

ARULMIGU PALANIANDAVAR ARTS COLLEGE FOR WOMEN,

PALANI

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

LEARNING RESOURCES

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

Poetry

1. To what form of poetry does “The Owl and the Pussycat” belong to? (Nonsense verse)
2. For whom does Lear write the poem? (Janet Symonds)
3. What is the new word coined by Lear and used in his poems? (Runcible)
4. Where are the Owl and the Pussycat sailing to? (To a land where bong trees grow)
5. What is the time taken by the Owl and the Pussycat to reach the land? (A year and a day)
6. What do the Owl and the Pussycat buy in the wood? (A ring from a pig)
7. What do the Owl and the Pussycat use to eat their food? (A runcible spoon)
8. What do the children of the Owl and the Pussycat eat? (The mice)
9. How does the Pussycat meet his end? (By falling down from the tree)
10. What is the only children’s book. Written by T.S. Eliot? (Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats)
11. What are the other names of Macavity? (The Mystery Cat, the Hidden Paw and Napoleon of Crime)
12. What is the worst about Macavity? (A master criminal)
13. What will Macavity do, after committing the crime? (Absent at the crime spot)
14. How is the appearance of Macavity? (Tall and thin with sunken eyes)
15. How does Macavity move his head? (Like a reptilian)
16. To whom does Macavity confuse by his crimes? (The Scotland Yard)
17. What will Macavity do, after committing the crime? (Solving sums far away from the crime spot)
18. What form of poem is Michael Rosen’s “Chocolate Cake”? (Confessional poem)
19. Whose childhood experience is narrated in “Chocolate Cake”? (Michael Rosen)
20. Who has illustrated “Chocolate Cake”? (Kevin Waldron)
21. What is the central idea of “Chocolate Cake”? (The stealthy act of the boy)
22. What is the comic blunder done by Rosen as a boy? (Consuming chocolate cake at midnight)
23. Who finds out the stealthy act of Rosen? (Rosen’s mother)
24. What is the moral of “Chocolate Cake”? (Be truthful)
25. In which book does the poem “A Girl named Jack” appear? (A Girl Named Jack)
26. What is the name of Woodson’s father? (Jack)
27. What is the wish of Woodson’s father? (To name his daughter after himself)
28. Who objected to the wish of Woodson’s father? (Woodson’s mother)
29. Why does Woodson’s father wish to name her as Jack? (To become strong and being noticed)
30. How does the mother name Woodson finally? (Jacqueline)

Short Stories

31. What is the other title of “The Velveteen Rabbit”? (How Toys Become Real)
32. How did the boy get the Velveteen Rabbit? (As a Christmas present)
33. What caused the boy forget the Velveteen Rabbit? (Playing with mechanical toys)
34. Which was the oldest and the wisest toy in the nursery? (The Skin Horse)
35. What could make toys real? (Love of children)
36. What was the boy suffering from? (The scarlet fever)

37. Why was the Velveteen Rabbit thrown out? (To avoid infection)
38. Who made the Velveteen Rabbit real? (The Nursery Magic Fairy)
39. What are the themes of “The Juniper Tree”? (Child abuse, murder and cannibalism)
40. How did the mother fall ill? (By eating the juniper berries)
41. Where was the mother buried? (Under the juniper berries)
42. Who was the daughter of the step mother? (Marlinchen)
43. What did the step mother prepare out of the dead boy? (Black pudding)
44. Who dropped the millstone on the step mother? (The bird, coming from the juniper tree)
45. What did the bird emerge into? (Marlinchen’s bother)
46. Whom did Rikiki-Tikki save from Nagaina? (Teddy, the little boy)
47. Why was Riki-Tikki grateful to the English family? (For saving him from flood)
48. Why did the cobras decide to kill the English family? (To live peacefully in the house with their children)
49. When did Rikki-Tikki attack Nag? (During Nag’s sleep)
50. Who helped Rikki-Tikki to divert the attention of Nagaina? (Darzee and his wife)
51. Who was Darzee? (The tail bird)
52. How did Rikki-Tikki divert the attention of Nagaina from Teddy? (By showing her egg)
53. What was the nature of Peter Rabbit? (Mischievous and disobedient)
54. How did Peter rabbit become sick? (By eating a lot)
55. Whose garden did Peter Rabbit enter? (Mr. McGregor)
56. Why did Peter Rabbit go to McGregor’s garden? (To eat parsley)
57. Who were the triplet sisters of Peter Rabbit? (Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail)
58. What did Peter Rabbit lose in the garden of McGregor? (His jacket and shoes)
59. What was Peter Rabbit’s jacket used for? (To clothe the scarecrow)
60. What did the triplet sisters of Peter Rabbit eat? (Milk, bread and berries)

Drama

61. Whom does the title “The Boy who wouldn’t Grow up” denote? (Peter Pan)
62. What is the nature of Peter Pan? (Innocent mischievous boy)
63. What is the special skill of Peter Pan? (Flying)
64. Who inhabit the island of Neverland? (Mermaids, fairies, Native Americans and pirates)
65. Where is Wendy Darling’s house? (Bloomsbury)
66. Who narrates bed-time stories to the children at Bloomsbury? (Mrs. Mary Darling)
67. What does Peter Pan lose, while trying to escape from Wendy’s house? (His shadow)
68. Who are the friends of Peter Pan, residing in Neverland? (The Lost Boys)
69. Why does Peter Pan invite Wendy Darling to Neverland? (To narrate bed-time stories)
70. Who accompany Wendy Darling to Neverland? (John and Michael)
71. How are the children thrown out, during their flight to Neverland? (By a cannon)
72. By whom is Wendy about to meet her death? (Tootles)
73. Who build a small house for Wendy in Neverland? (Peter Pen and the Lost Boys)
74. Where does Peter Pan take Wendy after her recovery? (To his underground home)
75. What is the role assumed by Wendy in the underground home? (Mother figure)
76. Whom does Peter Pan take along with him during his adventures? (The Darlings)
77. Which adventure is dangerous to Peter and the Darlings? (Mermaid’s Lagoon)
78. What is the name of the princess, saved by the Lost Boys? (Tiger Lily)

