

Semester - V - Commercial Communication - Gems of Wisdom (2016-17)

Lesson - One *The Lady, or the Tiger?* (Frank Stockton)

Vocabulary: savage - fanciful - arena - to administer justice - chance - fate - accused (n) - identical - hid (to hide) - commoner - trial - anyhow - dilemma - secret - slightly - signal (16)

1. **What kind of man was the king? Or Why was the king's arena built?** (Nov. 2014) Or Describe the king in the story *The Lady, or the Tiger?* (Dec. 2015) Or What rule did the king make for the accused? Or What was the king's method of administering justice?
2. What kind of nature did the princess have? Whom did she love? (Nov. 2013) Or What did the king decide to do when he learned about the princess's love affair? (Nov. 2014, Dec. 2015) Or **What was the princess's dilemma about saving the life of her lover?**
3. **What is the end of the story - *The Lady, or the Tiger?***

Lesson - Two *The Gift of the Magi* (O. Henry)

Vocabulary: proud possession - knee-long - in spite of - cent - Christmas Eve - idiot - the Magi - useless - to prove - to call - art (11)

1. Why did Della want to save money? How did she save money? (Nov. 2013) Or What did Della decide to do to buy a Christmas gift for Jim? (Nov. 2014) Or **Why was Della unhappy on Christmas Eve?** (Dec. 2015)
2. What were Jim and Della's proud possessions?

Answer - Jim earned 20 dollars a week. He and Della lived in a small flat at 8 dollars a week. The furniture was sparse and shabby. Jim and Della had few material possessions. But they had two proud possessions - Jim's gold watch and Della's knee-long hair.

3. What did Jim buy for Della as a Christmas gift?

4. Who were the Magi? Or Why are Jim and Della called the Magi?

Lesson - Three *The Sniper* (Liam O'Flaherty)

Vocabulary: to take position - roof-top - to look - thoughtful - fanatic - republic - dangerous - disclose - adventure - to point towards - bullet - ruse - muzzle - parapet - visible - remorse - lust - risk - to realize - senselessness (20)

1. Describe the sniper.

2. What happened when the sniper lit a cigarette? Or Why did the sniper take the risk of smoking a cigarette?

Answer - It was the dark of the night. A republican sniper had taken his position on a roof-top in Dublin. It was dangerous to smoke at the time because the flash of light would disclose his presence to the enemy. The sniper did not fear death. With a sense of adventure, he took the risk of smoking in the dark. Immediately the enemy sniper shot at him.

3. What happened immediately after the armoured car came into the street? Or What happened to the man in the armoured car and the old woman in the street?

Answer - It was the dark of the night. A republican sniper had taken his position on a roof-top in Dublin. He saw an armoured car advancing up the street. An old woman came from a side street and talked to a man in the armoured car. She pointed toward his roof-top. The turret of the car opened and the man's head and shoulders appeared outside it. The republican sniper shot at the man and the woman and killed them both.

4. Describe the sniper's ruse to kill the enemy sniper. (Nov. 2013, Nov. 2014)

Answer - When the enemy sniper's bullet stuck in the right forearm of the republican sniper, he thought of a ruse to kill his adversary. He put his cap on the muzzle of his rifle and pushed it slowly over the parapet. The enemy shot at him. The sniper pretended to be dead. He sank to the roof like a dead man. The enemy sniper was now standing on the opposite roof-top. His figure was visible in the dim light. The republican sniper took out his revolver and shot the enemy dead.

5. What did the sniper do to satisfy his curiosity at the end of the story? (Nov. 2013) Or
What was the effect of the enemy's death on the sniper? (Dec. 2015) Or Why did the sniper experience the futility of war?

Lesson - Four **Black Boy** (Richard Wright)

Vocabulary: Memphis - alone - a loaf of bread - a pot of tea - to take responsibility - shopping - proud - grown-up - grocery shop - to knock down - to teach a lesson - to stand up for oneself - to hit on the head - frightened - afraid - to have a right to (something) (16)

1. What picture does Richard Wright present of his childhood?

2. What did the black boy's mother tell him one evening and what was its effect?

Answer - Richard Wright was a black boy. He lived in a flat with his mother and brother. His father had left them. One evening his mother told Richard that he would have to do the shopping for food. The mother took him to the corner shop to show him the way. Richard was proud to get this responsibility and felt like a grown up.

3. What happened when the black boy went to the grocery store for the first time? (Nov. 14) Or Why did the mother not allow her son into the house that night? What lesson was she trying to teach him? (Dec. 2015)

4. How did the black boy win his right to the streets of Memphis? (Nov. 2013)

Answer - Richard Wright was a black boy. One afternoon he went to the grocery shop. A gang of white boys knocked him down and took away his money. His mother sent Richard to the shop again. But he saw the white boys and ran back home. The mother did not allow Richard into the house. One more time the white boys knocked him down and took away his money. This time his mother gave Richard a stick. He hit them on the head. The white boys were frightened and ran away to their homes. That night Richard felt that he had won right to the streets of Memphis.

