spawned countless adaptations across multiple genres and cultures. His writings have been compiled in various iterations of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, which include all his plays, sonnets, and other poems. William Shakespeare continues to be one of the most important literary figures of the English language.

#### About the Author

Percival Wilde (1887 – 1953) was an American author and playwright. He wrote novels, short stories and one-act plays. He also authored a textbook on the theatre arts. Native to New York City, Wilde graduated from Columbia University in 1906, and worked for a time as a banker. He began writing plays in 1912. Wilde's plays were especially popular in the Little Theatre Movement. Percival Wilde chose to portray the values of life in his plays, throwing light on a specific trait of an individual. His one-act play The Hour of Truth is a testimony to his craftsmanship where the three classical unities of time, place and action are observed. The climax of the play develops rapidly and ends with a pleasant surprise.

#### About the Author

Sir Edmund Percival Hillary (20 July 1919 – 11 January 2008) was a New Zealand mountaineer, explorer, and philanthropist. He served in the Royal New Zealand Air Force as a navigator during World War II. Following his ascent of Everest, Hillary devoted himself to assisting the Sherpa people of Nepal through the Himalayan Trust, which he established. High Adventure, No Latitude for Error, Nothing Venture, Nothing Win, View from the Summit: The Remarkable Memoir by the First Person to Conquer Everest are some of his famous works.

#### Do you know?

Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) is the apex national body for mountaineering and allied sports. IMF supports, promotes and regulates national and international climbing and mountaineering in India. IMF is also the regulatory body for the competitive Olympic sport of Sport Climbing. IMF is also engaged in mountain protection work, knowledge building and creating awareness of the Indian Himalaya.



**About the Author**

Alfred Tennyson, 1st Baron Tennyson (6 August 1809 – 6 October 1892) was a British poet. He was the Poet Laureate of Great Britain and Ireland during much of Queen Victoria's reign and remains one of the most popular British poets. Tennyson excelled at penning short lyrics, such as "Break, Break, Break", "The Charge of the Light Brigade", "Tears, Idle Tears", and "Crossing the Bar". He wrote verses on classical mythology such as Ulysses, Idylls of the King and Tithonus. Tennyson's use of the musical qualities of words to emphasise his rhythms and meanings is sensitive.

**About the Author**

Robert Jay Arthur Jr. (November 10, 1909 – May 2, 1969) was a writer of speculative fiction and specialised in crime fiction, and mystery fiction. He was known for his work with The Mysterious Traveler radio series and for writing The Three Investigators, a series of young adult novels. Arthur was honoured twice by the Mystery Writers of America with an Edgar Award for Best Radio Drama. He also wrote scripts for television.

**About the Author**

Rajanarayanan, popularly known by Tamil initials as Ki. Ra., is a Tamil folklorist and a prolific author. The short story 'The chair' is written in 1969 and its original title is 'Naarkaali'. The novels Gopalla Grammam and its sequel Gopallapurathu Makkal are among his most acclaimed; he won the Sahitya Akademi award for the latter in 1991. As a folklorist, Ki. Ra. spent decades collecting folktales from the karisal kaadu and publishing them in popular magazines. In 2007, the Thanjavur based publishing house Annam compiled these folktales into a 944-page book, the Nattuppura Kadhai Kalanjiyam (Collection of Country Tales). As of 2009, he has published around 30 books. A selection of these were translated into English by Pritham K. Chakravarthy and published in 2009 as Where Are You Going, You Monkeys?

- Folktales from Tamil Nadu.



**About the Author**

"Poetry is the opening and closing of a door, leaving those who look through to guess about what was seen during a moment."

- Carl Sandburg

Sandburg was born in Galesburg, Illinois, to parents of Swedish ancestry. Carl August Sandburg (January 6, 1878 – July 22, 1967) was an American poet, writer, and editor. He won three Pulitzer Prizes: two for his poetry and one for his biography of Abraham Lincoln. During his lifetime, Sandburg was widely regarded as "a major figure in contemporary literature", especially for volumes of his collected verse, including *Chicago Poems* (1916), *Cornhuskers* (1918), and *Smoke and Steel* (1920). He enjoyed unrivalled appeal as a poet in his day, perhaps because the breadth of his experiences connected him with so many strands of American life, and at his death in 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson observed that "Carl Sandburg was more than the voice of America, more than the poet of its strength and genius. He was America."

**About the Author**

Ray Douglas Bradbury (August 22, 1920 – June 5, 2012) was an American author and screenwriter. He worked in a variety of genres, including fantasy, science fiction, horror, and fiction. Widely regarded as the most important figure in the development of science fiction as a literary genre, Ray Bradbury's works evoke the themes of racism, censorship, technology, nuclear war, humanistic values and the importance of imagination. Ray Bradbury is well-known for his incredibly descriptive style. He employs figurative language (mostly similes, metaphors, and personification) throughout the novel and enriches his story with symbolism. On April 16, 2007, Bradbury received a special citation from the Pulitzer Prize jury "for his distinguished, prolific, and deeply influential career as an unmatched author of science fiction and fantasy." Bradbury also wrote and consulted on screenplays and television scripts, including *Moby Dick* and *It Came from Outer Space*. Many of his works were adapted to comic book, television, and film formats.

**About the Author**

Alfred George Gardiner was a British journalist and author. He was a prolific essayist and his style and subject matter easily qualified him to be categorized as what the English would call a very civilized gentleman. His essays include 'On Habits', 'On Being Tidy' and 'On Talk and Talkers'. 'On the Rule of the Road', was included in one of Gardiner's compilations titled 'Leaves in the Wind' and was published under his pseudonym "Alpha of the Plough".

**Do you know?**

From ancient India to the computer age, the military has used chess as both a metaphor and even as training for warfare. Chess began in 6th Century in India as a 64-square board game, called Chaturanga, precisely modelled on the military forces of the day.

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821) was originally an officer in the French army became the army chief and a legendary warrior, who later known for his military skill and genius. The poem 'Incident of the French Camp' narrates an actual incident in the war in 1809 between France and Austria, led by Napoleon. Napoleon was standing on a little mound, eagerly looking towards Ratisbon. His mind was oppressed with anxious thoughts and he said to himself that all his ambitious plans would come to nothing if Lannes failed to storm Ratisbon.

**About the Author**

Robert Browning (7 May 1812–12 December 1889) was an English poet and playwright whose mastery of the dramatic monologue made him one of the foremost, Victorian poets. He was born in Camberwell, a suburb of London on 7 May 1812. He was educated mainly at home, but he attended a short course in Greek at London University. His poems are known for their irony, characterisation, dark humour, social commentary, historical settings and challenging vocabulary and syntax. He developed a unique form of conversational, unrhymic verse. The collection 'Dramatis Personae' and the book-length epic poem "The Ring and the Book" made him a leading British poet. By 1881 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to literature, a literary society called Browning Society was established.

**About the Author**

Gordon Daviot (1896 – 1952) is the pen name of Miss.Elizabeth McKintosh, a Scottish born novelist and playwright. She served educational institutions in England and Scotland as a physical education instructor and soon took to writing novels under another pseudonym Josephine Tey.