

Semester - III - Commercial Communication - *Vignettes of Life* (2016-17)

Lesson - One *The Lottery Ticket* (Anton Chekhov)

Vocabulary: roubles - satisfied with - better - expectations - prospect - to bring to surface - hatred - dislike - luxuries - to realize - to disappear - prize - to invest - debt(s) - abroad - on interest - to drop - knee(s) - relatives - beggar - to demand - to swear - selfish (23)

1. Describe the Dmitritch household in your words. Or What is our first impression of the Dmitritch household? (**December 2012**)
2. To what do you attribute Masha's look of hatred and anger? (**Dec 2012**) Or How are Dmitritch and Masha affected by the realization of their not winning the lottery?
3. How does Dmitritch propose to spend the money of the lottery prize? (**December 2013**)
4. Would Dmitritch have paid attention to locating the number of the lottery ticket usually? Or How does Dmitritch react on seeing the number of the series of the lottery ticket? (**Dec 2014**) Or Why doesn't Dmitritch locate the actual number of the ticket? (**Dec 2015**)
5. How do Masha's relatives appear to Dmitritch?

Answers:

1. Ivan Dmitritch was a middle-class man. He earned twelve hundred roubles a year. Dmitritch lived in a house with small and dark rooms. He was satisfied with ordinary life. He had no better expectations. Masha, Dmitritch's wife, once bought a lottery ticket. The prospect of winning the lottery brings to surface their hatred and dislike for each other.
2. Dmitritch began to dream of the lottery prize even before checking the number. He wanted to spend the money on luxuries. He thought that Masha was miserly and growing old. He looked at her with hatred. Masha understood his thoughts. She looked at Dmitritch with hatred. However, when they realized that they had not won the lottery, their hatred and dislike also disappeared.
3. Masha, Ivan Dmitritch's wife, had bought a lottery ticket with a prize of 75,000 roubles. Dmitritch began to dream of the prize even before checking the number in the newspaper. Dmitritch decided to invest 25,000 roubles in real estate and spend 10,000 to pay debts and travel abroad. He would deposit the remaining 40,000 roubles in a bank on interest.
4. Dmitritch had no faith in lottery luck. Normally he would not check the number of lottery ticket.

5. Masha was Ivan Dmitritch's wife.

Lesson - Two *The Jewelry* (Guy de Maupassant)

Vocabulary: Paris - franc(s) - charming - weakness(es) - passion - the theatre - false jewelry - to die of - pneumonia - inconsolable - character - miserable - superintendent - the countryside - suitable - ideal - pure - excellent - winter - chill - genuine - to dine - expensive (23)

1. Describe Lantin in your words.
2. Describe the girl with whom Lantin fell in love. (Dec. 2014)
3. What were the two weaknesses that Lantin did not like in his wife? (Dec '12, Dec '14)
4. What comment did Lantin make when he was irritated by his wife's love for tinsel jewellery? (December 2013)
5. How did Lantin react to his wife's death?
6. Why did Lantin decide to sell his wife's 'false' jewelry? Or What transformation was brought in Lantin's character when he suddenly became rich? (December 2012) Or What made Lantin to think of selling his wife's jewelry? (December 2015)

Answers:

1. Lantin lived in Paris.
2. Lantin met a charming girl at the house of the office superintendent. He fell instantly in love with her. The girl's father had died. She came to Paris from countryside in search of a suitable husband. To Lantin, the girl seemed the very ideal of pure and good woman.
3. Lantin married a charming girl. After six years of marriage, he loved even more. Lantin was a clerk and earned only 3,500 francs a year. But his wife gave him excellent wine and food. He was extremely happy with her. Lantin found only two weaknesses in his wife - passion for the theatre and love of false jewelry.
4. Lantin was a clerk and earned only 3,500 francs a year. He married a charming girl. After six years of marriage, he loved her even more. Lantin was extremely happy with his wife but her love of false jewelry shocked him. He told her that natural beauty was the rarest jewel. He advised her not to use false jewelry because they could not afford the genuine jewelry.
5. One winter night Lantin's wife got a chill and died of pneumonia eight days later. He was inconsolable for some days. In one month his hair turned white. Lantin could not forget her. He kept the room in the same condition as his wife had left it. Every evening Lantin locked himself up in his room.

