

The Last Lesson

The Last Lesson is an interesting chapter by Alphonse Daudet. The chapter was written during war days. In Purssua Franco war, Germany defeated France. Two French districts Alsace and Lorraine fall into German hands. The narrator of this chapter is a school boy, Franz. He was late for school. He did not know anything about participles. He feared that his teacher Mr. Hamel would rebuke him. He thought to stay out of school, but he moved to school. An order came from Berlin. It was written on bulletin-board at the town hall. It declared that French will not be taught in Alsace and Lorraine. The order arose the feelings of patriotism in the people of these two districts. They feel deep love for French language. They rushed to school to learn French. They realized the importance of French language. They were sad to think that French will not be taught anymore in these districts. In the school, Mr. Hamel was teaching the last lesson of French language. He told that French is the most beautiful language of the world. It is clear and logical. The students and old men of the village show deep interest in French language. Franz hates German language. He thinks that German cannot be imposed on birds. The people will keep on loving French language.

LOST SPRING

Lost Spring is a touching chapter by Aneese Jung. In this chapter, the writer describes the miserable condition of slum children. The chapter is about the poverty of Delhi and Ferozabad. In these areas, people lead a life of suffering. Saheb is a ragpicker. He always looks for gold in garbage. Saheb does not wear shoes like other ragpickers. People think that it is tradition. The writer claims that it is poverty. Saheb starts working at tea stall. He gets good meal and 800 rupees. But he is not satisfied at this job. He is a servant and not a master. The writer takes us to Ferozabad. The city is famous for glass bangles. The workers sit near furnaces and make bangles. There is no light and air. The rich, middlemen and police keep them poor. Mukesh is a member of bangle-makers family. He doesn't like bangle making. He wants to drive a car and become a mechanic. He is ready to do anything for this. The writer hopes that he will surely get success in life.

DEEP WATER

Deep water is an interesting chapter written by William Douglas. In the chapter, the writer tells us about his own fear of water. He also explains how he overcame the fear. In his childhood, he feared to go into deep water. One day he was all alone at Y.M.C.A swimming pool. A young boy came there and he threw the writer into the pool. He was going down. He made a plan to make a big jump on touching the bottom. But he failed twice and became senseless. The fear of water stayed in his heart for many days. He did not lose courage. He got a guide to learn swimming. The guide taught him how to swim properly. After a struggle of six months, he became a good swimmer. He overcame his fear of water. He got a deeper meaning of his experience. He says that there is peace in death. Roosevelt says, all we have to fear is the fear itself. If we have strong will power, we can overcome any fear.

The Rattrap

The Rattrap is a lesson giving chapter by Selma Lagerlof. The story conveys a message that we should be honest in life. The whole chapter moves around a peddler. He sells small rattraps wandering from village to village. The life of this peddler was boring. Once he got an idea that the world is like a big rattrap. The land, the wealth and family are like baits to tempt the persons. One day, the peddler wanted shelter for night. He knocked at the door of an old crafter. The old man was alone. He wanted some company to talk, so he allowed the peddler. He showed the paddler 30 kronors. Next morning, the paddler stole away the 30 kronors. He thought himself very clever to cheat the old crafter. Very soon the peddler realized that he was trapped. The peddler stayed at an ironmill for the night. The owner of the mill thought him as his old friend in army. His daughter Edla Willmanson took him to house for Charismas. Next day the ironmaster realized his mistake. He was not a captain. Ironmaster's daughter requested her father for his stay at home. She treated and respected the peddler as a real captain. Her kindness changed the heart of the peddler. He returned the thirty Kronors for the old crafter. He came out of the house as well as the rattrap.

