

CLASS 8TH

SUB ENGLISH

TEXTBOOK

1. GLOBAL WARMING (PROSE)
2. BANGLE SELLER (POEM)
3. PRAYER FOR STRENGTH (POEM)
4. THE BROOK (POEM)
5. RUSTUM AND SOHRAB (SHORT STORY)

Lesson 03 Global Warming

Glossary

Catastrophe:	a disastrous end
Greenhouse gases:	gases which cause the greenhouse effect, especially carbon dioxide
Retreat:	to move away from a place
Permafrost:	an area of land which permanently frozen
Non – existent:	describes something that does not exist or is not present in a particular place
Accumulate:	to collect a large number of things over a long period of time
Devastating:	destroying a place or thing completely or causing great damage
The Black Death:	a form a bubonic plague pandemic in Europe and Asia during the 14 th century which killed 50 million people
Subtropical:	belonging to or relating to parts of the world that are immediately south or north of the tropics
Floodplain:	an area of flat land near a river that is often flooded when the river becomes too full
Wetland:	a large area of land covered with swamp or marsh
Perennial:	lasting or happening through the year
Simulation:	a representation of a problem, situation, etc in mathematical terms, especially using a computer
Demarcation:	a border or a rule that shows how things are divided
Consensus:	a generally accepted opinion or decision among a group of people
Degradation:	the process of wearing down
Recede:	to decrease; become more distant
Icicles:	long pointed sticks of ice that are formed when drops of water freeze
Adversely:	having a negative or harmful effect on something
Obnoxious:	very unpleasant or rude
Biota:	the plant and animal life in a region
Katij:	a migratory bird found in spring
Index(adj):	indicative; classified
Complacent:	extremely self – satisfied
Stakeholders:	a group of people who own a share in something
Robust:	(of a person or animal) strong and healthy, or (of an object or system) strong and unlikely to break or fail
Sustainable:	able to continue over a period of time

Working with the Text

Q1) Why has the Earth's average surface temperature increased?

Ans: One of the major reasons cited for the increase in the Earth's average surface temperature is the increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases produced by human activities such as deforestation and burning of fossil fuels. The increase in the carbon footprint by the developed and the developing countries is one of the major causes of global warming.

Q2) Why is the Himalayan region called the Water Tower of Asia?

Ans: The Himalayan region is called the Water Tower of Asia because it has a glacial coverage of 33000 square kilometers and it provides around 8.6 million cubic meters of water per annum.

Q3) What are the main sources of water in the Kashmir Valley?

Ans: The main sources of drinking water and irrigation in the Kashmir Valley are glaciers.

Q4) Why is water the most precious natural resource?

Ans: All life forms in general and the human life in particular are not possible without water. Water sustains life besides presenting itself as one of the major energy resources in the formation of electricity.

Q5) How has Kashmir been influenced by global warming?

Ans: Due to global warming, the glaciers in Kashmir are receding at an alarming rate. We have lost 18% of the Kolhai glacier, and about 16% of the glaciers in Suru basin. Besides this Kashmir is witnessing reduction in snowfall, occurrence of high velocity wind storms, and drastic changes in precipitation and seasonal changes.

Q6) How is global warming the largest threat to humanity?

Ans: Global warming is catastrophic because it is going to render earth barren. Global warming is going to bring droughts, heatwaves and heavy downpour which will have disastrous consequences on the agricultural yields and consequently lead to species extinction. According to Noam Chomsky, after nuclear bomb environmental degradation is the second largest threat faced by man.

Q7) What do you think is the cause of decrease in snowfall in Kashmir?

Ans: The main cause behind the decrease in snowfall in Kashmir is global warming.

Q8) What has been the impact of global warming on J&K so far?

Ans: Due to global warming, the glaciers in J&K are receding at an alarming rate as compared to other glacial regions in the world. J&K has lost about 18% of the Kolhai glacier and about 16% of glaciers in Sure basin alone in the last forty years.

Q 9) What role do scientists play in J&K to deal with the global warming?

Ans: In Jammu and Kashmir, The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) has selected the Kolhai glacier as one of the index glaciers for long term monitoring. The scientific studies conducted on

the glacier will last for five years after which TERI will recommend measures to bring down the glacier's recession rate.

Q 10) What do we as individuals need to do to deal with the problem of global warming?

Ans: Besides making people aware about the disastrous consequences of global warming, we should try our best to minimize our carbon footprint, that can be done by late minimizing air pollution, encouraging afforestation etc.