79. Who is Captain Hook? (A pirate)
80. Who is the arch nemesis of Peter Pan? (Captain Hook)
81. To whom does Captain Hook lose his left hand? (A crocodile)
82. What does the crocodile swallow along with Hook's hand? (A ticking clock)
83. Who attacks Peter Pan severely? (Captain Hook)
84. Who saves the life of Peter Pan from the tide? (A bird)
85. What does the bird give Peter Pan to escape from the tide? (Its nest)
86. Who captures the Wendys, during their return to England? (Captain Hook)
87. How does Peter frighten Captain Hook? (By the ticking sound of the clock)
88. How does Captain Hook meet his end? (By the crocodile)
89. Who adopts the Lost Boys finally? (Mrs. Mary Darling)
90. When does Peter Pan meet Wendy every year? (During the spring season)

Fiction

91. What is the pen-name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson? (Lewis Carroll)
92. Who play major role in *Alice in Wonderland*? (Anthromorphic creatures)
93. To which genre does *Alice in Wonderland* belong to? (Fantasy genre)
94. How did Alice enter the curious hall? (By following a Rabbit)
95. How was the bottle labelled? (DRINK ME)
96. What was written on the cake, eaten by Alice? (EAT ME)
97. Why did Alice cry profusely? (Because of her tremendous size)
98. In which language did Alice speak to the Mouse? (French)
99. Which question of Alice offended the Mouse? (Where is my cat?)
100. What caused the rising waters? (The tears of Alice)
101. On whom did the Mouse lecture? (William the Conqueror)
102. What did the Dodo suggest to drain the rising waters? (A Caucus Race)
103. What did the White Rabbit ask Alice to search for? (The gloves and fan of the Duchess)
104. Who was the gardener of the White Rabbit? (Bill, the Lizard)
105. What did the pebbles thrown by the crowd turn into? (Little cakes)
106. Who gave the mushroom to Alice? (A blue caterpillar)
107. What did the pigeon mistake Alice for? (A serpent)
108. What did the Duchess' baby turn into? (A pig)
109. Who fell asleep in the 'mad' tea party? (The Dormouse)
110. What made Alice tired in the tea party? (The riddles)
111. What was the signature phrase of the Queen of hearts? (Off with his head)
112. What was the game, played by the Queen of Hearts and Alice? (A game of croquet)
113. What were used as mallets and balls in the game of croquet?(Flamingos and hedgehogs)
114. What was the problem of the Mock Turtle? (Being sad without sorrow)
115. What song was sung by the Mock Turtle? (Beautiful Soup)
116. Who dragged Alice for the trial? (The Gryphon)
117. What was the charge on the Knave of Hearts? (Stealing the Queen's tarts)
118. What was the Dormouse's accusation on Alice? (Growing tall)
119. What was the Queen's verdict? (Murdering Alice)
120. What did Alice realize finally? (A dream and not a reality)

Criticism

121. What is important for the success of children? (Access to literature)
122. Who should promote the habit of reading among the children? (Educators and parents)
123. Which book of Donna Norton discusses the value of literature? (Through the Eyes of a Child)
124. What is the first value of literature to children? (Development of cognitive domain)
125. What gives stimuli for oral and written language? (Wordless picture books)
126. Name the popular wordless picture books:- (A Ball for Daisy and The Yellow Umbrella)
126. What could children learn from children's literature? (The cultural heritage)
127. How is the cultural heritage important in a man's life? (For his social and personal development)
128. Which books give an inaccurate picture of Native Americans? (Brother Eagle, Sister Sky and The Rough-Face Girl)
129. Which story gives an accurate picture of the different cultures? ((Eric)
130. Whom does the native family accept in "Eric"? (A foreign exchange student)
131. What is the positive message, conveyed by "Eric"? (Acceptance of other cultures)
132. Quote a children's book, which gives importance to native culture? (Going Home)
133. Where were the children in *Going Home* born? (The United States)
134. What did the children realize, after moving to Mexico? (The value of their motherland)
135. Who help in promoting their emotional intelligence? (The characters in the stories)
136. Whose emotional intelligence is portrayed in "Guji Guji"? (A crocodile)
137. Who has adopted the crocodile? (A family of ducks)
138. What was the right decision taken by the crocodile? (Not to betray his family)
139. What concept can be learnt by children from "The Scar"? (Death and grief)
140. Which book teaches about the concept of happiness? (Selma)
141. What did the children understand by being in a big box? (Concept of freedom)
142. How is the creativity of a child nurtured by literature? (By expanding the imagination)
143. Name the books that encourage children to learn music and art:-
(Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin and The Amazing Pop-up Music Book)
144. Who can make quality citizens? (Considerate and friendly people)
145. How is children's literature glorified? (A timeless tradition)
146. What are the major means of transmitting literary heritage? (Books)
147. How are the children in the formative years? (Impressionable)
148. When are the children less ego-centric? (During their cognitive development)
149. Who are entirely focused on themselves? (Students in pre-school and kindergarten)
150. What do the children do when they become adults? (Consider other's feelings and view points)

The Owl and the Pussycat

Edward Lear

Text: I

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

II

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?"
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-Tree grows
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.

III

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

Introduction:

Edward Lear is an English artist, illustrator, musician, author and poet. He is known mostly for his literary nonsense in poetry and prose and especially his limericks. As an author, he is

known principally for his popular nonsense collections of poems, songs, short stories, botanical drawings, recipes and alphabets.

"The Owl and the Pussy-cat" is a nonsense poem by Edward Lear, first published during 1871 as part of his book *Nonsense Songs, Stories, Botany, and Alphabets*. Lear wrote the poem for a three-year-old girl, Janet Symonds, the daughter of Lear's friend poet John Addington Symonds. The term "runcible", used for the phrase "runcible spoon", was invented for the poem. It is a simple, joy-filled poem that tells the marriage story of an owl and a cat. This nonsense poem starts with the boat journey of the two main characters named in the title. They profess their love to one another and decide to get married. They need to find a ring and their search takes them to a pig. That pig sells them its nose ring for one shilling and they get married. After that, there is much celebration and the poem ends with the owl and pussy-cat dancing under the moon.