INDIGO

Indigo is a patriotic chapter by Luis Fisher. In this chapter, the writer throws light on the Champaran movement of sharecroppers. It also describes the role of Mahatma Gandhi in Champaran movement. It was a turning point in the life of Gandhi as well as freedom of India. In 1916 Gandhi was attending the meeting of Congress in Lucknow. A peasant Raj Kumar Shukla came to Gandhi. He was a sharecropper from Champaran. He requested Gandhi to visit Champaran to know the problems of indigo sharecroppers. Mahatma Gandhi and Raj Kumar Shukla went to Patna to meet Babu Rajender Parshad. At that time Rajender Parshad was not at home. The servants did not know Gandhi. They thought him a peasant like Shukla. Even Gandhi was not allowed to sit in the house and drink water. Gandhi reached Champaran to solve the problems of sharecroppers. The lawyers

would get high fees from the peasants. Gandhi rebuked the lawyers. They decided to fight their cases without any fees. Gandhi started protesting the British government. The peasants took active part in the movement. They had no fear of landlords and government. At last government agreed to refund the money. Gandhi demanded 50% but agreed at 25%. It was the defeat and insult of the landlords. The victory of Champaran movement paved the way for India's freedom.

POETS AND PANCAKES

Poets and Pancakes is an interesting chapter by Ashoka Mitran. The whole chapter describes the activities of Gemini Studio. It was established by S.S. Vasan in Chennai in 1940. More than 95% shooting of Tamil films took place in Gemini Studio. The studio had a make-up department in the upstairs. Earlier it was the stable of lord Clive. The makeup department had persons of all states showing national unity. The head of department would make up the hero. The make-up of crowd was made by the office boy. The writer was working in story department. His duty was to cut pictures from newspapers and store them in a file. Everyone thought that the writer was doing a useless work sitting in a cubic room. The office boy would come to him and made long lectures. The writer always prayed for the crowd shooting. Gemini studio was a favourite place for all the visitors. Once a poet-editor came to Gemini studio from England. No one had any idea about that English man. He addressed the persons of Gemini studio in English. Everyone was in confusion as they could not understand the lecturer. His visit remained a mystery. The narrator was a good writer also. After leaving Gemini studio he read about a story contest. It was to be organized by the Encounter. He went to library and found that Stephen. Spender was the editor of the Encounter. He was the poet that had visited the Gemini studio.

The Interview

The Interview is a lesson giving chapter by Christopher Silvester. The whole chapter describes different views about interview. Some prominent persons criticize interview. While some thinkers opine that interview is the best method of communication. The writer says that interview had been started some 130 years ago. It has become very common today. Everyone has read or heard about interview. These persons think that interview is the source of knowledge and the basis of truth. Some writers think that interview is an interfere in their personal life. In ancient culture, a photo was considered the theft of soul. Some critics view that interview is a thumb pressure on their windpipe. They did not like to be interviewed. In the second part, there is an interview of Umberto Eco by Mukand. Umberto Eco was a professor, writer and a journalist. At the age of fifty, he wrote his first novel, *The Name of the Rose*. He was primarily a professor, but wrote novel on Sundays. In the interview, Eco told that he works in spaces. The language of the novel was complex but his style was unique. More than 15 million copies of novel were sold and he became a famous novelist. Although he has written more than 40 books but he is popular for his novel, *The Name of the Rose*.

Going Places

Going Places is an interesting chapter by Barton. In this chapter, the writer highlights the dreams of school going girls. The chapter tells us about the views of two girls Sophie and Janise. They belong to poor families. Sophie was an over ambitious girl. She wanted to start a boutique after her schooling. She also desired to become a fashion designer or an actress. Jansie was a simple girl. She knew that they will have to labour in a biscuit factory. Sophie was a fan of Irish footballer, Danney Cassey. She imagined about her meeting with Danney Cassey. She had no pen or paper. She could not get an autograph. She would afraid of her father. He was a strict person. Sophie feared that her father would rebuke her for such dreams. Sophie loved her brother Geoff. She wished to wander with her brother on his bike. She shared with him the meeting with Danney Cassey. She hoped that he would believe her and will not disclose the secret to anyone. Sophie told him that she would again meet Danney Cassey next week. She also imagined the place she was going with Danney Cassey. In real she did never meet with him. It was her dream to have a meeting like other school going girls.

MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX

My Mother at Sixty Six is an emotional poem by Kamala Dass. It is based on her personal life. In this poem, the poet presents the picture of her old mother. She was of 66 years old. It was a Friday morning. The poet was going to Cochin airport with her old mother. Her face was pale and looked like a dead body. The poet was sad to think that her mother will not live long. She compares mother with the winter moon. The poet becomes sad to see her old mother. She starts looking out of car. The trees are running fast. The children are playing out of homes. They are active and full of energy, while mother is passive and sad. The poet reaches airport. At the time of departure, the poet looks at her mother again. She smiles and says, "See you again, Amma" The poet

wishes to meet her again soon. She hopes that her mother will live long.

AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum is a touching poem by Stephen Spender. In this poem, the poet tells us about the miserable condition of slum school children. The poet says that the children in slum school are poor and weak. Their faces are pale and faded. They have no happiness in their life. The poet compares them to the sour cream color of the walls. There are various beautiful pictures in the classroom. It has picture of big cities, big buildings and great poet Shakespeare. They have to live in the dirty condition. Poet says that all these pictures are useless for these children. Stephen Spender wants social justice. He says that no one is ready to improve the condition of slum school children. The inspector, the officer and the Governor visit the school. They promise to improve the condition but they do nothing. Poet wants to improve the condition of slum school children.

KEEPING QUIET

Keeping Quiet is a lesson giving poem by Pablo Naruda. In this poem, the poet tells us about the importance of silence. It is not like death. It is a time of introspection in life. The poet wants to count twelve. He wishes that all activities should be stopped. Even the noise of machines and engines should stop. This will be an exotic moment. The salt gathering man will look at his wounded hands. The fisherman will not harm the fish. The soldiers will wear simple clothes. They will sit under the shadow and will not fight. The poet says that we should not be in hustle. It brings sadness in life. We can remove sadness with the help of silence. We should spare some time so that we could know ourselves. Silence can not be compared with death. The poet proves this with the example of earth. The earth looks dead in winter but nothing is dead, when spring comes every thing becomes alive.

A THING OF BEAUTY

A Thing of Beauty is a beautiful poem by John Keats. In this poem, the poet conveys the message that a thing of beauty is a joy forever. Its beauty keeps on increasing day after day. It will never die with the passage of time. Poet says that our life is full of sadness and frets. We always suffer from sadness and fear of death. All these things make our life full of problems and worries. A thing of Beauty removes sadness from our life. Poet says that every object of nature is beautiful. The sun, the moon, the rivers, the trees, the flowers etc are beautiful objects of nature. They bring coolness and calmness in our life. These beautiful things are a permanent source of joy. The poet talks about the great persons. They got great achievements. Their death was mighty and memorable. The stories of the great men are beautiful. According to Keats, nature is the permanent source of joy and pleasure. It is a fountain of nectar. It showers nectar from the heaven on our hearts. This nectar removes the sadness and darkness from our life.

A Roadside stand

A Roadside Stand is a lesson giving poem by Robert Frost. In this poem, the poet describes the miserable condition of the people living out of city. They have set up a roadside stand to earn money. They sell wild berries on the stand. The poet says that no one stops at the roadside stand. The motor cars pass at a very fast speed. They do not ask even the rates of the goods. If anyone stops there, he spoils the lawn or asks for gas or petrol. They also complain that the people have spoiled the beauty of place with artless things. Frost thinks that the city people are greedy and selfish. They do not buy anything from the roadside stand. They have purchased all the lands. The rural people have been pushed near the stores. The greedy city people have made them lazy. The poet expresses his sympathy for the roadside people. He will feel a great relief if the pains of rural people are removed at one stroke. The poet hopes for their improvement. No one is ready to help the rural people who have set up a roadside stand.

