

**SAMPLE CONTENT**



# ENGLISH

## YUVAKBHARATI

Poetic Justice is the ideal form of justice, in which malice meets with its tragic end and benevolence is rewarded. "As you sow, so shall you reap" is one of the many adages which represents this form of justice.



**STD. XII**

**Target** Publications® Pvt. Ltd.

# English Yuvakbharati

Std. XII

## Salient Features

- Based on the new textbook
- Includes Glossaries to get a grip on vocabulary
- Paraphrases for poems and Introduction for lessons to facilitate quick understanding
- Coverage of all Textual Questions
- Contains ample questions for practice
- Includes Integrated Questions for better preparation
- Comprises detailed coverage of Drama (Novel) section for an in-depth understanding of literary works
- Contains an array of Grammar and Vocabulary exercises for strengthening the foundations of language
- Includes 'Fun Time' activities for students to have fun while learning
- Dedicated section on Unseen Passages for Comprehension and Summary
- Contains separate sections on Grammar and Writing Skills

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## PREFACE

*In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.*

“**English Yuvakbharati (Std. XII)**” is a complete and thorough study material that has been written by keeping in mind every Maharashtra State Board aspirant of Std. XII, English, and in accordance with the new textbook issued by the Maharashtra State board.

With technology revolutionizing communication, English is fast becoming the language of interconnectedness across borders. From the point of view of the English language, this year is a milestone in every student’s educational journey for it marks the leap into the real world. Thus, it is imperative that every student is equipped with the tools required to apply the functionalities of the English language to real world situations. It has therefore been our aim to create a book that not only focuses on helping the students ace the board examination, but also helps them develop skills such as interpretation and analysis of prose, appreciation of poetry and literature, and a thorough understanding of grammatical structures.

With language, students often find themselves stumped by unfamiliar words and thus it is absolutely essential that students are presented with content that is easy to read and understand. In this vein, it has been our endeavour to ensure that *the contents of this book are presented simply, yet meaningfully*, to ensure maximum understanding, a gradual development of vocabulary, and an opportunity to truly experience the beauty of the English language.

In the words of Benjamin Lee Whorf, “*Language shapes the way we think and determines what we can think about*”, which is why it is not enough to merely understand the sentences, but to rather recognise the complexities and the structure of the language. To develop a good knowledge of any language, one is required to understand its grammar. The knowledge of word building, sentence construction, tense, punctuation, etc. are all a prerequisite for learning language in its entirety. Hence, it is of utmost importance that the students focus on improving their vocabulary and grammar skills. With this in mind, we have laid emphasis on developing the students’ *grammar*, as is evidenced by the ample practice provided at multiple key points throughout the book.

In addition, an extensive array of questions based on composition has been provided to help students hone their *writing skills*.

The poetry and novel sections of the syllabus are intended to provide a glimpse of some of the most prominent works of English literature and are often a source of struggle for the students. Hence special care has been taken to *simplify the rich language and unravel the complex themes* in order to make this section more accessible to every student. The students, on their part, should also read various books and novels to develop a keen understanding of literary works.

To quote Roger Bacon, “*Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom*”, which means that the more we know about a language, the better we are for it.

A lot of competent minds have contributed towards this book and we hope that it turns out to be an able guide for students of Std. XII. We are positive that it would not just help the students to score well but also help them imbibe the fine nuances of English language.

The journey to create a complete book is strewn with triumphs, failures and near misses. If you think we've nearly missed something or want to applaud us for our triumphs, we'd love to hear from you. Please write to us at: [mail@targetpublications.org](mailto:mail@targetpublications.org)

*A book affects eternity; one can never tell where its influence stops.*

*Best of luck to all the aspirants!*

From,  
Publisher

**Edition:** First

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# FEATURES

## Glossary and Things to Remember

Each chapter begins with a glossary containing the meanings of all the difficult words and phrases from the chapter and a 'Things to Remember' table in chapters containing prominent events, places, persons, or terms.

### Glossary

Word	Meaning
amateur ( <i>adj</i> )	non-professional; engaged in some activity for pleasure and not as a job
ameliorated ( <i>v</i> )	made something better; improved

### Things to Remember

Thanksgiving Day	The fourth Thursday of November marked by religious observances and traditional meals
Sabbath	a day of religious observance and abstinence from work kept by Jews and Christians

### Introduction

'Why we Travel' by Siddharth Pico Raghavan Iyer is an unconventional article that could inspire its readers to take up travel as a means to expand their horizons.

## Introduction and Paraphrase

An Introduction to all the chapters and poems has been provided. The Paraphrases (line-by-line explanations) of all the poems have been provided for easy understanding of the poems.

### Paraphrase

*Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,  
Healthy, free, the world before me,  
The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.*

The speaker is setting out on the open road on foot. He is light-hearted and open to all that there is to experience. Additionally, the road presents him with endless opportunities. He can choose to go wherever he pleases.

## Ice Breakers

Answers for the activities under the 'Warming Up' section of the textbook have been provided to acquaint the students with the theme of the respective chapters.

### Ice Breakers

- \*1. **Prepare a word register related to marine life.**  
**Ans:** sailors, salt, waves, tide, coral reefs, octopus, seaweed, compass, starboard, port, coast, harbour, maritime, nautical mile

## FEATURES

### Passage 1

Read the passage from line 1 to 65 on page 28, 29 and 30 of your textbook and answer the following questions:

["Soapy left his .....  
..... down the street."]

#### A. Complex Factual/Global Understanding

1. Pick out the lines from the text which show that:

- i. Soapy wants to enter the cafe for two reasons.

**Ans:**

- i. The total would not be so high as to call forth any extreme of revenge from the cafe management; and yet the meat would leave him filled and happy for the journey to his winter island.

### Passages and Extracts

All the chapters have been segregated into passages and the poems into extracts for better understanding.

### Appreciation of the Poem

The Appreciation of all the poems has been provided as per the pointers mentioned in the textbook. This question helps the students to understand the essence of the poem and develops their critical skills.

### Appreciation of the Poem

\*1. With the help of the following points, write a poetic appreciation of the poem 'Money'.

**Ans:** Appreciation of the poem 'Money'

The poem 'Money' is written by William H. Davies. It is a reflective poem that deals with the poet's status as both, a rich and a poor man.

### Integrated Questions (based on the entire text)

1. The astrologer wins/gets the sympathy of criticism of the reader in the end. Express your opinion with the support of the main story.

**Ans:** The story portrays the astrologer as a false fortune teller with no real knowledge of his 'profession'. He attracts clients by his street-smart ways and also manages to convince them by sweet-talking to them. Moreover, he is revealed to the reader as a near-murderer towards the end of the story. However, despite all this, it's difficult to judge the astrologer as a negative character and he rather manages to win the sympathy of the reader's criticism.

### Integrated Questions (based on the entire text)

The textual questions requiring holistic answers have been covered under this header in each chapter.

# FEATURES

## Language Study

The grammar and vocabulary concepts explained in each lesson of the textbook have been included under the headers 'Language Study: Vocabulary' and 'Language Study: Grammar' inside all the chapters.

### Language Study – Vocabulary

- \*1. Read the following groups of words from the text.