The Sail in the Sea:

The poem features four anthropomorphic animals – an owl, a cat, a pig, and a turkey. It tells the story of the love between the title characters who marry in the land "where the Bong-tree grows". At the beginning of the poem, the speaker describes the actions and adventures of an owl and a pussy-cat. The two travel out to sea in a "beautiful pea-green boat," a symbol for their happiness together. They set out to sea in a pea green boat with honey and "plenty of money" wrapped in a five-pound note. The Owl serenades the Pussy-cat while gazing at the stars and strumming on a small guitar. It describes the Pussy-cat as beautiful. The Pussy-cat responds by describing the Owl as an "elegant fowl" and compliments the bird's singing. The mood in these lines is peaceful and joyous. The happy lines are,

"The Owl looked up to the stars above,

And sang to a small guitar,

"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,

What a beautiful Pussy you are,

You are,

You are!

What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

The Pig with the Ring:

Hearing the praises of the owl, the cat responds just as complimentarily to the owl. She calls the owl an "elegant fowl". The Pussy cat declares that they should stop wasting time. She urges that they marry. However, they do not have a ring. There is the question of the ring and where they are going to get one. In their search, they sail for an extended period of time. Finally, they get to an even more fantastical world in which there are "Bong-Tree[s]". They find a pig, that has a ring at the end of his nose. The happiness is added when they find the pig, with the ring.

"And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood

With a ring at the end of his nose,

His nose,

His nose,

With a ring at the end of his nose."

The Happy Marriage:

The owl asks the pig to sell the couple the ring in its nose for “one shilling”. The pig immediately agrees and the couple get married by the Turkey who lives on the hill. They celebrate afterward with a big meal, each getting something they wanted. They dine on mince, and slices of quince. They use a “runcible spoon”. The term ‘runcible’ has been coined by Lear but its meaning is not specified by him. The poem has a musical ending. it was coined by Lear he did not give it a specific definition and often used the adjective in different ways. Lear emphasises the joy of the couple as they dance, through these lines, “And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,

They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.”

Macavity, the Mystery Cat

T.S. Eliot

Text:

Macavity's a Mystery Cat: he's called the Hidden Paw—
For he's the master criminal who can defy the Law.
He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad's despair:
For when they reach the scene of crime—Macavity's not there!

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
He's broken every human law, he breaks the law of gravity.
His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare,
And when you reach the scene of crime—Macavity's not there!
You may seek him in the basement, you may look up in the air—
But I tell you once and once again, Macavity's not there!

Macavity's a ginger cat, he's very tall and thin;
You would know him if you saw him, for his eyes are sunken in.
His brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly domed;
His coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are uncombed.
He sways his head from side to side, with movements like a snake;
And when you think he's half asleep, he's always wide awake.

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
For he's a fiend in feline shape, a monster of depravity.
You may meet him in a by-street, you may see him in the square—
But when a crime's discovered, then Macavity's not there!

He's outwardly respectable. (They say he cheats at cards.)
And his footprints are not found in any file of Scotland Yard's

And when the larder's looted, or the jewel-case is rifled,
Or when the milk is missing, or another Peke's been stifled,
Or the greenhouse glass is broken, and the trellis past repair
Ay, there's the wonder of the thing! Macavity's not there!

And when the Foreign Office find a Treaty's gone astray,
Or the Admiralty lose some plans and drawings by the way,
There may be a scrap of paper in the hall or on the stair—
But it's useless to investigate—Macavity's not there!
And when the loss has been disclosed, the Secret Service say:
It must have been Macavity!'—but he's a mile away.
You'll be sure to find him resting, or a-licking of his thumb;
Or engaged in doing complicated long division sums.

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
There never was a Cat of such deceitfulness and suavity.
He always has an alibi, and one or two to spare:
At whatever time the deed took place—MACAVITY WASN'T THERE !
And they say that all the Cats whose wicked deeds are widely known
(I might mention Mungojerrie, I might mention Griddlebone)
Are nothing more than agents for the Cat who all the time
Just controls their operations: the Napoleon of Crime!

Introduction:

Thomas Stearns Elliot was an essayist, a critic, a playwright and one of the well-known poets of the twentieth century. Some of his famous poems are 'The Waste Land', 'Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock', 'Journey of the Magi', 'Naming of Cats' etc. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1948. "Macavity, The Mystery Cat" is from his collection called "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats". Macavity is, in all likelihood, a notorious, but extremely wily and villainous to commit daring crimes. The most efficient detective agencies fail to apprehend him, although they are sure the crime is committed by Macavity.

The Cunningness of the Cat:

Macavity is a Mystery Cat. He is also called "the Hidden Paw". He is agile and cunning. He is a master of deceit that he can defy any law. Soon after a crime is reported, the Scotland Yard and the Flying Squad swing into action to catch him. But the teams are usually driven to despair because they could never catch him on the spot. He succeeds in throwing them off his trail. Eliot gives a majestic introduction to the cat as,
"Macavity's a Mystery Cat: he's called the Hidden Paw—
For he's the master criminal who can defy the Law."

Macavity breaks laws with virtual impunity. He manages to evade arrest by the anti-crime establishment. He is gifted with the power to defy the forces of gravity. He uses this asset to accomplish his hideous plans. He flees the spot of the crime with alarming ease and speed, outsmarting the police. In all cases, his lightning speed of escape frustrates the police.

The Criminal's Outlook:

Macavity is scrawny, with deeply set eyes. He appears to be immersed in his scheming always. The contracted muscles on his forehead and brows show his thoughtful mood. He wears an un-kempt coat. This is mainly to avoid the glare of the mainstream society. His whiskers are not trimmed and combed. As he is engrossed in his criminal plans, he sways his head often. His gait is serpentine, possibly a sign of his absent-mindedness. He is devilish, vile and a threat to society. He moves around in the alleys and the squares. But, when a crime is committed, he just vanishes in to thin air. The poet brings in the close affinity by saying, “Macavity’s a ginger cat, he’s very tall and thin;

You would know him if you saw him, for his eyes are sunken in.”

The Crimes Committed by Macavity:

Macavity maintains a façade of innocence and decency. He does not cheat while playing cards. There is no dossier of his in the archives of the Scotland Yard. However, when crimes like looting of a food store, or break-in at the jeweller’s, stealing of milk, breaking of greenhouse glass are committed, it becomes clear that these are the practices of Macavity. But Macavity is caught in none of these cases.