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers is a lesson giving poem by Andrein Rich. In this poem, the poet describes, the miserable life of an old lady aunt Jennifer. She paints tigers with wool. The tigers are the brave citizens of the green forest. They move in the panel with grace. They don't afraid of men sitting under the trees. The poet says that aunt Jennifer was leading a difficult life. She would make tigers with needle and wool. She was very old and weak. The ivory needle was hard to cross the cloth. Her fingers were trembling. Aunt Jennifer was leading a painful life. She was wearing a wedding band on the wrist. She feels the weight of the wedding band. She was living all alone. The wedding band is the symbols of the miseries of married life. The poet has deep sympathy

with aunt Jennifer. Her life is different from the tigers. After some time, aunt Jennifer will die. Her hands will become cold and still. But the tigers painted by her will keep on prancing in the panel.

THE THIRD LEVEL

The Third Level is a chapter full of imagination. In this chapter, Jack Finney describes the art of escapism. The story is narrated by its central character, Charley. The whole chapter is based on his imaginations. *Charley lives in New York city. There are two railway stations. Once Charley comes across the third railway level. The third level refers to the railway station.* The third level is the imagination of Charley. He describes the 19th century picture at third level. The doors are narrow and rooms are very small. The people wear costumes of old time. Even the currency is of different type. *Charley is escapist and can't face the harsh realities of life. He takes interest in stamp collecting. He remains in present and past. In his imagination, he wanted to visit Galesberg.* The writer says that life is full of worries, wars and fears. We should face the problems of life boldly, but Charley lives in imagination. He receives a letter from Sam. In fact Sam is not a real character. It is written and signed by Charley himself.

THE TIGER KING

The Tiger King is an interesting chapter by Kalki. The whole chapter moves around the king of Partibandhpuram. The birth of the king was full of wonders. The astrologers declared that he would be killed by the tiger. The king decided to kill tigers. So, he was called the tiger king. The astrologer declared that 100th tiger would kill the king. If the king was able to kill 100 tigers, he would be immortal. The king declared to kill 100 tigers. He did not allow anyone to kill tiger in his state, partibandhpuram. *The king killed seventy tigers. Now his state had no more tigers. The king decided to marry in a state full of tigers. Whenever he visited his in laws, he would kill tigers. The king was able to kill 99 tigers. The king declared that he would not return home without killing 100' tiger.* At last the Dewan found an old and sick tiger. The king fired at the tiger & was happy to kill 100th tiger. In real, the king could not kill the 100th tiger. *One day he was playing with the wooden toy tiger of his son. He was injured by the tiger. The doctors treated him but in vain. Thus the 100th tiger caused the death of tiger king.*

JOURNEY TO THE END OF EARTH

Journey to End of the Earth is an interesting chapter by Teshani Doshi. In this chapter, the writer tells us about the climate of Antarkartica. It is based on personal experiences. The writer spent two weeks at Antarktica with the students of high school. *The whole chapter is about the expedition "Student on Ice". This program was started by Geoffe Green of Canada. In this program, the students are taken to Antarctica. Geoff Green thinks that young students have more energy, more time and will power.* The writer says that the climate of Antarctica is cold. It is the coldest and driest place in the world. Millions years ago, it was attached to India and other countries. Its climate was hot. Now it has become cold. *The ecology of Antarctica is very simple. It has no variety of animal and vegetation. It has only single cell plants. If we want to study the present and past of earth, we can visit Antarctica.* The writer warns us about the dangers of global warming. We have polluted the environment of earth. It is very harmful for ozone layer. This pollution has its bad impact on Antarctica also. The writer conveys that the small changes can make big difference.