A	B
crooked angle	walking video screens
censored limits	living newspapers
impoverished places	searching questions

Discuss in pairs and make list of some more adjectives like this and make sentences using them.

Ans: Some example of Past Participles:

- i. devoted

He has been a devoted follower of the Lord Krishna since his childhood.

### Language Study – Grammar

- \*1. Read the following sentences carefully from the text and find out the infinitives.

- i. We travel, initially, to lose ourselves; and we travel, next, to find ourselves.

Ans:

- i. to lose

## Compose a Poem

- \*1. Compose 4-6 lines on your own on 'Good deeds'.

Ans: **Good Deeds**

*That I shall reach out to my brother in need,  
To the one without nothing to hold but a reed,*

## Compose a Poem

This question aims to encourage the students to compose short poems related to the themes of the given poetry and has thus been included under this special header.

## Activities

Activities aimed at improving the students' spoken and written English are included under the 'Activities' as Reading, Writing, and Speaking activities.

### Activities

#### Speaking

- \*1. 'Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder' – you have probably heard this saying. Discuss in your class how far the statement is true.

Ans: The statement 'Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder' means that beauty is subjective and therefore, what is beautiful for one person may not be beautiful for another.

#### Writing

- \*1. Write at least one paragraph and expand the inherent idea of the saying 'A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever'.

Ans: **'A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever'**

The beautiful line 'A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever' has been taken from John Keats' poem 'Endymion'.

# FEATURES

## Extension/Project

- \*1. Take help from the sources available on the internet and make a list of proverbs and quotations about 'road'.

Ans:

- i. "It is a rough road that leads to the heights of greatness."
- ii. "If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one."

## Extension/Project

Projects are special activities related to the themes in the various lessons, designed to encourage students to source their answers from external references.

## Fun Time

Fun Time activities have been added in select chapters to enhance the students' knowledge of the English language and to help them have fun while learning.



Unscramble the following words to form the names of children's classics:

- i. Het gunlej okbo  
*(Written by Rudyard Kipling)*
- ii. Newini-eth-hopo  
*(It's about a bear)*

Ans:  
i. The Jungle Book    ii. Winnie-the-Pooh

## Drafting a Virtual Message Practice Questions

1. Read, understand the following situations and draft a message accordingly. Ensure that none of your messages exceed 50 words.
  - i. Using the information given below, write a message which Shiksha has left for her mother. (Do not add any new information)  
Reema called up – elder sister takes French classes – a new language – first batch receives discount – gone to take admission – will return after lunch

Ans. Message:

24th Oct 4:00 p.m.

Mother

Reema called up today to inform me that her elder sister has started French classes. As I want to learn a

## Chapters on Writing Skills

The third part of the book, which covers the writing skills chapters from 'Section Three' of the textbook contain glossary, things to remember, introduction to the concept, detailed explanation of the concept, template, sample analysis, textual questions and practice questions. Special focus has been given to these chapters to hone the students' creative abilities.



# FEATURES

## Drama Section

The chapters in the drama section of the book contain the glossary, glossary of literary terms, difficult terms from the extract, things to remember, summary, theme, plot, and synopsis of the extract. This is followed by the objective questions based on the chapter and then the questions on the characters, plot, setting, theme and language of the novel have been answered. A special section 'Type of Novel' has been included at the end of each chapter to help the students in identifying the different types of novels by analysing their features.

## F. Type of Novel

1. **What type of novel is 'To Sir, with Love'? Give a brief explanation for your answer.**

**Ans:** 'To Sir, with Love' is an autobiographical novel written by E.R. Braithwaite. An autobiographical novel is one which is based on the life of the author.

## Fun Fact

*The source of inspiration for this poem is believed to be Lord Byron's cousin's wife, that is, his cousin by marriage. He composed this poem after he saw his cousin's wife, Mrs. John Wilmot, at a gathering. She was in mourning, and was therefore wearing a black dress. Her dress was set with spangles (shiny or glittering material used for decoration on clothes; sequins), thus explaining the opening lines of the poem "She walks in beauty, like the night / Of cloudless climes and starry skies".*

## Fun Fact

Some interesting facts have been included in the chapters of the book to pique the students' curiosity and to help them associate with the chapters in a better way.

## Unseen Passages

A separate section on Unseen Passages for Comprehension and Summary has been provided to ensure substantial practice.

## Unseen Passages for Comprehension and Summary

### Passage 1

**Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:**

The message that advertisements send out when they want to convey information may be misleading for an average consumer. Superior goods will be sold, but good canvassing

### A. Complex Factual / Global Understanding

1. **Complete the following statements based on the passage:**

i. Good canvassing may \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans:**

i. enable the sale of bad quality goods

## FEATURES

### 01 Articles

GRAMMAR

#### Introduction

There are three types of articles in English language – ‘a’, ‘an’ and ‘the’. They can be divided into two types:

1. Indefinite Articles – a, an
2. Definite Article – the

### Grammar

This dedicated section on Grammar explains all the essential grammar concepts and contains ample solved examples and practice questions, which ensure a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of English.

### Writing Skills

This section towards the end of the book includes the writing skills and creative writing activities prescribed for the students. It contains chapters on Letter Writing, Leaflet, Appeal, News Writing, Report Writing, View-Counterinterview, Interview, Speech Writing, Blog Writing and Email Writing

### 01 Letter Writing

WRITING SKILLS

1. **It is your brother's wedding. Write a letter to the Principal of your college seeking permission for leave to attend the wedding.**

**Ans:**

Saraswati Sadan,  
M. J. Phule Road,  
Matunga (West),  
Mumbai – 400 019  
9<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

The Principal  
New Era Junior College of Commerce,  
Mumbai – 400 209

**Subject:** Request for three days leave

Respected Sir,

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- Note:**
1. \* mark represents Textual question.
  2. # mark represents Intext question.

## Glossary

Word	Meaning
abnormal ( <i>adj</i> )	different from what is normal
agitated ( <i>adj</i> )	appearing to be nervous
anna ( <i>n</i> )	a former monetary unit in India
babble ( <i>n</i> )	continuous, murmuring sound
bared ( <i>v</i> )	exposed
bewildering ( <i>adj</i> )	confusing; baffling
blotted ( <i>v</i> )	here, blocked
bluffing ( <i>v</i> )	making false claims about one's ability
boughs ( <i>n</i> )	big branches of trees
bundle up ( <i>phrase</i> )	to close business for the day
careworn ( <i>adj</i> )	worried
cheroot ( <i>n</i> )	a kind of native cigar
continual ( <i>adj</i> )	repeated frequently
cosmos ( <i>n</i> )	an ornamental plant with brightly coloured flowers
cowrie ( <i>n</i> )	shell of a sea-creature
crackled ( <i>v</i> )	made short, sharp noises
crisscross ( <i>n</i> )	an intersecting pattern
dahlia ( <i>n</i> )	a plant that has bright and beautiful flowers
dallied ( <i>v</i> )	moved slowly
deserted ( <i>adj</i> )	without people
din ( <i>n</i> )	a loud and prolonged noise
disgorge ( <i>v</i> )	pour something out; surrender; yield

