

PROSE LESSONS 9 – 14

KEY POINTS

PROSE : 9

TITLE : THE STORY OF GRIZZLY CUB

AUTHOR : WILLIAM TEMPLE HORNADAY

THEME : Strength and grit of a young grizzly bear who proved himself strong by not allowing the bigger bears to dominate him

POINTS TO PONDER

- Little Cyclone is a grizzly cub from Alaska
- He earned his name by the vigour of his resistance to ill-treatment
- Little Cyclone and his brother ran from the men who killed their mother
- The one who captured him treated him badly
- He was rescued by the Zoological field agent and shipped to New York
- He looked little more than a big bale of gray fur set up on four posts of the same material
- He never got scared of anything
- At the Bear's Nursery, he stood up with courage
- Walked stiffly with pride, halted and looked about him
- Met courageously every attack if it's real or fake and could fight any other bear on three seconds' notice
- Respected by the other bears and was a fine-spirited dignified cub
- He never attacked anyone unnecessarily and never had a fight

CHARACTERS

Little Cyclone – the grizzly bear, his brother, mother, the captor, zoological Society's agent, Little Czar – European brown bear

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- **PERIOD :** (1st December 1854 - 6th March 1937)
- American Zoologist, conservationist, taxidermist and author
- A pioneer in the early wild life conservation movement

SPEAKER/CHARACTER

- "...two legged animals less intelligent than himself..." – Men who tortured Cylone
- "From that time on Cyclone's position has been assured" - Author

PROSE: 10

TITLE : SIR ISAAC NEWTON – THE INGENIOUS SCIENTIST (Biography)
AUTHOR : NATHANIEL HATHORNE
THEME : Newton's laws of motion, his discovery of gravity and his contributions to the scientific revolution

POINTS TO PONDER

- Isaac Newton was born on Christmas day, in the year 1642 at Woolsthorpe in London
- Being his father dead, his mother married again
- He was left to the care of his good old grandmother
- He worked with so much skill that he seemed to have been born with a saw or chisel in his hand. Manufactured little tools
- Some of his friends advised his grandmother to apprentice him to a clockmaker
- He made a water clock and he was skillful in mechanical works
- He had taste for mathematics too
- He made the sun dial
- By seeing the parts of a windmill he constructed a model of the windmill
- Moreover he found the light composition, laws of gravity and theory of universe
- Newton was a renowned thinker. He was made a Member of Parliament
- He received the honor of knighthood from the king

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- PERIOD: (July 4, 1804 – May 19, 1864)
- American Novelist, dark romantic and short story writer
- His works often focus on history, morality and religion
- The Biography of Newton was published in Nathaniel Hawthorne's 'TRUE STORIES FROM HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY' (1851)

SPEAKER/CHARACTER

- "He'll make a capital workman, one of these days" – Newton's grandmother about Newton
- "As a boy he had found out the mechanism of a windmill; and as a man he explained to his fellowmen the mechanism of the universe" – Sir Isaac Newton

PROSE: 11

TITLE : MY REMINISCENCE (Biography)
AUTHOR : RABINDRANATH TAGORE
THEME : Tagore had explained his river-side memories when he returned to Chandernagore from his second trip to England.

POINTS TO PONDER

- He was reminded of the beauty of the Ganges, those ineffable days, the plaintive babbling of the river, and the leisure time that he enjoyed lazily.
- He felt it was his home and also the ministrations of a Mother.
- However, the place had changed due to technological advancements
- The little river-side nests have been converted into huge mills, which belched out smoke and made continuous hissing noises.
- He recollected the afternoons he spent in that village, singing and floating by in boats, along with his brother Jyotirindra.
- The villa they lived in was known as 'Moran's Garden'
- The villa had a flight of stone-flagged steps that started from the river bed and led to various rooms on different floors.
- The topmost room of the villa had windows on all sides and permitted views to only open skies and treetops.
- He wrote a small poem about the room and had mentioned that he had built the house only for the sake of writing poetry.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- PERIOD: (1861 - 1941)
- Bengali poet, philosopher, artist and educator
- Nobel prize winner
- "Gitanjali" was written Tagore