Macavity Deceiving the Agents:

Some serious theft cases like the loss of papers relating to a Treaty at the Foreign Office, or the loss of Royal Navy’s plans and drawings happen. At such occasions, the Secret Service agents discovered the criminal hand of Macavity. But Macavity is nowhere near the crime spot. He is a master dodger. He is found to be too far away from the spot. To the anguish of the agents trailing him, he is found to be quietly resting in a different location licking his thumbs or doing some calculations.

Macavity – the Napoleon of Crime:

Macavity is a criminal plotter. He could manipulate other criminals like Mungojerrie or Griddlebone. He is the remote control of myriad crimes. He is a trickster, plotter, and manipulator, all rolled into one. A repugnant criminal, he could be called the ‘Napoleon of Crime’. The interesting lines of the poem are,

“Macavity, Macavity, there’s no one like Macavity,
There never was a Cat of such deceitfulness and suavity.”

A Girl named Jack

Jacqueline Woodson

Text:

*Good enough name for me, my father said
the day I was born.*

*Don't see why
she can't have it, too.*

But the women said no.

My mother first.

Then each aunt, pulling my pink blanket back
patting the crop of thick curls
tugging at my new toes

touching my cheeks.

We won't have a girl named Jack, my mother said.

And my father's sisters whispered,
A boy named Jack was bad enough.

But only so my mother could hear.

*Name a girl Jack, my father said,
and she can't help but
grow up strong.*

*Raise her right, my father said,
and she'll make that name her own.*

*Name a girl Jack
and people will look at her twice, my father said.*

*For no good reason but to ask if her parents
were crazy, my mother said.*

And back and forth it went until I was Jackie
and my father left the hospital mad.

My mother said to my aunts,
*Hand me that pen, wrote
Jacqueline* where it asked for a name.

Jacqueline, just in case
someone thought to drop the *ie*.

Jacqueline, just in case
I grew up and wanted something a little bit longer
and further away from
Jack.

Introduction:

Jacqueline Woodson is an Afro-American author of novels, picture books, and poetry for children and young adults. She wrote her 'emotional autobiography' in verse, titled *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Woodson grew up between Ohio, South Carolina, and New York in the 1960's and 1970's and was greatly affected by the different treatment of African-Americans in those places. Her experiences in early life have impacted the themes of her writing. Her focus is on race, gender, socioeconomic status, and civil rights.

Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming* concerns the topics of family, history, race, and writing. It is the record of how a young girl discovers her voice through writing and grows to become a beloved author for children and young adults. Later, she uses her voice to reach out to others and to speak for the underrepresented. In the poem, "A Girl Named Jack," Woodson traces the origin of her name and the reason for naming her like that. Woodson explains why she was named Jacqueline.

The Birth of Jacqueline:

Jacqueline is born on February 12, 1963 in Columbus Ohio. When she was born as the second child of the family, the parents assembled to name her. Jacqueline's father, Jack, wanted her to be named Jack as well. He felt it was the name is good enough to name the child. He advised others not to analyze why she should not be named so.

The Objection from Women:

Jacqueline was blessed to live in a big family, surrounded by her grandparents and aunts. When the father expressed his wish in the naming ceremony, the women in the house opposed to name her so. The mother was the first one to raise her voice against his suggestion. The aunts also fell in line with the mother because they were proud and delighted to see the feminine beauty of the little girl. They were not for naming her as a boy. The little girl had thick curl of hair. They touched her soft feet and covered her with a soft pink blanket. The aunts expressed their love to the girl by,

“patting the crop of thick curls
tugging at my new toes
touching my cheeks.”

The Aunts' Suggestion Overruled:

The aunts were in dissatisfaction by the unexpected decision of the father. They whispered among themselves that even naming a boy as 'Jack' itself was not nice. Those discussions were heard only by the mother and not the father. Not listening to the suggestions by others, the father came out with a strong point why he named her so. He felt the name would make the girl grow stronger. He said,

“Name a girl Jack, my father said,
and she can't help but
grow up strong.”

The Argument between the Parents:

The father's wish is obvious. He wanted the girl to grow strong and powerful. A feminine name should not pull down her spirit. The name would provide the courage she needed. In addition, being born in an Afro-American family, there was a possibility of the girl going unrecognised. In such a condition, the name “Jack” will draw the attention of others to her twice. The mother came out with her reasonable argument. She complements the statement of the father by saying people would look at her daughter twice just to see the craziness of the parents. The argument continued for a long time and finally the mother did not give her consent to name her not as 'Jack'. The father left the hospital with utmost dissatisfaction.

The Final Decision:

Once the father left the hospital, the mother became the deciding authority. She asked the aunts to hand over a pen to her. She filled in the form for claiming birth certificate. She wrote neither 'Jack, nor 'Jackie' but 'Jaculine'. Woodson ends the poem by humorously saying that she grew up with the name given by her mother. Her only satisfaction was that she was holding a longer name, instead of a shorter name as 'Jack'. She concludes,

“Jacqueline, just in case
I grew up and wanted something a little bit longer
and further away from
Jack.”

Chocolate Cake

Michael Rosen

Text:

Chocolate Cake

I love chocolate cake.

And when I was a boy

I loved it even more.

Sometimes we used to have it for tea

and Mum used to say,

‘If there’s any leftover

you can have it to take to school

tomorrow to have at playtime.’

And the next day I would take it to school

wrapped in tin foil

open it up at playtime and sit in the

corner of the playground

eating it,

you know how the icing on top

is all shiny and it cracks as you

bite into it

and there’s that other kind of icing in

the middle

and it sticks to your hands and you

can lick your fingers

and lick your lips

oh it’s lovely.

yeah.

Anyway,

once we had this chocolate cake for tea

and later I went to bed

but while I was in bed

I found myself waking up

licking my lips

and smiling.

I woke up proper.

‘The chocolate cake.’

It was the first thing I thought of.

I could almost see it

so I thought,

what if I go downstairs

and have a little nibble, yeah?