disposed ( <i>adj</i> )	inclined to act in a certain way
enchantment ( <i>n</i> )	a magical effect or charm
endeared ( <i>adj</i> )	made likeable
enhanced ( <i>adj</i> )	increased
flanked ( <i>v</i> )	be at the side of
flare ( <i>n</i> )	a lamp that gives brief bursts of light
forbidding ( <i>adj</i> )	threatening
gasped ( <i>v</i> )	catch air with open mouth, especially due to astonishment
gleam ( <i>n</i> )	bright shine, especially arising from reflected light
glimpse ( <i>n</i> )	a brief or partial view
gratified ( <i>adj</i> )	pleased; satisfied
groaned ( <i>v</i> )	make a deep sound that expresses pain, pleasure or despair
grumbled ( <i>v</i> )	said complainingly
had the blood of ( <i>phrase</i> )	was guilty of murdering someone
haggling ( <i>v</i> )	bargaining
half-wit ( <i>n</i> )	a foolish or stupid person
handful ( <i>adj</i> )	some; a few
hissing ( <i>v</i> )	making a sharp sound
impetuous ( <i>adj</i> )	impulsive
incantations ( <i>n</i> )	supposedly magical words; charms
jutka ( <i>n</i> )	a kind of horse driven cart
muttered ( <i>v</i> )	say something in low voice



mystic ( <i>adj</i> )	supernatural and therefore not easily understood
obscure ( <i>adj</i> )	undiscovered or unknown
overwhelmed ( <i>adj</i> )	to have a strong emotional effect on
palmyra ( <i>n</i> )	a palm tree native to Asia
paraphernalia ( <i>n</i> )	collection of articles used in a particular activity
passer-by ( <i>n</i> )	one who happens to be going past
peep ( <i>v</i> )	a quick look, especially through a narrow opening
pies ( <i>n</i> )	<i>here</i> , paise - one hundredth of a rupee
piqued ( <i>adj</i> )	irritated; annoyed
prophetic ( <i>adj</i> )	relating to the characteristic of a prophet
pyol ( <i>n</i> )	a string cot
reflectively ( <i>adv</i> )	thinking carefully and quietly
resplendent ( <i>adj</i> )	richly colourful and attractive
ripening ( <i>v</i> )	<i>here</i> , getting old
shaft ( <i>n</i> )	<i>here</i> , beam
shrewd ( <i>adj</i> )	sharp-witted, clever and good at judging others
stalks ( <i>n</i> )	the stem of a plant
strayed ( <i>v</i> )	entered
stream down ( <i>phrase</i> )	to fall upon
surging ( <i>adj</i> )	moving energetically
swine ( <i>n</i> )	<i>here</i> , an arrogant, unpleasant person
tangles ( <i>n</i> )	complexities
tilting ( <i>v</i> )	moving into a sloping position
to crown the effect ( <i>phrase</i> )	<i>here</i> , to add to existing looks
vaguely ( <i>v</i> )	unclearly; roughly
vermilion ( <i>n</i> )	a brilliant red colour
vociferousness ( <i>n</i> )	being loud and noisy

wages ( <i>n</i> )	earnings
whiskers ( <i>n</i> )	<i>here</i> , pointed moustache
working analysis ( <i>phrase</i> )	knowledge of important aspects of an issue
wound ( <i>v</i> )	to wrap in a coil

### Introduction

The short story “An Astrologer’s Day” by R. K. Narayan centres around an astrologer who practises in a busy marketplace with dim lights that cast a mysterious quality on him. He cannot actually tell the future, but reads his clients’ minds well and utters to them certain vague statements that touch the egos of most of them; in the backdrop, the young astrologer had run away from his small village to a distant city. One evening, a stranger accosts him and challenges him on his professional skills. The stranger offers him good money to answer his question correctly. The astrologer then asks the man whether he has ever been left for dead. He further probes whether it was a knife, and if he was left for dead after being pushed into a well. The stranger confirms all the facts. When the stranger asks when he would get his revenge on the person who assaulted him, the astrologer calls the stranger’s real name and says that the man he is looking for, died four months ago. The astrologer sends away Nayak after warning him that if he travelled south again, he will surely be killed. Later, the astrologer confesses to his wife, to her shock, that long ago, he was the one who had pushed Guru Nayak down the well and left him to die. But now that he knows that Nayak did not die, he can sleep with a light heart.

### About the Author

R. K. Narayan (1906 to 2001), Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami, was one of the best known novelists among Indian English writers and has authored numerous novels, short stories, travelogues, non-fiction and memoir. He also created the imaginary town of Malgudi, where realistic characters in a typically Indian setting lived amid unpredictable events. Narayan was introduced to American readers through many of his books and has won The Sahitya Akademi Award, the most coveted literary honour in India. His writing is uniquely Indian, humorous, utterly charming and authentic. Narayan typically portrays the peculiarities of human relationships and the ironies of Indian daily life in a graceful and simple style.



## Ice Breakers

- Discuss with your partner and complete the activity.

## \*1. What are your strengths?

Strengths	Why do you feel so?	Dream Career
painting and drawing	can visualise, express	commercial artist, cartoonist

Ans:

Strengths	Why do you feel so?	Dream Career
painting and drawing	can visualise, express	commercial artist, cartoonist
writing and communication	have an open mind, can communicate precisely	author, editor, copywriter, journalist
cooking and baking	love to cook and experiment, can bake well	chef, baker
read, research and experiment	have a knack to discover obscure knowledge and go to the core of concepts	scientist, research scholar

## \*2. The scene in a local market of a village/town/city is very attractive. People with different occupations sell their wares. Discuss with your partner the variety of activities at the local market.

- selling flowers, selling grocery
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Ans:

- savouries and snacks shops
- amusement games
- soothsayers and card readers
- traditional medicine stalls

## \*3. In a village /town /city it is quite a common sight to see an astrologer sitting by the roadside with his professional equipment. Discuss with your partner and list the requirements for his trade.

- parrot, cards etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Ans:

- cowrie shells
- charts
- manuscripts
- utensils of religious significance

## \*4. There are certain unreasonable beliefs among people living in our society. Certain common events are linked with superstitions. List such events, discuss the superstitions linked with them and the means of their eradication.

- A cat crossing your path
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Ans:

## i. A cat crossing your path

Explanation: if a cat, especially a black cat crosses your path, it is considered to be a sign that something bad is about to occur to you.

Means of eradication: educate the believers that it is just a cat and like any other animal it roams freely. Moreover, tell people that the above belief holds no logic.

## ii. Do not sweep or cut nails after sunset

Explanation: doing these activities after sunset invites some unwelcome misfortune into your life.

Means of eradication: educate people that sweeping or cutting nails are independent activities and have nothing to do with any particular time of the day.

## iii. Hanging lemon and seven green chillies

Explanation: it is believed that hanging lemon and seven green chillies on doors and vehicles wards off misfortune and bad luck.

Means of eradication: educate people that good deeds bring good fortune. So, lemons and chillies are better off as food ingredients.

## iv. Do not stand or sit under the Peepal tree in the night

Explanation: standing or sitting under the peepal tree at night, invites ghosts and evil spirits.

Means of eradication: educate people that plants maintain a balance in nature. Apart from oxygen, they provide shelter to numerous animals, birds and protect them. Plants possibly do more good to us than anything evil.