Lesson - Five *An Astrologer's Day* (R K Narayan)

Vocabulary: originally - to master - guesswork - park - equipment - clients - to apply on forehead - sacred ash - vermilion - saffron turban - tamarind tree - mankind - troubles - ties of relationship - to get ready to go home - a stranger - to look for - enemy - to make a pact - to threaten - to bluff - to recognize - to intend - to gamble - quarrel (noun) - to stab - to settle - distant - to feel relieved - guilty (30)

1. **Describe the appearance of the astrologer.** Or What personal effects did the astrologer use to attract people towards him? Or What are the professional equipment of the astrologer?
2. How had the astrologer mastered his art? (Nov. 2014) Or When did the astrologer generally start his day's business? (Dec. 2015)

Answer - The astrologer sat under a tree in the Town Hall Park. He knew nothing about the stars but mastered his art with practice and guesswork. He understood that mankind's important troubles were about money, marriage, and ties of relationship. The astrologer opened his mouth only after his customers had spoken for at least ten minutes and said only what pleased his customers.

3. Describe the man who came to the astrologer as he was getting ready to go home. Or What was the pact between the astrologer and the aggressive stranger?

Answer - One evening the astrologer was getting ready to go home when a stranger came to him. The man was aggressive. He was looking for an old enemy. When the stranger lit a cheroot, the astrologer recognized him. In fact, the astrologer was the enemy that the stranger was looking for. The stranger agreed to pay a rupee if the astrologer gave correct answers. He threatened to take away the day's income if the astrologer bluffed.

4. Why did the astrologer run away from his village? (Nov. 2013) Or **Why did the astrologer feel relieved at the end of the story?**

Short Notes:(*Gems of Wisdom*)

The fate of the lover (Nov. 2014) or The end of the story *The Lady or the Tiger?*

The Lady, or the Tiger is an interesting story by Frank Stockton. The king was savage and fanciful. He built a vast arena to administer justice. Only chance decided the fate of the accused. There were two identical doors in the arena. One door hid a hungry tiger and the other a beautiful lady. The accused had to open one of these doors. The tiger would kill the accused or the accused would marry the lady.

The princess was as fanciful as her father, the king. She fell in love with a commoner. The king sent the young lover to prison immediately. The lover had to open one of the two doors at the trial. The princess would anyhow lose her lover. Her dilemma was whether to lose the lover to a lady or to a tiger.

On the day of the trial, the princess knew the secret of the doors and raised her right hand slightly. It was a signal for the lover to open the right-hand side door. At the end of *The Lady or the Tiger?*, we do not know whether the lover married the lady or the tiger killed him. The question is important for the princess and we should not decide for her.

The title - *The Gift of the Magi* (Nov. 2013) or *The end of the story* (Nov. 2014) or *The love between Della and Jim* (Dec. 2015)

Jim and Della were husband and wife. They were young and poor. Jim earned 20 dollars a week. He paid 8 dollars a week for their small flat. The furniture was sparse and shabby. Jim and Della had no property. But they had two proud possessions - Jim's gold watch and Della's knee-long hair.

Christmas was coming. In spite of her best efforts, Della could save only one dollar and eighty-seven cents to buy a Christmas gift for Jim. Therefore she was unhappy on Christmas Eve. Della sold her hair for twenty dollars. She paid 21 dollars to buy a platinum chain for Jim's gold watch. On the other hand, Jim sold his watch to buy expensive combs for Della's hair.

The Magi were the wise people from the East. They brought gifts for the baby Christ. The Magi invented the art of giving Christmas gifts. Jim and Della's Christmas gifts were useless but proved that their love was true. The author calls them the Magi because they know the art of giving Christmas gifts.

The Republican sniper (Nov. 2013) or *The end of the story* *The Sniper* or The message of *The Sniper* - the senselessness of war (Dec. 2015)

The Sniper is a story about the violent fight between the Republicans and the Free-Staters in the Irish civil war. It was the dark of the night in Dublin. A republican sniper had taken his position on a roof-top. He looked like a student. His eyes were deep and thoughtful. He was a fanatic republican. He did not fear death. The sniper would die for the Irish Republic.

The enemy sniper was hiding on the opposite roof-top. His bullet stuck in the right arm of the republican sniper. He thought of a ruse to kill the enemy. He put his cap on the muzzle of his rifle and pushed it slowly over the parapet. The enemy shot at him. The sniper sank to the roof like a dead man. The enemy was visible in the dim light. The republican sniper shot him dead with his revolver.

The Republican sniper saw the dead body falling from the roof-top. He felt remorse. The lust for battle died in him. With a risk to his life, the sniper crossed the street. He turned over the dead body and saw that his enemy was his brother. The sniper realized the senselessness of war.

The mother's lesson to the Black Boy or The character of the Black Boy (Nov. 2013)

Black Boy is a story of Richard Wright's childhood in Memphis. He was a Black American. Life was difficult for black people in the USA in those days. Richard's father had left the family. He lived with his mother and his brother. His mother worked as a cook. She told her sons to take responsibility for themselves as soon as possible.