It was all dark

everyone was in bed

so it must have been really late
but I got out of bed,
crept out of the door
there's always a creaky floorboard, isn't there?
Past Mum and Dad's room,
careful not to tread on bits of broken toys
or bits of Lego
you know what it's like treading on Lego
with your bare feet,
Yowwww
Shhhhhhh
downstairs
into the kitchen
open the cupboard
and there it is
all shining.
So I take it out of the cupboard
put it on the table
and I see that
there's a few crumbs lying about on the plate,
so I lick my finger and run my finger all over the crumbs
scooping them up
and putting them into my mouth.
oooooooooooooooooooo
nice.
Then
I look again
and on one side where
it's been cut, it's all crumbly.
So I take a knife
I think I'll just tidy that up a bit,
cut off the crumbly bits
scoop them all up
and into the mouth
oooooooooooo mmmm
nice.
Look at the cake again.
That looks a bit funny now,
one side doesn't match the other
I'll just even it up a bit, eh?
Take the knife
and slice.
This time the knife makes a little cracky noise
as it goes through that hard icing on the top.

A whole slice this time,
into the mouth.
Oh the icing on top
and the icing in the middle
ohhhhhh oooo mmmmmm.
But now
I can't stop myself.
Knife –
I just take any old slice at it
and I've got this great big chunk
and I'm cramming it in
what a greedy pig
but it's so nice,
and there's another
and another
and I'm squealing
and I'm smacking my lips and I'm stuffing myself with it and
before I know
I've eaten the lot.
The whole lot.
I look at the place.
It's all gone.
Oh no
they're bound to notice, aren't they,
a whole chocolate cake doesn't just disappear
does it?
What shall I do?
I know. I'll wash the plate up,
and the knife and put them away
and maybe no one
will notice, eh?
So I do that
and creep creep creep
back to bed
into bed
doze off
licking my lips
with a lovely feeling in my belly.
Mmmmmmmmmmm.
In the morning I get up,
downstairs,
have breakfast,
Mum's saying,
'Have you got your dinner money?'

and I say,
'Yes.'
'And don't forget to take some chocolate cake with you.'
I stopped breathing.
'What's the matter,' she says,
'you normally jump at chocolate cake?'
I'm still not breathing,
and she's looking at me very closely now.
She's looking at me just below my mouth.
'What's that?' she says.
'What's what?' I say.
'What's that there?'
'Where?'
'There,' she says, pointing at my chin.
'I don't know,' I say.
'It looks like chocolate,' she says.
'It's not chocolate cake is it?'
No answer.
'Is it?'
'I don't know.'
She goes to the cupboard
looks in, up, top, middle, bottom,
turns back to me.
'It's gone.
It's gone.
You haven't eaten it, have you?'
'I don't know.'
'You don't know? You don't know if you've eaten a whole
chocolate cake or not? When?
When did you eat it?'
So I told her,
and she said
well what could she say?
'That's the last time
I give you any cake to take to school.
Now go.
Get out no wait not before
you've washed your dirty sticky face.'
I went upstairs looked in the mirror
and there it was,
just below my mouth,
a chocolate smudge.
The give-away.
Maybe she'll forget about it

by next week.

Introduction:

Michael Rosen was Children's Laureate from 2007 to 2009 by his contribution to Children's Literature. Chocolate Cake is a picture book version of her original poem, which occurs in his collection 'Poems and Stories about my Family'. The story is about a little boy, sneaking downstairs in the middle of the night, when everyone else is fast asleep, to look at a big chocolate cake his mother has made. He is unable to resist having a few crumbs and then a bit more until the whole cake is gone.

Love for the Cake:

Rosen recollects a favourite treat that he had when he was a boy. His mother once made a chocolate cake. Now he is a grown up man. But his love on the chocolate cake is the same. Sometimes, the members of his family used to have the chocolate cake with tea. His mother advises him that if there is leftover in the evening, he could preserve it and take it to school for eating during the playtime. The poet begins the poem expressing his love for the cake as,

“Chocolate Cake

I love chocolate cake.

And when I was a boy

I loved it even more.”

Delight at the School:

Rosen could clearly recollect the happy experience of eating away the leftover chocolate cake in the school. He would carry the piece of cake in a silver foil paper. When the playtime occurs, he used to sit in a corner and enjoy eating the small slice. The icing on the top of the cake would be shiny. It gives the delightful experience of getting cracked in the mouth of the eater. The icing in the middle of the cake gives another kind of experience. It sticks to the fingers and the lips.

“you know how the icing on top
is all shiny and it cracks as you
bite into it.”

The Temptation:

Eating the favourite food stealthily is always a pleasure to children. Rosen recollects one such experience that occurred in his childhood. After relishing the chocolate cake for tea, the leftover was kept safe for him to carry to school. But, Rosen could not control his temptation. He got up at midnight. His mouth watered on thinking of the cake. He justified to himself that here was nothing wrong in going downstairs and tasting a bit of the cake. He asks to himself,

“I could almost see it
so I thought,
what if I go downstairs
and have a little nibble, yeah?”

The Act of Stealing:

He did not know at what time he had got up from bed. As everyone at home was fast asleep, he guessed it must be late night. He was conscious that he should not make any noise. He crawled out of the door. He stepped softly on the creaky floorboard. He crossed his parents

room, holding his breath. He knew the pathway would be filled with toys. If he stamped on a sounding toy, the result would be worse. So, he commanded himself to be silent and careful and entered the kitchen. The glorious and sumptuous chocolate cake was inside the cupboard. The beauty of the poem is instead of using words to describe how he was careful in his activities, Rosen uses expressions in the poem.

“Yowwww
Shhhhhhh
downstairs
into the kitchen.”

Rosen kept the plateful of cake on the table. As all little children did, he ate away the crumbs lying around the cake. That was delicious. When he checked the cake, he found fault with the members of the family that it was not a neat cut. He justifies to himself that he would make it tidy by cutting away the slinging crumbs. His plan was to eat just a slice of bread. Once the act of cutting and eating away the cake started, it continued. The knife sat again and again on the top of the cake and he was like a greedy pig.

The Theft Found out:

At one stage, the realization struck Rosen that he had eaten away the whole thing. He was startled to think of the reaction of the family to the stealthy act. He washed the plate and knife and kept them safe in the cupboard. As he came he went back to his bed. With his stomach full, he slept off.

The next morning, Rosen tried to be normal than usual. He was damn sure none could find out. His mother asked him to take the leftover cake to school. Coming near him, she looked at his face deeply and started enquiring about his act. Rosen could not speak out the truth. But his mother had decided that he would never be given any cake to eat at school. Rosen was hopeful that she would forget the matter next week and there was a possibility of getting chocolate cake next week.