## v. An itchy left palm

Explanation: an itchy left palm indicates that money would flow in

Means of eradication: educate people that money is best earned and expected out of hard work and good investments. It is better to rely



on such proven and tested sources of income than waiting for a palm to get itchy.

**Passage 1**

Read the passage from line 1 to 77 on page 2 to 4 of your textbook and answer the following questions:

["Punctually at mid-day .....  
.....forbidding exterior"]

**A. Complex Factual/Global Understanding**

1. Complete the following sentences based on the passage.

- i. The astrologer's colour-scheme included a painted forehead and a \_\_\_\_\_ turban around his head.
- ii. The astrologer's eyes sparkled with a sharp abnormal gleam because of his \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. The clients of the astrologer took the sparkle in his eyes for \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. The \_\_\_\_\_ under which the astrologer conducted his business came from up above the heap of groundnuts nearby.

**Ans:**

- i. saffron coloured
- ii. continual searching for customers
- iii. prophetic light
- iv. light of the flare

2. State whether the following statements are True or False. Correct the False statements.

- i. The astrologer's professional equipment included a simple chart and a notebook.
- ii. The astrologer sat under the boughs of a tamarind tree situated outside the Town Hall Park.
- iii. A considerable portion of the crowd that stopped by the fried groundnut vendor dallied before the astrologer too.
- iv. The astrologer knew much more about the stars than his innocent customers did.
- v. The astrologer had left his village with careful planning.

**Ans:**

- i. False  
The astrologer's professional equipment included a mystic chart and a notebook
- ii. False  
The astrologer sat under the boughs of a spreading tamarind tree which flanked the path running through the Town Hall Park.
- iii. True
- iv. False  
The astrologer was as much a stranger to stars as his innocent customers were.

- v. False  
The astrologer had left his village without any previous thought or plan.

\*3. In the story we are told that the Town Hall Park was a remarkable place for the astrologer to build his business. Discuss it in a group and list the exceptional qualities of the place.

**Ans:**

- i. a surging crowd
- ii. shoppers in large numbers
- iii. a variety of traders
- iv. people with various occupations
- v. access to faint light from nearby shops at night
- vi. it was a bustling market-place

\*4. The tactics used by the astrologer to earn his wages are...



**Ans:**

- i. analysis of human troubles
- ii. charming appearance
- iii. saying pleasant things to clients
- iv. practicing at a busy market place

\*5. The astrologer's appearance helps to create an impression on his clients. Complete the following.

i.	The turban on his head
ii.	_____
iii.	_____
iv.	_____

**Ans:**

i.	<b>The turban on his head</b>
ii.	Scared ash and vermilion on his forehead
iii.	Eyes sparkling with sharp abnormal gleam
iv.	Dark whiskers that streamed down his forehead

\*6. Read the following sentences and choose the correct alternative:

- i. According to the narrator the astrologer's success in his profession is primarily due to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. luck  
B. the bargains he drives  
C. his appearance  
D. his understanding of people





ii. The story suggests that the astrologer's comments and observations please people by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. promising them success and good fortune
- B. proving, as time passes, to have been true
- C. flattering them or supporting their own views
- D. helping them to learn to solve their own problems

Ans: (i – D), (ii – C)

#7. If the astrologer had stayed in the village then he would have carried on \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans: If the astrologer had stayed in the village then he would have carried on the work of his forefathers – namely, tilling the land, living, marrying, and ripening in his cornfield and ancestral home.

#8. The astrologer could understand the problem in five minutes. How?

Ans: The astrologer had a working analysis of mankind's troubles: marriage, money, and the tangles of human ties. Long practice had sharpened his perception. That's how he could understand the problem in five minutes.

#9. How could the astrologer tell the person about his life?

Ans: The astrologer never opened his mouth till his client had spoken for at least ten minutes, which provided him enough time to form a dozen answers and advices. He had a working analysis of mankind's common troubles. He utilised the time spent in silence to collate his experience and common understanding of life's problems to tell the person about his life

### B. Inference / Interpretation

1. What do you understand by the author's statement that the astrologer deserved the wages he carried home at the end of the day?

Ans: The statement means that the earnings of the astrologer were a result of a hard day's work. Even though he did not really know astrology, he did a good job of delighting and convincing his customers by telling them what they wanted to hear. So, it was as much an honest man's labour as any other.

2. The astrologer had a working analysis of mankind's troubles. What can you infer about him from this remark?

Ans: The astrologer did not really know astrology but by virtue of his study, practice and shrewd guesswork, he could say pleasant and astonishing things to his customers. He generically knew about mankind's troubles such as marriage, money, relationships and said

vague but delightful things to them that endeared him to their hearts.

### C. Reasoning

\*1. The astrologer never opened his mouth till the other had spoken for at least ten minutes. Discuss the reasons behind his act.

Ans:

- i. he is good at reading the people
- ii. he needs to buy time to frame his answers to the questions of his clients
- iii. he uses the time to weigh the client's concerns against the working analysis of human problems that he is an expert at
- iv. he possibly takes his time to impress on the client that he is working hard to resolve the latter's problem

2. What are the reasons behind the astrologer's success in his profession?

Ans: The astrologer wore a professionally suitable appearance with vermilion and sacred ash on his forehead, saffron coloured turban around his head and dark whiskers streaming down his cheeks. Also, he knew the tricks of his trade and said all the pleasing things to his customers, which endeared him to them. Moreover, he practised in a bustling marketplace where he could attract his customers easily. All these reasons made him successful in his profession.

### D. Personal Response

1. Do you think that one can't judge a person by his or her appearance?

Ans: Yes, I agree that one should not form an opinion of someone purely based on what appears on the surface. Upon a closer look, the person may turn out to be much more meritorious than the appearance suggests. On the contrary, someone looking very virtuous from outside may not prove worthy of his the expectations upon a deeper analysis. This wisdom is aptly captured in the popular proverb "Don't judge a book by its cover."

2. In your opinion, is astrology a true science?

Ans: In my opinion, astrology is not a science. There is no scientific evidence to prove the influence of stars and other heavenly bodies on one's personality and future. It is merely an orthodox belief system based on superstition.

### E. Vocabulary

1. Guess the meaning of the following words from the passage:

- #i. pies
- ii. resplendent



**Ans:**

- i. it is a small denomination of currency that was prevalent in the days to which the story belongs.
- ii. richly colourful and attractive

**2. Fill in the blanks using appropriate words from the ones provided below:**

(half-wit, flickering, prophetic, shrewd)

- i. While she claims she has \_\_\_\_\_ vision, none of her predictions have ever been correct.
- ii. Please speak sensibly in the gathering and avoid being viewed as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. Jignesh is a \_\_\_\_\_ businessman with much practical knowledge of the market.
- iv. The electric bulb had been \_\_\_\_\_ for a while before it fused.

**Ans:**

- i. prophetic
- ii. half-wit
- iii. shrewd
- iv. flickering

**3. Use the following words/phrases to make sentences of your own.**

- i. resplendent
- ii. crisscross
- iii. crown the effect
- iv. impetuous

**Ans:**

- i. She looked resplendent in her new party-gown.
- ii. While in Japan, I saw a number of roads crisscross at a multi-level bridge.
- iii. Australia had already won the cricket match series 2-0 against England and to crown the effect, they went on to win the third match too.
- iv. One must avoid being impetuous during tough times and think with a calm mind.