SPEAKER/CHARACTER

- "I spent in a veritable frenzy, singing away old Vaishnava songs to my own tunes" - Tagore
- "My brother Jyoti Indra accompanying my singing with his violin" - Tagore

PROSE: 12

TITLE : THE WOMAN ON PLATFORM 8
AUTHOR : RUSKIN BOND
THEME : Identity, Kindness, Freedom, Independence, Loss, Trust, Connection

POINTS TO PONDER

SECTION 1

- Arun – a school boy- waits at the railway station
- Meets a stranger – a simple but dignified looking woman
- They were chatting. She was kind and caring
- She feels pain while a boy was crossing the track
- Arun consoles the lady

SECTION 2

- Sathish comes with his mother
- She advises to be aware of strangers
- The new woman introduces herself as a mother of Arun
- She stays with Arun till he gets into the train
- Arun feels compassion and kisses her
- Sathish and his mother waved to each other
- Arun said to the other woman “Goodbye – mother...”
- Arun didn’t wave to her but watched her until she disappeared in the crowd

CHARACTERS

Arun, Arun’s mother, Sathish, Sathish’s mother and the strange woman

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Short story writer, Novelist and poet
- His novel ‘Room on the Roof’ won him the John Rhys Memorial Award
- He has been honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his contribution to Indian literature

SPEAKERS/CHARACTERS

- ‘Are you all alone , my son?’ – The strange woman
- ‘Hello Arun!’ he called. ‘The train’s coming in late’ – Sathish
- ‘Well , be very careful Arun’ – Sathish’s mother
- ‘Goodbye – mother...’ – the strange woman

PROSE: 13

TITLE : THE NOSE JEWEL
AUTHOR : C. RAJAGOPALACHARI
THEME : Greed can destroy the peace and happiness of people

POINTS TO PONDER

- Ramayya's house was made of tiled roofs.
- He was a simple man
- Two sparrows lived in the house
- They discussed about the family quarrel
- They found a nose ring and the male bird dropped it in Ramayya's house
- Ramayya's wife found it while sweeping
- In Meenakshi Ammal's house they were searching for the nose ring
- They blamed Kuppai, the servant woman must have swept it out
- Meenakshi Ammal consoled her daughter and asked her not to tell her father
- The whole village came to know about it and suspected Kuppai
- Police came. Searched her hut and found nothing
- Ramayya's wife put the jewel in a box. She developed severe fever and confined to bed
- Ramayya and his wife spent the rest of their life in fear of getting caught.

CHARACTERS

Ramayya, Rammaya's wife, Meenakshi Ammal and her husband Ramanathan, their daughter, Kuppai- the servant woman, the villagers, the police, the sparrows

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- PERIOD: (1878 - 1972)
- Chakravarti Rajagopalachari informally called Rajaji
- Indian politician, Independence activist, lawyer, writer, historian and statesman
- He was the last Governor-General of India
- First Indian born Governor-General, Governor of West Bengal
- Served as leader of the National Congress, Premier of the Madras Residency
- Minister of 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

PROSE: 14

TITLE : A BIRTHDAY LETTER
AUTHOR : JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
THEME : The importance of understanding and doing what is right

POINTS TO PONDER

- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wrote a letter to his daughter Indira Gandhi on her 13th birthday from Naini prison
- He tells her how Mahatma Gandhi inspired the common man to fight for freedom
- Advises her to be open about the freedom movement and not to do anything secretly
- Tells her to work in the sun and in the light
- Blesses her by saying that she may grow up into a brave soldier in the service of the nation

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- PERIOD: (14th November 1889 – 27th May 1964)
- First Prime Minister of India
- Central figure in Indian Politics before and after independence
- Considered to be the architect of the modern Indian nation
- The letters written from various prisons in British India to his daughter Indira were published in 1942 as a book called “Glimpses of World History”, it is a collection of 196 letters on world history
- He was known as ‘Pandit Nehru’ while Indian Children know him as ‘Uncle Nehru’, or ‘Chacha Nehru’