L. No. 3 The Bangle Seller

Glossary

loads	collections (of bangles)
rainbow-tinted	having the colours of the rainbow in them
lustrous	bright; shining
meet (adj.)	proper
flushed	shining brightly
tranquil	calm
aglow	shining
limpid	transparent and clear
hue	colour
tinkling	making a light ringing sound
luminous	shining
gold flecked	spotted with gold dots
for her ... midway	for a middle-aged woman
cherished	nursed

Summary

The poem "The Bangle Sellers" is written by Sarojini Naidu. The poem is about bangles and the bangle sellers. The bangle sellers carry the loads of bangles to sell at the fairs. The bangles are delicate bright and colourful circles of light. As a woman journeys through the different stages of her life, the colour, texture and design of her bangles also change accordingly. The bangle seller says that some bangles are for happy daughters and some for happy wives. The narrator draws colourful images from nature to reflect the exact hue and tint of the bangles. The bangle seller says that he has bangles not only for maidens but also for a middle-aged woman who in her fruitful pride worships the gods at her husband's side.

Thinking about the poem

Q.1) Who is the speaker in the poem?

Ans) A bangle seller is the speaker in the poem.

Q.2) How are the bangles described in the first stanza of the poem and who are these bangles for?

Ans) In the first stanza, the bangles are described as shining, delicate and bright. They are described as rainbow-tinted circles of light and as tokens of radiant lives. These bangles are for the happy daughters and happy wives.

Q.3) The poet uses different similes for the bangles. What are these?

Ans) The poet compares the bangles to the mountain mist, to the flower buds, to the fields of sunlit corn, bridal laughter and to the bridal tear.

Q.4) Name the different colours mentioned in the poem. What do they represent?

Ans) Colours of the rainbow, silver and blue, sunlit corn colour, purple and gold flecked grey are the different colours mentioned in the poem. These colours represent the bangles suitable for different age groups of women.

Q.5) The word "some" has been repeated in the poem. What is it?

Ans) The word "some" represents the different types of bangles being sold by the bangle seller.

Q.6) Explain the following lines.

Some are meet for maiden's wrist

Silver and blue as the maintain mist

Ans) In these lines the narrator says that some bangles are suitable for the wrist of unmarried women. Some bangles are of silver and blue colour as the mountain that is under a blanket of mist.

L. No. 4 Prayer for Strength**Glossary**

penury	extreme poverty; (here) hardheartedness, lacking love and compassion
fruitful	bearing abundant fruit; producing results
insolent	disrespectful; rude
might	power
trifles	things of little value or significance
thee	you (old use)
disown	to not own
thy	your (old use)
surrender	to yield; to give up

Summary

This poem "Prayer for Strength" is written by Rabindranath Tagore. The poem is a prayer. The poet prays God to make his heart strong enough to bear joys and sorrows. The poet entreats God to clear the malice in his heart and fill it with love and compassion. He asks God to give him strength never to abandon the poor or kneel before a tyrant. At the end of the poem, the poet prays to God to keep him away from the insignificant things of the world and let him have the strength to submit his will to the Will of God.

Thinking about the poem

Q.1) Why does the poet want God to strike at his heart?

Ans) The poet implores God to strike at his heart to remove the hardheartedness and remake it with love and compassion. He wants to be a loving and caring human beings.

Q.2) What does the poet want the strength for?

Ans) The poet wants strength to bear joys and sorrows. He wants strength to make his love fruitful in service. He needs strength never to disown the poor or bow before a tyrant. Moreover, the poet needs strength to avoid the daily trifles and submit his will to the Will of God

Q.3) How can love be made meaningful in one's life?

Ans) Love is meaningful when it bears fruits of service, service of mankind.

Q.4) What should be our attitude towards the poor?

Ans) Our attitude towards the poor should be very sympathetic. We should never disown or neglect them. We should always help the poor and work for their welfare.

Q.5) What does 'bend my knees' signify?

Ans) The bending of one's knees means to surrender before a powerful person. Here, the poet prays to God to give him strength to resist and not to bend the knees before a tyrant.

Q.6) Why does the poet want to raise his mind high above 'daily trifles'?

Ans) The poet wants to raise his mind high above the daily trifles so that he would not be involved in the issues that fill one's heart with malice and prejudice.

Q.7) Why does the poet ask for strength to surrender his will to God's will?

Ans) The poet wants to surrender his will to the Will of God in order to live a pure and obedient life. As it is not easy to submit one's will, the poet prays for the strength to do so.

