

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ
WORKSHEET-4
SESSION- 2020-2021
SUBJECT- ENGLISH LITERATURE
CLASS- 7(A B C D E F)
CHAPTER: Ploughing the Road

Note: Parents please ensure that your ward reads the lesson carefully and answers the questions that follow.

Let's Read

Now, read the story about an old man who has a dutiful son.

Long ago, in Romania, there was a drought. The crops failed and there was no food to eat. The country was ruled by a young king. He and his young advisors decided to get rid of the old men. He declared, "Kill all the old men of the land. They have lived their lives. We don't want their wisdom and their advice because we are cleverer and smarter than them."

All over, the orders were carried out with the greatest strictness. But there lived among these people a young man who had not the heart to kill his old father. He was frightened of disobeying the king's orders, so he took his old father and hid him in the cellar under the house. There he fed him and looked after him. He carefully visited his father only at night.

For a while, things went well. The country was prosperous, the earth yielded its produce, vineyards flourished, and the orchards were laden with fruit. But things did not remain in that state of prosperity. When summer came, there was such a drought that for months not a drop of rain fell. The crops were burnt off the face of the earth. The trees withered, and there was dearth and famine in the land. This was followed by a severe winter; colder than the people had ever experienced in their life. Heavy snow fell and covered the fields. No food was left, not even seed for sowing the field in the springtime. People and cattle were dying of starvation.

One night, when the son came as usual to his father, he could not bring more than a morsel of food. His father asked him, "What is the matter, my son? Why are you so sad?"

"Father," wept the son, "there is famine. All the granaries are empty. There is no seed even to sow. We shall all die of hunger."

The old father said, "My son, fear not. Take a plough and plough up the road in front of the house and the next road too. Do not ask any questions."

The son did as his father had told. The earth which had become moist and soft through the melting snow was easily ploughed up. In a few days, people were surprised to see all kinds of grains sprouting and growing from the ground which had been tilled. Maize, corn and wheat

all grew and- as the weather was favourable- it yielded a very good crop.

His neighbours were greatly astonished at what they saw, and they went and told the king what had happened.

The king called the young man and said to him, 'This doing is not of your own wisdom. No doubt your father has told you, whom you have kept alive. Speak the truth and I will spare your life.'

The young man said, 'Yes. I had kept my father alive.'

The young king then sent for the old man and asked him what the meaning of his advice was.

The old man replied, 'All throughout the year carts laden with all kinds of seeds and corn are passing to and fro. Some of the corn falls to the ground, and are trodden into the earth by the passers-by. Left in that state they usually rot, but if the ground is ploughed up, and is moist and favourable for growth, with no one passing over that part of the ground, some of the seeds have a fair chance of growing. It is upon that chance that I relied, and thus it has come to pass that we have now a rich crop, not only for our necessities, but also to provide you with enough seeds for your own fields in the future.'

When the king and the young people heard what the old man had to tell, they saw his deep wisdom and recognised their folly. They decided to allow the old people to live in peace and honour.

And henceforth, the old men began to live happily to the end of their days.

-A Romanian folktale

Q1. Write the meaning of the underlined words (use dictionary) and learn the spellings.

Q2. **Fill in the blanks:-**

- a) The country was ruled by a _____ king.
- b) Long ago, in _____, there was a drought.
- c) Heavy _____ fell and covered the fields.
- d) People and cattle were dying of _____.
- e) He could not bring more than a _____ of food for his father.
- f) The earth which had become moist and soft through the melting _____ was easily _____ up.
- g) His _____ were greatly astonished at what they saw.
- h) The young king saw the old man's deep _____ and recognised his _____.
- i) The _____ began to live happily to the end of their days.

Q3. Who said and to whom?

- a) 'Take a plough and plough up the road in front of the house.'
- b) 'This doing is not of your own wisdom.'
- c) 'Left in that state they usually rot.'
- d) 'All the granaries are empty.'
- e) 'Speak the truth and I will spare you.'

Q4. Reference to the context:

"Kill all the old men of the land. They have lived their lives."

- a) Who is the speaker of these lines?
- b) Why did the speaker decide to kill all the men?
- c) Who helped the speaker to take this decision?

"What is the matter my son? Why are you so sad?"

- a) Who is the speaker of these lines?
- b) Why was the person being spoken to sad?
- c) Where was the speaker?

"It is upon that chance that I relied."

- a) Who is the speaker of this line?
- b) On what chance did the speaker rely?
- c) Was he successful? How?

"Yes. I had kept my father alive."

- a) Who is the speaker of this line?
- b) Why did the speaker keep his father alive?
- c) Name the lesson.

Q5. Answer the following questions in short:-

- a) What did the young king decide to do?
- b) Why did the king decide to kill all the old men?
- c) Who did not follow the king's orders?
- d) What did the old father ask his son to do?
- e) Why was the earth easily ploughed up?
- f) Which crops grew in front of the house?
- g) Who were greatly astonished at seeing the crops? What did they do?
- h) How did the king guess that the young man had kept his father alive?

Q6. Answer the following questions in detail:-

- a) What did the young man do to save his father?
- b) How do we come to know that the country was prosperous?
- c) 'Things did not remain in that state of prosperity'. Explain.

- d) Why had the granaries become empty?
- e) What was the meaning of the old man's advice?
- f) How was the old man's advice helpful?
- g) What message has the author conveyed through the lesson?

THE END