

3.4 The Two Gentlemen of Verona

WARMING UP !

CHIT - CHAT

- (1) What is your favourite pastime?
- (2) Do you read books for entertainment?
- (3) What is your favourite story / poem / book?
- (4) What role do books on the lives of great people play?
- (5) How can we decide if a story is average / good / excellent?

A book review is an analysis of a newly published book, by an expert, who expresses his/her opinion about the contents, style and merit.

Book reviews are published in newspapers, magazines and are also available online.

Make suitable groups in the class. Decide upon a favourite book or story in the following details, as many as possible.

- Name of the story/book :
- Writer :
- Some information about the writer :
- Background or setting :
- Main characters :
- Central idea/summary of contents :
.....
.....
.....
.....
- Style and language used :
- Illustrations (if any) :
- Strong (positive) aspects :
- Drawbacks :
- Conclusion :

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

- **carve an idea** : create or establish an idea

◆ *What is the story about?*

◆ *How does the narrator meet the two brothers?*

- **encounter** : meet face to face unexpectedly
- **forbids** : disallows
- **emphasize** : stress upon
- **intimacy** : close relationship
- **reveal** : show, make known

◆ *What kind of odd jobs do the two brothers do?*

◆ *How does the narrator help the two brothers, one day?*

- **resembles** : have a similar appearance
- **intruding** : coming to a place where one is uninvited.
- **heart rending** : causing great sorrow

A.J. Cronin has very well **carved the idea** of selfless help and explained the importance of dedication towards relationships in the story, The two Gentlemen of Verona. The story revolves around the two boys named Nicola and Jacopo who do numerous things to earn money only to pay for their sister's treatment who suffers from tuberculosis of the spine.

The story begins with the narrator driving down the foothills of the Alps. Here is when he first **encounters** the two brothers selling wild strawberries. Even after the driver **forbids** the narrator to buy the wild fruits, he buys the biggest basket and drives towards the town. This scene **emphasizes** on the first step of growing **intimacy** between the narrator and the two boys.

Next day, the boys are found shining shoes in the public square. This amazes the narrator. This is when they **reveal** the fact that they do numerous kinds of things to earn money. Here, the narrator is shown to develop a soft corner for them in his heart. He finds them to be innocent, serious, pleasant and earnest.

The boys are very useful to the narrator. They are very willing to satisfy all that the narrator requires. They are also found selling newspapers, by the narrator, one stormy night. One day, when the narrator asks if he can help them in any, they say they will be very grateful if they get a lift to the nearby village Poleta. Although it doesn't come in the narrator's way he takes them there. The boys get down in a building and ask the narrator to wait in a nearby cafe, until they return within an hour.

Eagerness leads the narrator to follow the boys up to a place which is actually a hospital. On peeping through a room, led by a nurse, he realizes that boys are talking to a girl who **resembles** them. He does not feel like **intruding** and thus asks the nurse the details about the boys. This is when the nurse tells him there **heart rending** story about their father being killed in a war and their home being destroyed in the war and their sister suffering from tuberculosis. The brothers live

in a shelter and literally starve only so that they can pay for their sister's treatment. So keeping a secret and helping their sister they have shown that war has **not shaken their spirit**. They are noble and gentle and great human beings in their own special yet **subtle** way. This story **distinctly** talks about how true the **amplification** says : 'Where there is will there's a way'.

- **not shaken their spirit** : not reduced eagerness to do something
- **subtle** : refined, nice
- **distinctly** : clearly
- **amplification** : focus on a statement

- *What secret about the brothers, does the nurse tell the narrator?*

- *Explain the proverb : Where there is a will there's a way.*

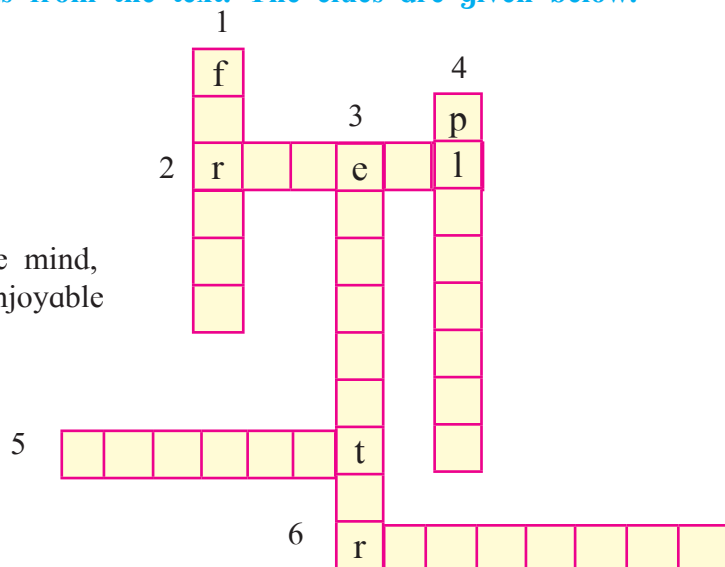
English Workshop

1. Complete the following:

- (1) Cronin's story focuses on
- (2) The narrator to encourage the two brothers.
- (3) The narrator develops a liking for the two brothers because they are
- (4) The boys wish to visit the village Poleta to
- (5) So, one can conclude from the story that '.....' which means '.....'.

2. Solve the puzzle of words from the text. The clues are given below.

- (1) disallow
- (2) make known
- (3) unexpected meeting
- (4) giving pleasure to the mind, feelings or senses; enjoyable
- (5) sincere
- (6) look like



3. Answer in your own words and write in your notebook.

- (1) What illness did the sister suffer from?
- (2) What surprised the narrator, when he saw the brothers, the second time?
- (3) What did the narrator find about the boys at the hospital?
- (4) What was the touching story told by the nurse?
- (5) If the narrator offered the boys a large amount of cash, would they have accepted it? Say why? Or why not?