One evening his mother told Richard that he would have to do the shopping for food. He was proud to get this responsibility and felt like a grown up. The mother showed him the way to the grocery shop. The next afternoon Richard went to the shop. A gang of white boys knocked him down and took away his money. The next day the mother sent him again to the shop. But Richard saw the white boys and ran back home.

But the mother did not allow Richard into the house without the grocery. She wanted to teach him a lesson that a black boy must stand up for himself. She gave Richard a stick for his defence. He hit the white boys on the head. They were frightened and ran away. Now Richard was not afraid of the white boys. That night he felt that he had won right to the streets of Memphis.

The theme of An Astrologer's Day (Nov. 2014) or The character of the astrologer (Dec. 2015)

The astrologer was originally a farmer. He never intended to become an astrologer. He knew nothing about the stars. The astrologer mastered his art with practice and guesswork. He understood that mankind's important troubles were about money, marriage, and ties of relationship. Every afternoon he came to the Town Hall park with his professional equipment. The astrologer's appearance attracted the clients. He applied sacred ash and vermilion on his forehead. He wore a saffron turban. He opened his mouth only after his customers had spoken for at least ten minutes.

One evening the astrologer was getting ready to go home when a stranger came to him. The man was looking for an old enemy. The stranger made a pact with the astrologer. He would give a rupee if the astrologer gave correct answers. But he threatened to take away the day's income if he bluffed. When the stranger lit a cheroot, the astrologer recognized him. The astrologer told the stranger that his enemy had died four months ago.

In fact, the astrologer was the enemy that the stranger was looking for. When he was a farmer in his village, the astrologer drank and gambled. One day there was a quarrel. The astrologer stabbed a man and threw him into a well. The astrologer thought that the man was dead and left the village. He settled in a distant town and became an astrologer. That night the astrologer felt relieved because he was not guilty of the murder.

Attempt the following:

State whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE:

1. The king was barbaric and savage.
2. The king built a vast amphi-theatre for organizing tournaments.
3. The princess fell in love with a prince.
4. The princess raised her left hand slightly as a signal for her lover. (Lesson - One)
5. Jim bought a Christmas gift for Della by selling his wedding ring. (Nov. 2013)
6. Della worked in a factory.
7. Della saved eighteen dollars and eighty cents to buy a Christmas gift for Jim.
8. Della sold her long hair to buy pizzas for Jim.
9. Jim earned twenty dollars a week.
10. Jim was proud of his gold watch.
11. Jim's gold watch earlier belonged to Della's father. (Dec. 2015) (Lesson - Two)
12. The Republican sniper realizes that the enemy he had killed was his own brother. (Nov. 2013)
13. The republican sniper had taken his position on a mountain top.
14. The sniper's face was that of a toughened terrorist. (Nov. 2014) (Lesson - Three)
15. The black boy lived in New York.
16. The father sent the black boy to the grocery store.
17. The black boy's father protected him. (Lesson - Four)
18. The astrologer was originally a farmer.
19. The astrologer wore a saffron-coloured turban around his head. (Nov. '14, Dec. '15) (Lesson - Five)

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate OPTION:

1. An element of _____ lent interest to the trial of the princess's lover. (Nov. 2013)
2. The accused had to choose from one of the _____ doors in the arena. (Nov. 2014)
3. The princess raised her _____ hand in response to the lover's questioning glance. (Dec. '15) (Le. - One)
4. Jim bought tortoise shell _____ for Della. (Nov. 2013)
5. The "babe in the manger" refers to _____. (Nov. 2013)
6. The Magi were the wise men from the _____.
7. Della got _____ dollars for selling the most prized possession - her hair. (Nov. 2014) (Dec. 2015)
8. O. Henry calls Della and Jim '_____'. (Nov. 2014) (Lesson - Two)
9. The Republican sniper was hit on _____ forearm. (Nov. 2013)
10. When the sniper turned dead man, he looked into the face of his _____. (Nov. 2014)
11. In *The Sniper*, the Republicans and the _____ Staters were waging a civil war.
12. The sniper belonged to the _____ side in the civil war. (Dec. 2015) (Lesson - Three)
13. On his third visit to the grocery store the mother gave the black boy a _____. (Nov. 2013)
14. The black boy was threatened by the gang of _____ boys on his way to the store. (Nov. 14)
15. The black boy learnt to stand up and _____ for himself.
16. The _____ Boy's mother gave him stick on his third visit of the store. (Dec. '15) (Le.- Four)
17. In *An Astrologer's Day*, the name of the passer-by was _____. (Nov. 2013)
18. The astrologer sat under a _____ tree in the town hall park.
19. When the stranger lit a _____, the astrologer recognized his face.
20. The stranger promised to give the astrologer a _____ if he gave a satisfactory answer.
21. The astrologer saw money, marriage and _____ relations as the most important troubles for mankind. (Nov. 14)
22. The astrologer applied sacred ash and _____ on his forehead.
23. Roasted _____ are given fancy names by the vendor in *An Astrologer's Day*. (Dec. '15) (Le. - Five)