**F. Grammar**

**1. Do as Directed:**

- i. People were attracted to him as bees are attracted to cosmos or dahlia stalks.

**(Change to Active Voice)**

**Ans:** He attracted people as cosmos or dahlia stalks attract bees.

- ii. The colour scheme never failed.

**(Change to Affirmative)**

**Ans:** The colour scheme always worked.

- iii. Even the mildest of us loves to think that he has a forbidding exterior.

**(Change the degree of comparison to Comparative)**

**Ans:** Even the one milder than all of us loves to think that he has a forbidding exterior.

- iv. It was a bewildering crisscross of light rays and moving shadows.

**(Identify the participles and state their type)**

**Ans:** bewildering – Present Participle  
moving – Present Participle

**2. Write the noun forms of the following:**

- i. obscure
- ii. enhanced
- iii. surging
- iv. impetuous

**Ans:**

- i. obscurity
- ii. enhancement
- iii. surge
- iv. impetuosity

**Passage 2**

Read the passage from line 78 to 123 on page 4 and 5 of your textbook and answer the following questions:

[" The nuts vendor .....  
.....woman..." ]

**A. Complex Factual/Global Understanding**

**1. Complete the following sentences based on the extract.**

- i. The nuts vendor blowing out his flare was a signal for the astrologer to bundle up too since \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. The astrologer asked the stranger that if he found his answer satisfactory, would he \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans:**

- i. it left him in darkness except for a little shaft of green light which strayed in from somewhere and touched the ground before him give him five rupees
- ii. give him five rupees

**2. How does the astrologer treat the stranger on seeing him first?**

**Ans:** On seeing the stranger first, the astrologer senses a possible client and offers to help him with his advice.

**B. Inference / Interpretation**

**1. What can you infer about the stranger's nature based on his interaction with the astrologer?**

**Ans:** The stranger deals roughly with the astrologer by thrusting his palm under the astrologer's nose and challenging his professional skills. He also forces the astrologer to enter a challenge much against his wish. Based on his interaction with the astrologer, we can infer that the stranger is a rogue person.



### C. Reasoning

1. What is the likely reason that the astrologer later tries to avoid the stranger, even though he had first suggested the latter to seek his help?

**Ans:** The astrologer caught a glimpse of the stranger's face by the matchlight while the latter lit a *cheroot*. The stranger sat down there ruthlessly, sucking his *cheroot* and puffing out. All this made the astrologer feel uncomfortable and hence he tried to thereafter avoid the stranger.

### D. Personal Response

1. In your opinion, is it appropriate to force someone to accept a challenge against his or her wish?

**Ans:** In my opinion, it is not at all appropriate to impose a challenge on someone. A challenge should be entered with mutual consent of those involved and not by bullying tactics. No one has the right to impose one's will on the other without his or her agreement on the matter involved. A forced challenge can negatively impact the morale and mental balance of the person in question and is hence not a healthy situation to be in.

### E. Vocabulary

1. Give the meanings of the following words/phrases from the passage:

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| i. paraphernalia | ii. piqued    |
| iii. grumbled    | #iv. glimpse  |
| #v. tilting      | #vi. bluffing |

**Ans:**

- the collection of articles used in a particular activity
- annoyed, irritated
- complain about something in a bad-tempered way
- a momentary or partial view
- turning towards
- deceive someone according to one's abilities

2. Use the following verbs/phrases to make meaningful sentences:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| i. bundle up  | ii. strayed in |
| iii. careworn | iv. babble     |

**Ans:**

- The vendors at the beach start to bundle up as soon as the sun sets.
- The cattle strayed in through a broken fence and destroyed most of the crops in the farm.

- He looks highly careworn these days as his business has run into losses.
- The flowing river water babbed over the underlying rocks.

3. Provide antonyms of the following words based on the passage:

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| i. ruthlessly | ii. agitated |
| iii. faint    | iv. withdrew |

**Ans:**

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| i. mercifully | ii. composed |
| iii. loud     | iv. offered  |

### F. Grammar

1. Do as Directed:

- i. The other grumbled some reply vaguely.

(Change the Voice)

**Ans:** Some reply was grumbled vaguely by the other.

- ii. The other held his wrist and said "You can't get out of it now. You dragged me in while I was passing."

(Rewrite in Indirect Speech)

**Ans:** The other held his wrist and told him that he couldn't get out of that then and that he dragged him in while he was passing.

- iii. The nut vendor blew out his flare and rose to go home.

(Pick out the Infinitive from the sentence)

**Ans:** to go

- iv. the other thrust his palm in his face and said challenge is challenge go on

(Punctuate the given sentence)

**Ans:** The other thrust his palm in his face and said: "Challenge is challenge. Go on."

- v. The astrologer caught a glimpse of his face by the matchlight.

(Rewrite the sentence in Future Perfect Tense)

**Ans:** The astrologer will have caught a glimpse of his face by the matchlight.

### Passage 3

Read the passage from line 124 to 190 on page 5 to 7 of your textbook and answer the following questions:

[""Stop," said the other.....  
.....himself on the pyol."]

### A. Complex Factual/Global Understanding

- #1. What was the load on the astrologer's mind?

**Ans:** The astrologer thought that he had the blood of a man on his hands all those years after he fled from his home. This means that the guilt of



having murdered a man was the load on the astrologer's mind.

**2. Write who said the following sentences to whom:**

- i. "All right. I will speak. But will you give me a rupee if what I say is convincing? Otherwise I will not open my mouth, and you may do what you like."
- ii. "You tried to kill him!"
- iii. "When shall I get at him?"
- iv. "You know my name!"

**Ans:**

- i. astrologer to the stranger
- ii. astrologer's wife to the astrologer
- iii. stranger to the astrologer
- iv. stranger to the astrologer

**\*3. Read the following sentences and choose the correct one.**

**i. The astrologer says that if Nayak leaves his village again, he would \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. return the money
- B. face danger
- C. go back home and stop looking for the man who tried to kill him
- D. not find the killer

**ii. Guru Nayak consults the astrologer because he wants to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. understand the past
- B. find out who the astrologer is
- C. make some money through a bet
- D. get the answer to a specific question

**iii. Guru Nayak is looking for the man who tried to kill him \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. to take revenge
- B. to get an apology
- C. to demand an explanation
- D. to prove that the man was unsuccessful

**iv. The astrologer's remark makes Guru Nayak feel all of the following except \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. relieved
- B. suspicious
- C. impressed
- D. disappointed

**Ans:** (i – B), (ii – D), (iii – A), (iv – B)

[**Note:** The statement of question 2 (i) above has been modified to keep it true to the text.]

**\*4. Read the following sentences and find out True and False sentences. Correct the False sentences.**

- i. The astrologer gave a correct prediction to the client about his past that he was stabbed, thrown into a well and left for dead.
- ii. When the astrologer came to know that the man whom he killed is alive he felt that he was relieved of his guilt.

- iii. The astrologer rescued himself from Guru Nayak's revenge.