4. Read the text and find the Noun forms of the following words used in the text:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| (i) important - importance | (v) eager - |
| (ii) dedicate - | (vi) appear - |
| (iii) treat - | (vii) amplify - |
| (iv) narrate - | (viii) realize - |

Language Study

We have already learnt that Clause is a group of words that has a Subject and a Verb and is a part of a larger sentence. In the sentence, 'We returned home, when school was over.' there are two clauses – 1st 'We returned home' and 2nd 'when school was over.'

The first one makes complete sense. So it is called Main/ Principal Clause.

The second one is not complete by itself. It depends on the main clause to convey a proper sense. So it is called Dependant or Subordinate Clause. 'When' is the joining word and it is called a Subordinator.

Identify the Main / Principal Clauses and Subordinate Clauses and encircle the Subordinator.

- (1) They pay for their sisters treatment, who suffers from tuberculosis.
- (2) When he asks the nurse, she tells him their story.
- (3) They have shown that war has not shaken their spirit.
- (4) Although it doesn't come in the narrator's way, he takes them there.



WORD PLAY

1. Acrostic

An acrostic is a poem (or other format of writing) in which the first letter (or syllable or word) of each line spells out a word, message. The most common and simple form of an acrostic poem is where the first letters of each line spell out the word or phrase.

For example :

(1) An Acrostic poem

An Acrostic
Creates a challenge
Random words on a theme
Or whole sentences that rhyme
Select your words carefully
To form a word from top to bottom
Is the aim of this poetry style
Choose a word then go !

(2) School

Super
Cool
Happy
On time
Out door play
Learning

(3) Family

Father
And
Mother
I
Love
You

Activity : Now work in pairs and try to frame acrostics for the following words.

● H-O-M-E

● M-O-T-H-E-R

● T-E-A-C-H-E-R

Activity : Make an acrostic of your name and show it to your friends.
(fun with words)

2. Spoonerism

Spoonerism is a slip of the tongue. The first letters of two or more words get interchanged in spoonerism.

For example :

- (1) Go and shake a tower. (Go and take a shower.)
- (2) I must mend the sail. (I must send the mail.)
- (4) You have very mad banners. (You have very bad manners.)

Activity : Now try to make up Spoonerism of the following.

- (1) You missed my history lecture.
- (2) Crushing blow
- (3) Pardon me madam

Activity : Now correct the following sentences.

- (1) Do you like to bead in red?
- (2) I can fee my soot prints.
- (3) I caught a ban of soda.

Activity : Visit a spoonerism link on Internet and collect examples of spoonerism and display it in the class.

3. A. Just one new word a day :

- Write down the new word on a card.
- Add the card to your collection of words at the proper place in alphabetical order.
- Look up the word in a dictionary and learn it.
- You may talk about it to your teacher / friend / elders.
- Try to use it in a sentence of your own.
- Classify the words you have collected so far into:
 - nouns (n.)
 - verbs (v.)
 - adjectives (adj.) and
 - adverbs (adv.)

- Put the appropriate short form against, each word.

For example : 'mainland' (n.).

If the word does not belong to any of these four classes you need not mark it.

B. A question a day :

- Frame or choose a simple question on your own. You should also know the appropriate answer to it.
- Practise using the question and answer with your friend.
You must use a new question every day.

C. A sentence a day :

- Frame a meaningful sentence in English on your own.
Your sentence should include at least one word from your mother tongue or any Indian language. For example : 'I love *pav-bhaji*'. '*A Paithani* is embroidered with golden thread.' 'You need two teams to play *kabaddi*.'
- Translate the sentence from English into Marathi.

D. Better your work :

- Think of / Make up a simile comparison on your own.
For example : 'as cold as ice', 'as hot as an iron', 'as soft as silk', 'as deep as a well'.
Try to use the simile in a complete sentence.



My Word-buddy

(John and his friends appear for an examination of English. They have a discussion about it.)

John : Hello friends! How did you fare in your exam?

Utkarsh : Hello John! Hi everyone! Friends, my exam was good, but I faced some problems in the unseen passage.

Sidhanath : Mine was also good, but the same problem was faced by me, as well.

Pratima : I faced the problem of meaning of unknown words.

John : I could not even read some big words in the unseen passage.

Sidhanath : Where can we get the solution to these problems ?

Hamid : Don't worry, we can find all solutions if we refer to a good dictionary.

Prashik : But we didn't bring dictionary with us. What can we do?

Hamid : Friends we can search for the meaning online or in offline dictionaries, from Personal Computers and even from smart cell phones at home.

Utkarsh : What a great idea, friends!

Hamid : Let us go and see the meaning, pronunciation and use of the unknown words.

All : Thank you, Hamid!

(1) Work in pairs. Discuss the uses of dictionary.

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Search definitions Work

Work

/W3:k/

noun

1. activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or a result :
"he was tired after a day's work in the fields"
synonyms: labour, toil, slog, drudgery, exertion,
antonyms: leisure, rest.

2.

verb

1. be engaged in physical or mental activity in order to achieve a purpose or a result, especially in one's job; do work.
synonyms: toil, labour, exert oneself, slave (away), keep at it, . . . more
antonyms: rest, play

We use dictionary to.....

- Find the meanings of words.
- Find out the correct spelling of words.
- Find out how to pronounce or say words.
- Find out what part of speech a word is.
- Usage of the word.

waiting

(2) Find out the pronunciation and usage of any ten Irregular Verbs from an online dictionary and share with your class.

(3) Download an app of any good dictionary in your parents' smart phone and try to use it.