L. No. 5 The Brook

Glossary

Haunt:	place visited frequently
Coot and hern:	water birds
Sally:	to rush; to issue forth suddenly
Bicker:	to move quickly with a participating noise
Ridge:	a high edge along a mountain
Thorp:	village
Sharps and trebles:	loud and low sound of music
Eddying bays:	bays full of whirlpools
Fret:	to wear away
Fallow:	unploughed land
Foreland:	tiny cape
Chatter:	to pass with a noise
Wind about:	to move in a curved way
Lusty:	strong
Grayling:	a trout having a broad fin
Gravel:	small stones, often used to make the surface of paths & roads,
Steal:	to move quietly
Hazel:	a small tree that produces nuts, woods or buses
Gloom(verb):	to grow dark
Glance:	to produce small bright flashes of light
Netted(adj):	looking like meshes
Brambly:	full of thorns
Shingly bars:	pebbles & sand hindering the flow
Cresses:	small plants with thin stems & very small leaves

Summary

This poem "The Brook" is written by Alfred Lord Tennyson. In the poem the Brook narrates a tale about journey.

The brook speaks about its emergence from a mountain and the resort of water birds. It sparkles and shines among the fern. Then the brook flows down the hill into a valley with a turbulent flow. Then it flows past hills, ridges, villages, a town & under many bridges.

Then the brook flows through the fields and meanders through the plains. As the brook flows through the plains its pace slows down. It becomes calm & quiet. And then it pours its water into the overflowing river.

Thinking About the poem

Q1) Who is "I" referred to as in the poem?

Ans: "I" is referred to the brook itself.

Q2) Trace the journey of the brook?

Ans: The brook starts its journey on the hill tops frequented by water birds. Then the brook rushes down the hill into the valleys and plains. It passes by a town, many grasslands, many villages and half a hundred bridges. As it flows through the plains its pace slows down. It becomes calm & quiet. And then it joins the brimming river.

Q3) Explain the following lines:

"For men may come and men may go

But I go on for ever."

Ans: In these lines the brook says that men come to this world and leave it very shortly as they are mortals. But the journey of the brook is unending and everlasting.

Q) Can the journey of the brook be compared with the human life?

Ans: Yes, the very journey of the brook can be compared with the life span of a man. Like brook a human being also passes through different stages of life before his death. And the flow of the brook can be compared with this world that doesn't stop while mortals are born & mortals die.

Lesson No. 4

Rustum and Sohrab

Glossary

shield	a large flat metal object held by soldiers to protect them selves
dare	to have enough courage to do something
in the family way	expecting a baby
send word	to send a message
feat	an act showing great skill, strength or courage
warrior	one who fights in a war, a soldier
combat)N_	a fight
savior	a person who saves from danger
armour	a protective covering for the body
longing	having a great desire
fate	the power that is supposed to control all events
unnerve	to become nervous
pierce	to go into or through something
slain	killed
avenge	to punish for wrong doings
opponent	adversary; rival
clash(v)	to fight
Ignorance	lack of knowledge; unawareness

Thinking about the text

Q1) Why was Rustum not able to live with his wife?

Ans) Rustum had to part with his wife because he was called by the king of Persia. The king felt unsafe in the absence of Rustum.

Q2) Why did Tanimah send word to Rustum that their child was a daughter?

Ans) She did so because she feared if Rustum would come to know that he had a son, he would take him away and make him follow his foot steps. Tanimah did not want to lose her son.

Q3) What secret did Sohrab learn from his mother?

Ans) The secret Sohrab learnt from his mother was that he was the son of Rustum, the shield of Persia

Q4) What did Tanimah want Sohrab to do when he met Rustum?

Ans) Tanimah wanted Sohrab to show the precious stone to his father, Rustum so that he could recognize his son.

Q5) Why was Rustom at first not ready to fight Sohrab?

Ans: Rustom did not want to fight Sohrab because he had grown old and had to serve his aged father in the far away village.

Q6) Why did Rustom not tell Sohrab who he was?

Ans: Rustom did not tell Sohrab who he was because Rustom thought that if he did so, Sohrab might withdraw from the fight and make peace with him.

Q7) How was Sohrab wounded?

Ans) Rustom, after fighting for three days with Sohrab, felt that he was going to lose the fight. Then Rustom uttered his war cry "Rustum!" which made Sohrab nervous and he dropped his shield. Rustom, instantly, thrust his sword into Sohrab's body. That is how Sohrab was wounded.

Q8) What were Sohrab's last words?

Ans) Sohrab told his father to take him home and bury him there so that people will say, "Here lies Sohrab, the mighty Rustom's son, whom his father did kill in ignorance"