6. Lantín was inconsolable after his wife's death.

Lesson - Three *Ha'penny* (Alan Paton)

Vocabulary: reformatory - Johannesburg - to commit offence - trivial - responsible - sympathy - naturally - easily - waif - to steal (stealing) - Bloemfontein - (to be) ashamed of - homeless - to pretend - decent - homely - tuberculosis - peacefully (18)

1. What, according to Alan Paton, is the weapon that can control small boys naturally and easily? (December 2014)
2. Describe Ha'penny in your words. Or How did Ha'penny describe his family background? (December 2012)
3. What kind of woman was Mrs. Betty Maarman? Or How did Ha'penny describe his mother? (Dec 2013) Or Who is Mrs. Betty Maarman? (December 2015)
4. How did Ha'penny die? Or Describe the last days of Ha'penny. (Dec 2012) Or Why did Ha'penny suddenly fall ill? (Dec 2013, Dec 2015)

Answers:

1. Alan Paton was the Principal of a reformatory in Johannesburg. There were six hundred black boys under his care. These boys had committed trivial offences. Paton was responsible for reforming them. He had a great sympathy for the boys. Paton thought that love controls small boys naturally and easily.
2. Ha'penny was a waif. He was about twelve years old. He was in the habit of stealing. He was brought from Bloemfontein to the reformatory in Johannesburg. Ha'penny was ashamed of being homeless. He pretended to have a family in Bloemfontein. He said that Mrs. Betty Maarman was his mother. He also talked of his two brothers and two sisters. Such a family lived in Bloemfontein but it was not Ha'penny's family.
3. Ha'penny was a waif.
4. Ha'penny was a waif. He was about twelve years old. He was in the habit of stealing. He was brought from Bloemfontein to the reformatory in Johannesburg. He said that Mrs. Betty Maarman from Bloemfontein was his mother. Ha'penny wrote her letters but never got any reply. He fell suddenly ill. He had tuberculosis. There was little hope for his life. Mrs. Maarman spent a whole day with him. She agreed to take him home. Finally Ha'penny had a "family" and died peacefully.

Lesson - Four **Subha** (Rabindranath Tagore)

Vocabulary: youngest - irony - dumb - weight upon the heart - to feel - to hate - shame - to tremble - endless - expression - goat - kitten - companion - comrade - the riverside - ambition - marriageable age - bridegroom - to impress - bride - to feel relieved - to deceive (22)

1. Describe Subha in your words. Or What is ironical about Subha's name? (Dec 2014)
2. Describe the difference in the attitudes of Subha's parents toward the dumb girl. (December 2013, December 2015)
3. How did Subha express her thoughts?
4. Who were Subha's friends? (December 2012, 2014)
5. Who was Pratap?
6. Why were Subha's parents relieved? Or What was the deception behind Subha's marriage?

Answers:

1. Subha was the youngest daughter of Banikantha of Chandipur.
2. Subha was dumb from birth. No man would marry a dumb girl. Subha was like a silent weight upon the hearts of her parents. However, her father loved Subha more than he loved his other daughters. But her mother hated her. She thought that Subha was a source of shame for the family.
3. Subha was the youngest daughter of Banikantha of Chandipur.
4. Subha was the youngest daughter of Banikantha of Chandipur. She was dumb from birth. Children did not play with her. Two cows were her best friends. Goats and a kitten were her companions. Pratap was the only human comrade of Subha. He came to the riverside for fishing. Subha also spent much of her time there.
5. Pratap was the youngest boy of the Gosains in Chandipur. He was idle. He did not care for study. Pratap's chief ambition in life was to catch fish. He came to the riverside for fishing. Subha also spent much of her time there. A silent companion is best for catching fish. Pratap liked Subha because she was dumb.
6. Subha was dumb from birth.