UNIT – II / SHORT STORIES

Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

Rudyard Kipling

Introduction:

"Rikki-tikki-tavi" is a short story in the 1894 anthology *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling about adventures of a valiant young Indian grey mongoose. The story follows the experiences of a mongoose named Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, who later becomes the pet of a British family, residing in India.

Rikki Settling with the British Family:

"Rikki-tikki-tavi" is about an extraordinary mongoose. The story begins one day during a high summer flood. Rikki-tikki is washed away from his parents and almost drowns. When he comes to consciousness, he finds himself wrapped in a warm cotton blanket and surrounded by his saviours, a British family living in India. To Rikki this is not an alien situation. He is not at all scared. The mongoose's natural curiosity prevents it from being afraid.

Rikki – Teddy's Bedtime Companion:

Rikki-tikki goes exploring the whole jouse. His pranks include climbing all over Teddy, the British child, nearly drowning in the bathtubs, and soaking his nose in writing ink. At night, Rikki-tikki sleeps with Teddy. Teddy's mother worries about the wild animal sleeping so close to her boy. The father says pish-posh to such a worry. After all, if a snake were to come into the room, there would be no better companion than a mongoose. The mother is ready to think about that soet of probabilities.

Rikki's First Meeting with the Cobras:

The next morning, Rikki-tikki eats breakfast with the British family. He loves each member in the hope of becoming their "house-mongoose". He starts exploring all the rooms in the house. He heads into the garden to explore his new hunting ground. He hears a sad voice and meets Darzee the tailorbird. Darzee is in mourning as one of his baby birds fell from the nest and was eaten by Nag. He comes to know from Darzee that Nag is a five-foot, black Indian cobra. Nah pops out of the grass. Knowing that Rikki means death for him and his family, Nag pretends to engage in a harmless chit-chat. Darzee warns Rikki-tikki to look out as another cobra lunges from behind. Rikki-tikki dodges the attack. He meets Nagaina, wife of Nag. The cobras slither away, having missed their opportunity for an easy win.

Rikki's First Fight:

Teddy runs over to pet the mongoose when something moves in the dirt next to the boy. It is krait, another poisonous Indian snake. The snake and Rikki land in a fight. Although the mongoose makes some amateur mistakes, he wins in the end. The father comes out ready to give the snake a beat-down, but Rikki-tikki is like, "Relax. I've got it." From that moment onwards, the love of the family for Rikki is confirmed. To Rikki it is just a matter of killing a snake. Anyway, he enjoys the special reception given to him. That night, the family offers Rikki enough food to stuff himself . But, Rikki is obsessed with the thought of Nag and Nagaina and decided to indulge in fight with them one day.

Rikki and Chuchundra:

Teddy carries him off to bed, but once the boy is asleep, Rikki sneaks away and patrols the house. He runs into Chuchundra, a cowardly muskrat. Chuchundra pleads to the mongoose not to kill him. He need not have done so, because Rikki kills only snakes and not muskrats. Chuchundra is worried about Nag as well. Rikki assures the muskrat that Nag is in the garden, but Chuchundra tells him to listen. Rikki hears the faint scratching sound of scales on brickwork. There is no brickwork in the garden. Rikki wonders where the sound is coming from. He searches the house and hears Nag and Nagaina outside an opening leading to the bathroom. He overhears their plan. Accordingly, Nag will go into the house and kill the family. Without the humans, the mongoose will leave, freeing up more space for their up-and-coming family. Nag slithers into the bathroom. Rikki does not attack, partly out of fear but mostly because he knows the noise of the scuffle would alert Nagaina. On the other side of the wall, Nag tells Nagaina that he'll wait there until morning. When Rikki-tikki hears no response, he knows Nagaina is no longer there.

Rikki Murders Nag:

Rikki sizes up his opponent. It takes a while, because Nag is pretty big. Then he pounces, sinks his teeth into the hooded dome, and holds on for dear life Nag shakes to and fro, battering Rikki-tikki against the floor. The father rushes in wielding a double-barrelled broomstick. He takes the shot, and Rikki shuts his eyes thinking his time is done. Luckily, the

father's a crack shot. He picks up Rikki and praises for having saved them twice in one day. They take Rikki to Teddy's room, and the mongoose spends the rest of the night tenderly checking his wounds.

Darzees' Role in the Fight:

The next morning, Rikki skips breakfast and sets out to deal with Nagaina. At Darzee's nest, the bird is prematurely singing a song of victory. Rikki scolds him, saying that they have "won the battle but not the war" Darzee informs the mongoose that Nagaina is over at the rubbish heap mourning her dead husband. Rikki wants to know where Nagaina's nest is. Then he asks the bird to go over and distract Nagaina while he does the needful. But Darzee is a pretty dumb bird, so he could not follow what Rikki-tikki wants. Darzee's wife understands the plan. She flies over to distract Nagaina by pretending to have a broken wing. Nagaina chases her. Meanwhile, Rikki sets about destroying all the cobra eggs. He is down to three when Darzee's wife flies up to tell him that Nagaina has headed for the veranda with killing on her mind. Rikki smashes two of the eggs and keeps the third as a hostage.

The Real Fight:

Nagaina is poised to strike Teddy, while the father orders his son not to move. Rikki shows up and demands that Nagaina fight him. Nagaina is not interested at first since she has the upper hand. But when she learns that the mongoose has her last egg, she changes her mind right quick. Nagaina lunges for the egg, and the father pulls Teddy in close. Rikki is ready for a fight, but Nagaina swears that she will never come back. Rikki has decided to kill her. They fight. Nagaina manages to circle around and grab hold of the egg. She breaks for her den with Rikki makes hot pursuit. Darzee's wife flaps into Nagaina's face. Rikki bites her tail. Nagaina drags Rikki into her den. Darzee begins to prepare a mourning song for the mongoose warrior. But Rikki pops out of the den, proclaiming his victory.

Conclusion:

Rikki falls asleep for some time and wakes up. When he wakes up, he asks Darzee to tell the Coppersmith that Nagaina is dead. The Coppersmith is a bird who acts as the town-crier. He tells everybody that Nagaina is dead and the garden is safe again. There is much rejoicing. There is a good reception to Rikki at home. Rikki kept the garden so safe that no cobra dared come inside the walls again.