**Ans:**

- i. False  
The astrologer told the truth of the past to client but it was not a prediction and merely a statement of known facts.
- ii. True
- iii. True

**B. Inference / Interpretation**

**\*1. Reactions of the astrologer's wife to his news suggest that she –**

- i. was unaware of his past
- ii. has been worried about his safety
- iii. has known him since he was young
- iv. is concerned about her future with him

**Ans:**

- i. was unaware of his past

**\*2. The astrologer feels relieved that Guru is not dead as it relieves a great burden from him. Critically justify the statement and explain it.**

**Ans:** The astrologer feels relieved to discover that Guru is not dead. This is so because the astrologer had attempted to kill Guru in his early age and left him for dead. To know that Guru isn't dead must have acquitted him of the guilt of being an assassin. Hence, it unburdened him from the prick of conscience.

**C. Reasoning**

**\*1. The astrologer has changed his appearance and his persona when he arrived in the city. Give specific reasons.**

**Ans:** The astrologer had moved out from his native village to the city after attempting to kill a man, whom he had left for dead. He had to disguise his true identity to avoid being caught. Also, he had to make a living and begin a new life in the city after absconding from his village. For these reasons, the astrologer had to change his appearance and persona when he arrived in the city.

**2. Why does the astrologer lie to the stranger that the man he is looking for has long been dead?**

**Ans:** The astrologer lies to the stranger that the man he is looking for has been dead, in order to save his own skin from the stranger who was looking out for the man who had tried to kill him many years ago, and seek revenge. The astrologer himself happens to be the culprit. So, had the astrologer not misled the stranger by lying to him about the death of the culprit,



he himself would have been under constant threat of getting killed at the stranger's hands if he ever found out the truth.

#3. **The man was left for dead because \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ans:** The man was left for dead because there was no chance of his survival after he was brutally attacked with knife in the chest by his assailant and then pushed into a well nearby in the field.

#### D. Personal Response

1. **In your opinion, was it right for the astrologer to hide his own identity from the unsuspecting stranger?**

**Ans:** The astrologer knew that the stranger was on lookout for the man who had attempted to kill him many years ago, so that he could seek revenge by killing the culprit in turn. Had the astrologer bared his true identity to the stranger, he would have instantly met with death at the latter's hands. This would have worsened the matters, since the astrologer had his wife and daughter to look after. Therefore, I think that the astrologer was right in hiding his own identity from the unsuspecting stranger.

\*2. **'The darkness load that was inside the astrologer has disappeared'. Through this sentence, explain the significance of the title 'An Astrologer's Day'.**

**Ans:** The sentence 'The darkness load that was inside the astrologer has disappeared' directly relates to the title 'An Astrologer's Day'. The title seems to reflect two aspects of the astrologer's life. The first is that of a typical workday in the life of the astrologer. However, the second aspect is what the given sentence captures, i.e., the importance of the particular day in the astrologer's life. On the said day, the astrologer found out that a man whom he had attempted to kill way back and left for dead, had actually survived. This finding must have relieved the astrologer of the guilt of committing a murder. Also, that day, the astrologer had tricked the stranger into believing that the man who had left him for dead after attempting to kill him, had himself died in an accident, and hence the latter did not have to search for him anymore to seek revenge. This must have provided the astrologer with further relief and assured him to breathe easier.

#### E. Vocabulary

#1. **Guess the meaning of the following words from the passage:**

- i. passer-by                      ii. peep

- iii. overwhelmed                  iv. groaned

**Ans:**

- i. a person who happens to be going past something, especially on foot  
ii. look quickly at something, especially into a narrow opening  
iii. have a strong emotional effect  
iv. make a deep sound conveying pain, displeasure

2. **Write the synonyms of the following from the passage:**

- i. chants                                  ii. bargaining  
iii. satisfied                              iv. engulfed

**Ans:**

- i. incantations                          ii. haggling  
iii. gratified                              iv. overwhelmed

3. **Write the antonyms of the following from the passage:**

- i. crowded                                ii. plenty  
iii. carefree                                iv. forever

**Ans:**

- i. deserted                                ii. handful  
iii. worried                                iv. never

#### F. Grammar

1. **Do as Directed:**

- i. "When shall I get at him?" he asked, clenching his fist.

**(Pick out the modal auxiliary and state its function)**

**Ans:** Modal Auxiliary: shall  
Function: possibility

- ii. I will prepare some nice stuff for her.

**(Change the verb to Future Perfect Continuous Tense)**

**Ans:** I will have been preparing some nice stuff for her.

- iii. "I should have been dead if some passer-by had not chanced to peep into the well."

**(Rewrite by using the negative form of underlined word)**

**Ans:** I should not have been alive if some passer-by had not chanced to peep into the well.

- iv. But will you give me a rupee if what I say is convincing?

**(Change the Voice)**

**Ans:** But will I be given a rupee by you if what is said by me is convincing?

2. **Write the noun form of the following:**

- i. agreed                                  ii. dead  
iii. great                                    iv. married

**Ans:**

- i. agreement                              ii. death  
iii. greatness                                iv. marriage



**Integrated Questions**  
(based on the entire text)

**\*1. The astrologer wins/gets the sympathy of criticism of the reader in the end. Express your opinion with the support of the main story.**

**Ans:** The story portrays the astrologer as a false fortune teller with no real knowledge of his 'profession'. He attracts clients by his street-smart ways and also manages to convince them by sweet-talking to them. Moreover, he is revealed to the reader as a near-murderer towards the end of the story. However, despite all this, it's difficult to judge the astrologer as a negative character and he rather manages to win the sympathy of the reader's criticism. This is so because firstly, he has to make a living in the new city after he fled his village for fear of being caught. So, in the absence of any other skill he must have had to adopt astrology as a livelihood under distress and not by choice. Secondly, he had to trick the stranger into believing that the man whom he was looking out for had already died in an accident, so as to protect his own life. Again, he can't be judged badly on this count because he couldn't have afforded to lose his own life at the hands of the stranger by revealing him his true identity. Since he had his wife and child to support too, it made him lie to the stranger in order to keep himself out of harm's way.

**\*2. If we have to eradicate the superstitions and other ill practices from our society, what steps would you like to suggest?**

**Ans:** In order to eradicate the superstitions and other evil practices from our society, I would firstly suggest taking steps to promote rational outlook amongst people. I would like to educate the masses and expose the bluff behind obscure and orthodox practices. Although I wouldn't go all-out against all traditional practices, as some of them could have valid basis. However, I would spread awareness among everyone in my social circles to keep a scientific temper and think logically rather than blindly following superstitions. I could possibly even tell them about the reasons for which some superstitions held good in ancient ages but are no longer valid.

**\*3. In the story, astrologer has a great listening power. Listening helps in developing good relations with people. Express your opinion.**

**Ans:** Listening, as differentiated from hearing, is about consciously understanding and applying one's mind to what is heard. As the story illustrates, being a good listener helps one to

fare better in any activity that one takes up. The astrologer isn't knowledgeable of his work but still manages to convince his customers and make his living, owing to his great listening skills. He establishes a rapport with his clients by just listening to them for a few minutes without uttering a word, while analysing their troubles and simultaneously composing his talk and answers to the clients. This helps him to mask his own shortcomings and succeed in his work, where he would otherwise not have. Hence, great listening power is a strong skillset we all should develop.