Lesson - Five *The Selfish Giant* (Oscar Wilde)

Vocabulary: giant - to stay - castle - to allow - winter - spring - branch(es) - corner - to weep - to melt - to knock down (the wall) - feeble - mark(s) - nail(s) - palm(s) - foot (feet) - to symbolize - Jesus Christ - paradise - kindness (20)

1. Where did the Selfish Giant go and what did he tell the children after his return? (December 2013)
2. Why did spring not come to the giant's garden? (December 2013, December 2015) Or What happened after the giant drove out the children from his garden?
3. What was the wonderful sight seen by the giant?
4. What did the giant do when he saw a little boy weeping in the garden? (Dec 2014)
5. How was the giant rewarded for his kindness to the little boy? (December 2012) Or Whom does the little boy symbolize in the story *The Selfish Giant*?

Answers:

1. The giant stayed with his friend for seven years. When he returned to his castle, he saw children playing in his garden. The giant was selfish. He told the children that he would not allow anyone to play in his garden. The children were very afraid of him and ran away.
2. The giant had a large lovely garden.
3. The giant was very selfish. He told the children that he would not allow anyone to play in his garden. But without the children there was always winter in the garden. Spring did not come there. There were no flowers or the birds in the garden. One morning the giant heard a sweet song of a bird. He saw that little children were playing in the branches of trees. Beautiful flowers also came up. Finally spring had come back to the giant's garden.
4. Spring came back to the giant's garden because children had come to play there.
5. One morning the giant saw a little boy in one corner of his garden.

Lesson - Six *The Night the Ghost Got in* (James Thurber)

Vocabulary: a quarter past one - the narrator - to hear (heard) - footstep(s) - to conclude - ghost - burglar(s) - misunderstanding - confusion - glass pane - deserter(s) - General Meade - attic - a half-waking state - to grab - gun - to trace (something) - closet(s) - disturbance - crazy (20)

1. What happened in the dining-room at about a quarter past one o'clock in the morning? (December 2014)
2. What, according to the narrator's mother, was the cause of the noises in their house at night? (December 2013)
3. What did the narrator's mother and grandfather do when the ghost got in? (Dec. 2012)
Or Who informed the police about the 'burglary' in the narrator's house? (December 2015)
4. What did the policemen do to trace the noises? (December 2015)
5. Who did the grandfather think that the police were? (December 2013)

Answers:

1. It was about a quarter past one in the morning.
2. It was about quarter past one in the morning. The narrator heard footsteps around the dining-table. He thought his brother or father or burglar might have come. Finally the narrator concluded that there was a ghost in the house. His mother also heard the footsteps and thought that burglars had come.
3. It was about a quarter past one in the morning.
4. The policemen found all the doors and windows of the narrator's house locked from inside. They broke open the front door to enter the house. The policemen tried to trace the noises by pulling open all the closets, drawers, suitcases, and boxes in the house. There were no burglars in the house. Some confusion caused the disturbance. The policemen concluded that the narrator's family was crazy.
5. The grandfather was dreaming of the deserters from General Meade's army. The policemen reached his attic exactly at that time. In a half-waking state, the grandfather cursed the deserters. He grabbed the gun of a policeman. He fired a shot and went back to his bed.

Short notes

1. *The Lottery Ticket* - a study of human psychology (Dec. 2013) Or Ivan Dmitritch (Dec. 2015)

The Lottery Ticket is an interesting story about the selfishness in relationships. Ivan Dmitritch was a middle-class man. He earned twelve hundred roubles a year. Dmitritch lived in a house with small, dark rooms. He was satisfied with ordinary life. He had no better expectations.

Masha, Dmitritch's wife, once bought a lottery ticket. Dmitritch began to dream of the lottery prize even before checking the number. He decided to invest 25,000 roubles in real estate and spend 10,000 in paying debts and travelling abroad. He would deposit the remaining 40,000 roubles in a bank on interest.

Dmitritch thought that Masha was miserly and growing old. He thought that Masha's relatives were selfish. He looked at her with hatred. Masha understood his thoughts. She looked at Dmitritch with hatred. However, when they realized that they had not won the lottery, their hatred and dislike also disappeared.