The Juniper-Tree

Grimm Brothers

Introduction:

The Brothers Grimm are German academics, philologists, cultural researchers, lexicographers and authors. They worked together, collected and published folklore during the 19th century. They were among the first and best-known compilers of German and European folk tales, and popularized traditional oral tale types such as "Cinderella", "The Frog Prince", "The Goose-Girl", "Hansel and Gretel" etc. Their classic collection is *Children's and Household Tales*. In their popular short story "The Juniper Tree", many themes, such as cannibalism, death, and food lay an important role.

The Birth of the Children:

A wealthy and pious couple pray every day for God to grant them a child. One winter, under the juniper tree in the courtyard, the wife peels an apple. She cuts her finger and drops of blood fall onto the snow. This leads her to wish for a child to be as white as snow and as red as blood. Six months later, the wife becomes gravely ill from eating juniper berries and asks her husband to bury her beneath the juniper tree if she dies. A month later, she gives birth to a baby boy as white as snow and as red as blood. She dies of happiness. Keeping his promise, the husband buries her beneath the juniper tree. He eventually marries again and he and his new wife have a daughter named Marlinchen.

The Hatred of the Stepmother:

The new wife is perceived as the antagonist of the story. She is a disturbed and insane individual who is often clouded with evil thoughts. She loves Marlinchen but despises her stepson. She abuses him every day. He is often afraid to return home from school since he would routinely be cruelly abused and beaten by his stepmother, making him cry to sleep every night. She claims that Marlinchen should inherit her father's wealth instead of her stepson.

The Murder of the little Boy:

One afternoon after school, the stepmother plans to lure her stepson into an empty room containing a chest of apples. Marlinchen sees the chest and asks for an apple, which the stepmother gracefully offers. However, when the boy enters the room and reaches down the chest for an apple, the stepmother slams the lid onto his neck, decapitating him. The stepmother binds his head with the rest of his body with a bandage and props his body onto a chair outside, with an apple on his lap. Marlinchen, unaware of the situation, asks her stepbrother for an apple. Hearing no response, she is forced by her mother to box him in the ear, causing his head to roll onto the ground.

Father Enjoying the Blood-soup:

Marlinchen profusely cries throughout the day whilst the stepmother dismembers the stepson's body and cooks him into a "blood-soup" for dinner. She later deceives her husband by telling him that his son stayed at his grandmother's house. The husband unwittingly eats the "blood-soup" during dinner and proclaims it to be delicious. Marlinchen gathers the bones from the dinner and buries them beneath the juniper tree with a handkerchief.

The Sad Lullaby of the Boy:

Suddenly, a mist emerges from the juniper tree and a beautiful bird flies out. The bird visits the local townspeople and sings about its brutal murder at the hands of its stepmother. The song pictures the fate of the boy as,

"My mother she killed me,
My father he ate me,
My sister, little Marlinchen,
Gathered together all my bones,
Tied them in a silken handkerchief,
Laid them beneath the juniper-tree,
Kywitt, kywitt, what a beautiful bird am I!"

The Emergence of the Boy:

The people are captivated by its lullaby. A goldsmith gives the bird a gold chain; a shoemaker gives a pair of red shoes and a miller gives a millstone in return for the wonderful

song. The bird returns home to give the gold chain to the man and the shoes to Marlinchen. Meanwhile, the crude stepmother complains about the “raging fires within her arteries”. It is the result of her anger and hatred towards her stepson. She goes outside for relief. The bird drops the millstone onto her head. The crude woman dies on the spot. The place is surrounded by smoke and flames. The dead boy emerges out and reveals his identity. Marlinchen and her father are happy to see him coming alive. They are united and celebrate the day with the lunch. They live happily ever after.

The Velveteen Rabbit

Margery Williams Bianco

Introduction:

Margery Williams Bianco was an English-American author, primarily of popular children's books. A professional writer since the age of nineteen, she achieved lasting fame at forty-one with the 1922 publication of the classic that is her best-known work, “The Velveteen Rabbit”.

When Margery was seven years old, her father died suddenly, a life-changing event which affected her future creative activity. There is an undertone of sadness and the themes of death and loss, flowing through her children's books. Bianco always maintained that hearts acquire greater humanity through pain and adversity. She wrote that life is a process of constant change—there are departures for some and arrivals for others—and the process allows us to grow and persevere. “The Velveteen Rabbit” is slightly autobiographical in nature. It is a classic story about the stark realities of life. It chronicles the story of a stuffed rabbit's desire to become real through the love of his owner. Human beings are brusque and unreliable. It's a story of unconditional love and childhood magic.

The Rabbit's Longing to Become Real:

A stuffed rabbit sewn from velveteen is given as a Christmas present to a small boy. The boy plays with his other new presents and forgets the velveteen rabbit for a time. These presents are modern and mechanical. They snub the old-fashioned velveteen rabbit. The Skin Horse is the wisest and oldest toy in the nursery. It was owned by the boy's uncle. Seeing the sadness of the Rabbit, the Horse tells the rabbit about toys becoming real magically due to love from children. “Real isn't how you are made,” said the Skin Horse. “It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.” The rabbit is awed by this idea, however his chances of achieving this wish are slight.

The Little Boy's Love:

One night, the boy's grandmother gives the rabbit to the boy to sleep with, in place of a lost toy. The rabbit becomes the boy's favourite toy. Both enjoy picnics together in the spring, and the boy regards the rabbit as real. Time passes and the rabbit becomes shabbier, but happy. It meets some real rabbits in the summer, and they learn that the velveteen rabbit cannot hop as they do. They say that he is not a real rabbit.

The Discarded Rabbit:

One day, the boy comes down with scarlet fever. The parents are fraught with worry. The Velveteen Rabbit sits with him as he recovers. The doctor orders that the boy should be taken

to the seaside and that his room should be disinfected. All his books and toys burnt, including the Velveteen Rabbit. The Velveteen Rabbit is bundled into a sack and left out in the garden overnight, where he sadly reflects on his life with his boy.

The Blessing from the Fairy:

The toy rabbit cries, a real tear drops to the ground, and a marvellous flower appears. A fairy steps out of the flower and introduces herself as the Nursery Magic Fairy. It comforts the Velveteen Rabbit. She consoles him saying the love between the boy and the Rabbit is true. So. He has become real. She will take him away with her and "turn [him] into Real" to everyone.