THE ENEMY

The Enemy is a lesson giving chapter by S Buck. The story was written when Japan was in war with America. The writer conveys the message that the duty of a doctor is to treat the patients with kindness. The whole story moves around a person, Dr. Sdao. He was a famous surgeon of Japan. He was living in the bordering area with his wife Hana. His duty was to treat the injured soldiers of Japan. He was very dutiful and kind doctor. *One evening, he saw an injured soldier lying near the river. He was an American soldier. He belonged to enemy country so he was called enemy. The soldier was lying senseless. Dr Sado took the American soldier to his house.* It was a crime to help and shelter the enemy soldier. Dr Sdao decided to operate the soldier. Everyone refused to help doctor in the treatment. His wife Hana helped him and doctor made an operation. *The news of his help reached to general. Dr Sdao could be arrested for helping the enemy soldier. The general was also a patient. He wanted the help of Dr Sdao so he was forgiven.* Dr Sdao treated the enemy soldier with great care. It took few days to recover him. Dr Sdao wanted to save his life. He arranged a boat for American soldier. He also kept clothes and meal in the boat so that the enemy soldier could reach home safe.

SHOULD WIZARD HIT MOMMY

Should Wizard Hit Mammy is an interesting chapter by John Updike. In this chapter, the writer makes a difference in the views of children and elders. The writer proves this with the example of a little girl, Jo and her father Jack. Jo is a girl of four years old. Every evening, her father Jack tells her a story. The stories are not real but imaginative. Jo doesn't sleep without listening a story. She asks many questions after the story. *In the present story, there is a small creature Roger Shkunk. He smells very bad. Other creatures don't play with him.*

Even they avoid him. Roger is fed up with his bad smell. Roger comes to know about a wizard. He goes to wizard to solve his problem. Wizard removes his bad smell and makes him smell like roses. Roger is very happy as other creatures play with him. Roger's mommy does not like this change. She goes to wizard and hits him on the head. She compels wizard to make him smell bad again. Jo does not like this ending. She thinks that wizard should hit mommy and Roger should smell like roses.

On the Face of It

On the Face of It is an interesting play by Susan Hills. In this chapter, the writer conveys the idea that any kind of inferiority complex is harmful for life. The chapter proves this with the story of two persons, Derry and Mr. Lamb. *Derry is a young boy. He suffers from inferiority complex as he has a burnt face. He has no friend. He remains locked in his house. He does not go out of his house for enjoyment. He leads a miserable life due to his burnt face. Mr. Lamb is a middle aged man. He has a tin leg. Children call him lamey Lamb. He has a garden. He moves everywhere. He has many friends. In the evening, he enjoys the company of his friends. He leads a comfortable life. One day Derry enters into the garden of Lamb. He fears of Lamb but Lamb treats him like a friend. Lamb says that inferiority complex is bad for life. He also advises Derry to move in the society to enjoy life. This meeting has good effect on Derry. Now Derry is free from inferiority complex. Derry's mother stops him of going to meet Lamb again. Derry thinks that Lamb has changed his life. He has given new meanings of life. He cannot stop himself of going to meet Lamb. One evening, Derry goes to meet Lamb in his garden. At that time, Lamb was on the ladder. He was plucking apples. He fell down and died. Derry became sad at the death of Mr. Lamb as he has given him a new life.*

Evans Tries An O' Level

Evans Tries an O' Level is an interesting chapter by Colin Dexter. The whole story moves around a prisoner, Evans. He was very clever and expert in escaping from the prison. Earlier he had escaped three times, so he is called '**Evan the break**'. *When the story begins, Evans was in the prison. He desired to appear in German O' level exam. The prison authorities knew that it was a trick to escape from the prison. They wrote to board for exam and the permission was granted. An examiner, Mc Lerry was appointed for exam. Mc Lerry came to the prison but the real Mc Lerry was abducted. Exam was to start at 9:15 but it started at 9:25. An officer Jackson was also in the cell. Evans objected his presence, so Jackson was out. The prisoner authorities made all the security arrangements. They were happy to see that exam was over peacefully. Later they found that Evans was not in the cell. He escaped in the guise of Mc Lerry. The governor ordered to chase Evans. He was found at Golden Lions. The securities arrested Evans and took him to prison. The governor handed over Evans to the police man. In real, the policeman was a friend of Evans in the guise of police. Thus Evans duped the police again.*