2. Appropriateness of the title (Dec. 2013) or The end of *The Jewelry* (Dec. 2014, Dec. 2015)

The Jewelry is an interesting story. Lantin lived in Paris. He was a clerk and earned 3,500 francs a year. He married a charming girl. After six years of marriage, Lantin loved her even more. He found only two weaknesses in his wife - passion for the theatre and love of false jewelry.

One winter night Lantin's wife got a chill and died of pneumonia eight days later. He was inconsolable for some days. In one month his hair turned white. A few days later, he needed money. He sold his wife's "false" jewelry. In fact, the jewelry was genuine.

Lantin got more than 2,00,000 francs. He became rich. His character changed completely. He resigned from his job. He visited the theatre and dined at expensive restaurants. Lantin married again after six months. But his second wife made his life miserable

3. The Character of Ha'penny or the pathos in the story *Ha'penny* (Dec 2014)

Alan Paton was the Principal of a reformatory in Johannesburg. There were six hundred black boys under his care. These boys had committed trivial offences. Paton was responsible for reforming them. He had a great sympathy for the boys. Paton thought that love controls small boys naturally and easily.

Ha'penny was a waif. He was about twelve years old. He was in the habit of stealing. He was brought from Bloemfontein to the reformatory. Ha'penny was ashamed of being homeless. He pretended to have a family in Bloemfontein. He said that Mrs. Betty Maarman was his mother. Ha'penny wrote her letters but never got any reply.

Mrs. Maarman was a decent homely woman. When Ha'penny was seriously ill with tuberculosis, she agreed to take him home. There was little hope for his life. Mrs. Maarman spent a whole day with him. Finally Ha'penny had a "family" and died peacefully.

4. The Character of Subha (December 2012, December 2013, December 2015)

Subha was the youngest daughter of Banikantha of Chandipur. Her real name was "Subhashini" - one who speaks sweetly. There is an irony in her name because she was dumb from birth. She was like a silent weight upon the hearts of her parents. However, her father loved Subha more than he loved his other daughters. But her mother hated her.

Children did not play with Subha. Two cows were her best friends. Goats and a kitten were her companions. Pratap was the only human comrade of Subha. He came to the riverside for fishing. Subha also spent much of her time there. A silent companion is best for catching fish.

When Subha was of marriageable age, her family took her to Calcutta to find a bridegroom. A man came to inspect Subha. Her tender tears impressed him. The marriage took place and her husband took her away with him. Ten days later everyone knew that the bride was dumb. The parents felt relieved after Subha's marriage. But they had deceived the groom.

5. The Moral of *The Selfish Giant* or the Selfish Giant (Dec. 2012, 2014)

The giant stayed with his friend for seven years. When he returned to his castle, he saw children playing in his garden. The giant was selfish. He told the children that he would not allow anyone to play in his garden. He built a high wall round it. But without the children there was always winter in the giant's garden.

Spring did not come to the garden. There were no flowers or the birds there. Many years passed. One morning the giant saw a little boy in one corner of his garden. The boy could not climb up the tree. He was weeping. The giant put the little boy on the top of the tree.

As years passed, the giant grew old and feeble. The little boy came to play in the garden once again. There were marks of nails on the palms and feet of the little boy. The little boy symbolized Jesus Christ. The giant got a place in Paradise for his kindness to the little boy.

6. The Comedy in the story *The Night the Ghost Got In* (December 2012)

The Night the Ghost Got in is a humorous story. It was about a quarter past one in the morning. The narrator heard footsteps around the dining-table. He thought his brother or father or burglar might have come. Finally the narrator concluded that there was a ghost in the house. The misunderstanding about the footsteps created a comic confusion in the house.

The narrator's mother thought that burglars had come. She threw a shoe at the neighbour's window and broke the glass pane. The neighbours called the police. The policemen found all the doors and windows of the house locked from inside. They broke open the front door to enter the house. The policemen tried to trace the noises by pulling open all the closets, drawers, suitcases, and boxes in the house.

The grandfather was dreaming of the deserters from General Meade's army. The policemen reached his attic exactly at that time. In a half-waking state, the grandfather grabbed the gun of a policeman. He fired a shot and went back to his bed. The narrator told a reporter that ghosts might have come to the house. The police and the reporter thought that the family was crazy.