**\*4. Read the following sentences and find out True and False sentences. Correct the False sentences.**

- i. The astrologer tried to back out of the deal and talked about the client's past.
- ii. The moral of the story is that we must be responsible about what we have done and should not run away from our mistakes.

**Ans:**

- i. True
- ii. False. The story most strongly sends the message that, even though one could have committed a mistake in the past, one could cleverly try and get away with a white lie if doing so is in the good interest of everyone involved.

**\*5. In the story, the following characters reveal their qualities through words and actions. Pick out the words that describe them from the box and write in the appropriate columns.**

shrewd, clever, suspicious, gullible, arrogant, demanding, antagonistic, quarrelsome, overconfident, manipulative, skeptical, mystical, smart, caring, protective, sharp, rational, mean, intuitive, aggressive, worried, cunning, humanistic, impetuous

	Astrologer	Guru Nayak	Astrologer's wife
i.	shrewd	manipulated	caring
ii.			
iii.			
iv.			

**Ans:**

	Astrologer	Guru Nayak	Astrologer's wife
i.	shrewd	manipulative	caring
ii.	smart	antagonistic	protective



iv.	clever	skeptical	suspicious
v.	mystical	aggressive	
vi.	worried	quarrelsome	
vii.		demanding	

\*6. 'An Astrologer's Day' has ironic elements where the astrologer pretends to have 'supernatural knowledge' that coincidentally turns out to be the truth. Irony means a situation or statement characterised by a significant difference between what is expected and what actually happens, or between what is understood and what is meant.

Find out the examples of irony from the story and write them down. One has been done for you.

- He knew no more of what was going to happen to others than he knew what was going to happen to himself the next minute.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Ans:

- The stranger consults the astrologer to know about the man who had attempted to kill him many years ago and the astrologer himself happens to be the culprit!
- The astrologer has no real knowledge of his work but he succeeds in making a living from it.

### Language Study: Vocabulary

\*1. Match the suffixes with the words and make nouns. One is done for you.

Word	Suffix	Noun
auction	able	
enchant	ure	
know	ment	
prepare	eer	
proceed	ance	
appear	ledge	
remark	tion	

Ans:

Word	Suffix	Noun
auction	eer	auctioneer

enchant	ment	enchantment
know	ledge	knowledge
prepare	tion	preparation
proceed	ure	procedure
appear	ance	appearance
remark	able	remarkable

\*2. In the story, many Indian words are used. 'Cowrie shells'. This is an example of code-mixing. Find out other such words from the story and write them down.

Ans: *Jutka, Pies, Pyol, Annas, Cheroot*

\*3. There are some phrases where the word crown is used with different shades of meaning. Use the following phrases to complete the sentences meaningfully. One is done for you.

crowning achievement, To crown the effect, crown of thorns, crowning glory, to crown it all

To crown the effect, he wound a saffron-coloured turban around his head.

- The works of Shakespeare are the \_\_\_\_\_ of English drama.
- Amitabh has given us awesome movies throughout five decades. But his \_\_\_\_\_ is his performance in the movie 'Black'.
- In her pursuit of success, Radha has distanced herself from her family. Her fame has become a real \_\_\_\_\_.
- They threw a wonderful party for me with costumes, games and \_\_\_\_\_ my favourite kind of ice cream.
- Medical science has great inventions, but organ transplantation is definitely a \_\_\_\_\_ for human beings.

Ans:

- crowning glory
- crowning achievement
- crown of thorns
- to crown it all
- crowning achievement

\*4. Word Usage

Use the words given in the brackets and rewrite the sentences.

- The power of his eyes was considerably enhanced. (enhancement)
- He had a working analysis of mankind's troubles. (worked)
- He knew what was going to happen to himself next minute. (happening)
- If you find my answers satisfactory, will you give me five rupees? (satisfaction)



- v. He shook his head regretfully. (regret)  
 vi. It was a bewildering crisscross of light rays. (bewildered)  
 vii. "I should have been dead if some passer-by had not chanced to peep into the well," exclaimed the other, overwhelmed by enthusiasm. (enthusiastically)  
 viii. You tried to kill him. (killing)  
 ix. I will prepare some nice stuff for her. (preparation)  
 x. The other groaned on hearing it. (heard)

**Ans:**

- i. There was considerable enhancement in the power of his eyes.  
 ii. He had an analysis of mankind's troubles that worked.  
 iii. He knew what will be happening to himself next minute.  
 iv. If you find satisfaction in my answers, will you give me five rupees?  
 v. He shook his head with regret.  
 vi. The crisscross of light rays was bewildered.  
 vii. "I should have been dead if some passer-by had not chanced to peep into the well," exclaimed the other enthusiastically.  
 viii. You tried killing him.  
 ix. I will begin the preparation of some nice stuff for her.  
 x. The other groaned when he heard it.

### Activities

#### Writing

- \*1. Prepare a speech on Science and Superstitions.

**Ans: Science and Superstitions**

Good morning respected principal, teachers and friends. I am here to speak on 'Science and Superstitions'.

Facts make for science while superstitions emerge from blind faith! There is no denying that most aspects of our life are based in science or superstition. Science works towards exploring and rationalising the unknown and superstition works on exploiting the fear of the same.

Science has been the key player in demystifying things around us and has laid a strong foundation for the development of mankind.

Superstitions often stem from our religious and mythological beliefs. When people seek a desired outcome, they rely on superstitions conveniently shielded as faith! It is easier to follow a superstition than consciously avoid it!

In conclusion, I think it is only fair to say that science encourages our quest for reason, while superstitions promote irrationality.

Thank you all for being patient listeners.

- \*2. Read the following proverbs. Share your views and expand the ideas.

- i. Actions speak louder than words.  
 ii. The face is the index of the mind.  
 iii. Speech is silver and silence is golden.  
 iv. Argument is the worst kind of communication.  
 v. Attitudes are the real figures of speech.  
 vi. The wise man has long ears and a short tongue.

**Ans:**

- i. Actions Speak Louder than Words:**

This ancient proverb reminds us of the importance of actions over empty talk.

Of many modes of communication, words have the strongest impact on people. However, it is the action of an individual that determines his/her character. Actions carry considerably more weight than words in building trust. Even the minutest action reflects the manner and the nature of an individual. Actions are of tremendous importance when focusing on goals. Many individuals talk high with regard to objectives/goals, but those words prove unworthy if not backed by action. Furthermore, actions are of paramount importance when it comes to leadership.

For example, if a person talks all about goodwill and deeds, but does not follow any of that in reality, he is just being vain. But the one who executes and accomplishes these deeds in actuality would be considered a trustworthy human being.

- ii. The Face is the index of the mind:**

The face is truly an outward projection of the mind. Any psychological shift that occurs in the brain is faithfully expressed on the face. Since a person's sentiments, moods and emotions produce strong impressions on the body language, especially the facial expressions, there are unmistakable ways in which we can decode the subtle thoughts doing rounds in that person's mind.

The face is a reliable index of all the musings that are harboured in one's mind. It is a clear mirror of the psyche and the substance at once. One can fairly accurately comprehend the mental state of a person through his or her facial expressions.

