

## General English - 9<sup>th</sup> Standard

Nature centred literary work

Gia tells her tale.

Important character from the story.

- One minute apology
- Minams letter
- Stroke of Genius.

Match the poem with the poet

1. Earth
2. Flying wonder
3. Be glad that your nose is on your face

Identify author with short story

1. The tears of the desert
2. The man who has no eyes

Matching poet with poems, nationality

1. Earth
2. Apology
3. Laughing and be Merry
4. The flying wonder

### One minute Apology

(The legacy you leave is the one you live)

Colonel Scott- Commander

Edwin Stanton- Secretary of war

Abraham Lincoln- President, commander in chief

The story is extracted from the book- "The war years volume III", by Carl Sandburg (1939).

Colonel Scott was one of the commanders in Northern Virginia. His wife drowned in steamship collision while returning home after nursing her sick husband.

Scott appealed to leave to attend her funeral but his request was rejected as the battle was nearing.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton also rejected his request. Scott went to commander in chief as a last visitor on Saturday. Lincoln listened to the story and exploded. "Am I to have no rest? ... Why don't you go to the war office? "

Scott told Lincoln about Stanton's refusal. Lincoln replied, "Then you ought not to go. Mr. Stanton knows the responsibilities. You ought to remember that I have other duties to attend. Why do you come here appeal my humanity? Don't you know that we are in the middle of the war?"

Colonel Scott returned to his barrack pondering about Lincoln's words.

Early in the next morning, Scott opened the door the standing the President. He took Scott hands and broke out. He said, 'My dear Colonel I was rude last night' and asked for forgiveness.

He said that he had arranged with Stanton for Scott to go for his wife's funeral. The commander in chief took the Colonel in his own carriage to the steam and wished him Godspeed.

### **Miriama's Letter**

-Dhunketa

It is a story about a father waiting for his daughter's letter.

Important characters:

Coachman Ali – Father – Hunter

Miriam – Daughter

Clerk- Lakshmi Das

Miriam married a soldier and went to Punjab. The poor father has no news of his daughter for the past five years and is waiting for her letter.

He goes to the post office early in the morning every day. One day the post master asked him "Are you a mad?"

Ali's daughter's letter reached after his death.

East India Company opened post box in Bombay 1688.

Pincode- Postal Index Number, 6 digit, 15 Aug 1972

ZIP code- Zone Improvement Plan by United States, 5 digits

Speed post- Aug 1986, One India One rate scheme

INR 25 for all destinations in India

Post master understands the feelings of Ali that his own daughter stays ill in other town and he was waiting for her letter.

Author: Dhumketu (1892-1965) Gowrishankar Govindhan Joshi Gujarathi short story

Miams letter was translated by Mira Naik published by Sahithya Academy in 1959.

Just read

1. Tears of the desert- Paulo Coelho
2. Stroke of Genius
3. A man who had no eyes- Mackinlay Kantor

### **A man who had no eyes**

-Mackinglay Kantor

Mr.Parson was going to attend a meeting and a beggar came to him. He was a blind beggar. He sells the cigarette lighter for one buck. Parson handed him two half dollars and asked about eyesight problem.

The beggar narrated his story as there was a chemical explosion happened 14 years ago and I was one of them. He slightly twisted the story for his sympathy.

The story is true said Parson except that it was other around. I was in the shop and you climber over me. As parson is also blind.

### **Tears of the desert**

-Paulo Coelho

A missionary saw a man lying in the desert. As he was pressing his ears to the desert the missionary walked to him and asked about that. He said that the desert was weeping as it was useless.

The missionary explained him the uses of the desert and asked the man to pray. Next day the man was not there. There was a spring in the place. People built well there. It helps drinker to find his destiny.

Be down- The locals call it The well of the deserts tears.

### **Gia tells her tale**

Gia- Greek

Bhoomi Matha - India

Earth- English

The story is about the earth explaining the nature. It is a huge ball revolving around the Sun.

I was part of the sun million years ago, says the Earth.

In early years I was called land mass- pangea, big water mass- panthalassa.

Due to gravity, it holds everything in its place.

When the man came I was happy that he came to protect and care for me. He worshipped me with respect.

When man became greedy and exploited all the natural resources and the trouble began.

You have turned a deaf ear to the cry of my creatures. Ozone acts like canopy protecting it from uv rays of Sun.

Forests are important for your survival. Act of deforestation has to be reduced.

### **Sunitha Williams**

(just read)

Indian American, First women Astronaut who stayed in space for longest period- 195 days.

- Space shuttle- Discovery
- She ran Boston Marathon for 4 hrs and 24 min.
- Award – Padma Bushan
- Red square- Russia

#### About Kalpana Chawla:

‘She left India as a student but she would see her nation of birth all of it from hundreds of miles above’ – George W Bush, former president USA

#### About Poet:

- Edgar Alber Guest (1881-1959) (Don't Quit)
- British American poet
- 11000 poems
- Poet Laureate of Michigan.

#### Khalil Gibran (1883-1931) Earth

- Born in Lebanon
- ‘The prophet’ his best known work
- ‘Earth’ poem taken from the essay ‘The eye of the prophet’

John Masefield (1878-1967) Laugh & be Merry

- Born 10 June 1878, Ledbury, Herefordshire
- Merchant navy at age 16 in America
- His works- Salt water Ballads, Manchester

Guardian, The everlasting Mercy

- 1930 became poet Laureate
- Died 1967

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882) (Apology)

American essayist, poet, lecturer

'We do certain things which may not be accepted by others. There is no need to apologize for them' – Emerson

- Champion of Individualism
- Jack Prelutsky (Be glad your nose is on your face)
- Born in Brooklyn, New York, 1803
- 50 anthologies
- Sings & plays guitar

Stephen Vincent Benet (The flying wonder)

- Born on July 22, 1898
- Died on March 13 1943
- American Author
- His works - American civil war  
John Brown's body (1928)
- Won – Pulitzer prize – 1929 for John Brown's body

F. Joanna – 1932 (sonnet for my incomparable mother)

- Written civil service test and materials
- Newspaper column, news letter