For instance, an individual's face marked by expressions of envy is likely to harbour dislike of something or someone. On the other hand, a content mind reflects calmness and level-headedness on a person's face. The face can hence be described as the mirror of the mind.

- iii. Speech is silver and silence is golden:**

'Speech is silver and silence is golden' is a Latin proverb which highlights the importance of silence over speaking. In olden days, a sacred practice called 'Vow of Silence' was followed in





India. As a part of this, every month, people were required to maintain total silence for a day or two. This practice was followed to develop analytical skills, sharpen objectivity and inculcate the virtue of patience. Many learned men and sages were known to follow it religiously and thereby add to their treasure of knowledge. We often see people who try to impress everyone around them with their oratory skills. Many orators are able to use the power of words in every situation. However, as the proverb advises, it is equally important to practise silence as it enables one to see the big picture, notice finer details, develop a sound mind and be able to correctly judge every situation. Hence, silence is truly golden as it assists one to become the wisest in a room full of wise men!

**iv. Argument is the worst kind of communication:**

The Earth is home to many plants, fishes, birds, animals, and us, humans. While all need oxygen to survive, there is one quality that separates human beings from the rest of the life on our planet. It is the ability of speech that helps us communicate with one another. Communication helps two or more people exchange their thoughts, ideas, feelings, emotions in a meaningful way. It can be done both verbally, i.e. by speaking, or non-verbally, i.e. through gestures, writing, signals or behaviour. Effective communication makes up an integral part of everyday life. Be it a simple task such as buying groceries or sharing notes with college-mates, life depends on interactions. When people don't agree with each other, they often resort to arguments to express their displeasure. This leads to complications that are a result of anger, doubt, misunderstanding, and other negative emotions. It may also end up distancing people from one another and creating negative perceptions. Therefore, the above proverb stands as a valuable advice for all those who wish to communicate effectively. When one uses the power of speech in a calm and assertive manner it proves to be a win-win situation for everyone around.

**v. Attitudes are the real figures of speech!:**

Language is the enabler of speech and conversation but it is one's attitude that determines action.

Language can be used to construct a beautiful imagery but ultimately it is one's attitude that shapes the reality. There are many situations in our daily lives where we use words mechanically, but it is equally important to understand how those spoken words are received.

Figures of speech can make language seem ornate but only when received rightly can they have the intended impact.

Words can be used to create guidelines but only attitudes can create the right examples.

All said and done, words are just the vehicles to drive home the intended meaning. They can be conveniently altered to fit the situation. However, one's attitude is one's inseparable companion and it is not easy to modify it in any significant way.

How we receive it can in fact change what we believe, and what we believe will influence what we do! In summation, it would be fair to say that words describe but attitudes define!

**vi. The wise man has long ears and a short tongue!:**

Long ears signify willingness to be patient and listen keenly. A short tongue is a metaphor for self-control in allowing someone to make his point before responding to it.

There are actually very few amongst us who truly listen. Most of us simply hear! When we hear, our ears only receive the sound but when we listen, we process and understand words.

The given topic 'the wise man has long ears and a short tongue' is quite an apt statement because a wise man listens to respond and not to react! This works in his favour as he actually absorbs more in this case. He does not end up wasting his energies on speaking, even before he comprehends the spoken word. It is more beneficial for him in the longer run to grasp something better than merely react quickly.

Let us bear in mind that getting the point is far more significant than just making a point.

Don't you think it is for this reason that nature has given us two ears and just one mouth?

**Extension / Project**

**\*1. Given below are some descriptions. Discuss them with your partner and find out one word for each of them. An example is given for you.**

- i. The scientific study of the universe and the objects in it, including stars, planets, nebulae and galaxies  
- Astronomy
- ii. The study of the movements of the planets, Sun, Moon, and Stars in the belief that these movements can have an influence on people's lives
- iii. A prediction of what will happen in the future
- iv. Scientific discipline that studies mental states and processes and behaviour in humans and other animals

**Ans:**

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| i. Astronomy  | ii. Astrology  |
| iii. Prophecy | iv. Psychology |



\*2. Bill Naughton has written a collection of wonderful stories which you can read in his book 'The Goal Keepers Revenge and Other Stories'. Read all the stories and discuss their theme/s with your partner.

[Students are expected to do the above activity by themselves]

\*3. Read R.K. Narayan's humorous collections of short stories and novels. Here are some titles you can read.

- i. 'Under The Banyan Tree'
- ii. 'The Doctor's Word'
- iii. 'Lawley Road'
- iv. 'A Horse and Two Goats'
- v. 'Gateman's Gift'

[Students can read the above mentioned stories in their free time]

\*4. Surf the internet and find out the career opportunities in Astronomy.

Ans: The following are the career opportunities available in the field of Astronomy.

- i. Space Technician
- ii. Space System Programmer
- iii. Energy Researcher
- iv. Astrophysicist
- v. Space Medicine Consultant
- vi. Research Scientist
- vii. University Professor

[Students can make use of the above mentioned pointers in carrying out this activity]



Complete the following word search puzzle related to Christmas.

SANTA CLAUS  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
BELLS

REINDEER  
WREATH  
LIGHTS

MISTLETOE  
ELVES  
CAROLS

STOCKING  
HOLIDAY  
MAGI

JINGLES  
GIFTS

C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	R	E	E	W
A	W	Q	B	L	V	A	C	X	D	C	Z	G	R
R	X	A	R	L	C	G	I	F	T	S	Q	F	E
O	D	F	C	E	F	I	B	K	P	V	W	D	I
L	Z	H	V	B	Q	P	N	H	F	G	R	Z	N
S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	M	Z	T	E	W	D
A	R	L	D	A	F	P	K	J	X	Q	A	V	E
Q	P	I	G	E	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E
E	C	D	W	F	P	Z	D	B	I	A	H	C	R
L	A	A	V	X	A	J	I	N	G	L	E	S	F
V	Z	Y	C	K	P	Q	C	V	H	R	Q	V	G
E	G	R	B	Z	G	F	W	D	T	A	K	W	C
S	A	N	T	A	C	L	A	U	S	F	B	X	D

S	A	N	T	A	C	L	A	U	S	F	B	X	D
E	G	R	B	Z	G	F	W	D	T	A	K	W	C
V	Z	Y	C	K	P	Q	C	V	H	R	Q	V	G
L	A	A	V	X	A	J	I	N	G	L	E	S	F
R	X	A	R	L	C	G	I	F	T	S	Q	F	E
A	W	Q	B	L	V	A	C	X	D	C	Z	G	R
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	R	E	E	W

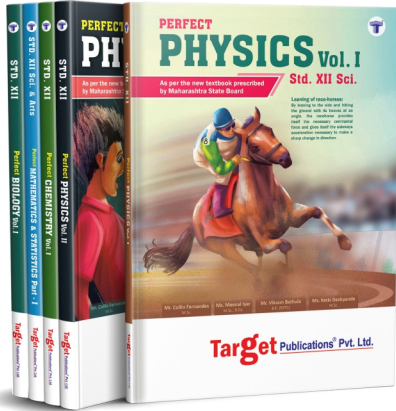
Ans:



# Std. XII

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