The Reunion:

The fairy takes the rabbit to the forest, where she meets the other rabbits and gives the velveteen rabbit a kiss. The velveteen rabbit changes into a real rabbit and joins the other rabbits in the forest. The next spring, the rabbit returns to look at the boy, and the boy sees a resemblance to his old Velveteen Rabbit.

The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Beatrix Potter

Introduction:

Beatrix Potter is an English author of children's books. She had created Peter Rabbit, Jeremy Fisher, Jemima Puddle-Duck, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, and other animal characters. Potter, the only daughter of heirs to cotton fortunes, spent a solitary childhood. Her earlier days were enlivened by long holidays in Scotland or the English Lake District. The place inspired her love of animals and stimulated her imaginative watercolour drawings. On one of these holidays, at age 27, she sent an illustrated animal story to a sick child of a former governess, about four bunnies named Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter. The illustrated letter was published later as *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. The story is about a mischievous and disobedient young Peter Rabbit, who gets into trouble with Mr. McGregor.

The Mother's Caution:

The story focuses on a family of anthropomorphic rabbits. Peter Rabbit, his mother, and his three sisters Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail live under a fir tree in a big forest. The widowed mother rabbit leaves her bunnies to go through the woods to the baker's house. She cautions them not to go to Mr. McGregor's garden. Unfortunately, Peter's father was killed on a trip there. Gregor's wife has said that she put their father in a pie after he entered her garden. She doesn't want her children to meet the same fate.

The Disobedient Peter:

Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail refrain from entering the garden of McGregor. But Peter enters the garden to snack on some vegetables. Peter disobeys his mother's wishes and immediately scurries off to MGregor's garden. . He has a good time at first, indulging in lettuces, French green beans, and radishes. He eats so much that it makes him feel sick. When he goes to look for parsley to soothe his stomach, Mr. McGregor spots him.

The Chase:

Mr. McGregor chases the terrified Peter all over the garden. Peter is so frantic in his attempt to escape that he loses both of his shoes. Above all, he forgets the way out. He gets caught in

a gooseberry net. He then tries to hide in a watering can in the toolshed. McGregor could not locate him. Unfortunately, Peter sneezes and the chase continues. Peter jumps out of the window to get away. Fortunately, Mr. McGregor is too tired at this point to keep up the chase. Peter is totally lost. He finds a door but he could not crawl underneath it. He asks an unhelpful mouse for help, and he finally begins to cry. He then decides to try to cut directly across the garden. But he finds a cat seated there and it is dangerous to ask for its help. With difficulty, he wriggles under the gate, and escapes from the garden. But he spots his abandoned clothing being used to dress Mr. McGregor's scarecrow.

The Crime and Punishment:

After returning home, a sick Peter is sent to bed by his mother. She tells him that his jacket and shoes are the second jacket and pair of shoes that he has lost in a fortnight. His mother also takes note that he is not feeling too well. She deduces that he has definitely been to Mr McGregor's garden. To cure his stomach ache, she gives him chamomile-tea, while his sisters receive a scrumptious dinner of milk, bread and blackberries.

Peter and Wendy

J.M. Barrie

Introduction:

Sir James Matthew Barrie was a Scottish novelist and playwright, best remembered as the creator of Peter Pan. He has written a number of successful novels and plays. In *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, "fairy play" he wrote about an ageless boy and an ordinary girl named Wendy who have adventures in the fantasy setting of Neverland. The play speaks the story of Peter Pan, a mischievous yet innocent little boy who can fly, and has many adventures on the island of Neverland that is inhabited by mermaids, fairies, Native Americans, and pirates. The Peter Pan stories also involve the characters Wendy Darling and her two brothers, Peter's fairy Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys, and the pirate Captain Hook.

Peter Pan and Wendy Darling:

Peter Pan is one of the protagonists of the play. He is described in the novel as a young boy who still has all his first teeth. He wears clothes made of leaves and plays the pipes. Wendy Darling is the heroine of the play. Her family lives in Bloomsbury, London. Wendy is the eldest child of the big family. She loves the idea of homemaking and storytelling and wants to become a mother. Her dreams consist of adventures in a little woodland house with her pet wolf.

Wendy's Help to Peter Pan:

Mary Darling, the loving mother of the children is an intelligent, romantic lady. Every night, she narrates bed time stories to her children. Peter makes night-time calls on the Darlings' house listening to Mrs. Mary Darling's stories by the open window. One night Peter is spotted. While trying to escape, he loses his shadow. On returning to claim it, Peter wakes Mary's daughter, Wendy Darling. Wendy succeeds in re-attaching his shadow to him.

Peter's Plan:

Peter learns that Wendy knows many bedtime stories. Peter has his gang of Lost boys at Neverland. The boys were once lost in the Kensington Gardens. They are longing for mother's love. Peter plans that Wendy could be a suitable mother to the little boys and she

could narrate bedtime stories to them. He invites her to Neverland and Wendy agrees. Her brothers John and Michael are willing to go along with her.

Life in Neverland:

The magical flight of the group to Neverland is followed by many adventures. The children are blown out of the air by a cannon and Wendy is nearly killed by the Lost Boy Tootles. Peter and the Lost Boys build a little house for Wendy to live in while she recuperates. John and Michael adopt the ways of the Lost Boys. Peter welcomes Wendy to his underground home, and she immediately assumes the role of mother figure.

The Adventures:

Peter takes the Darlings on several adventures. The first adventure was at Mermaids' Lagoon. It was really dangerous. Tiger Lily is the Princess of the Lagoon. The island has been invaded by the evil Captain Hook. Hook was once attacked by a crocodile which bit off his left hand and wanted to eat the rest of him. Hook escaped from it. He has replaced his lost hand with a hook and probably he is named after that. The crocodile swallowed Hook's ticking clock also. So Hook is afraid of all ticking sounds. He is Peter's nemesis. Peter is wounded when Hook claws him. He believes he will die, stranded on a rock when the tide is rising, but he views death as "an awfully big adventure". Luckily, a bird allows him to use her nest as a boat, and Peter sails home. In gratitude for his saving Tiger Lily, her tribe guard his home from the next imminent pirate attack.

The Abduction of Wendy:

Wendy falls in love with Peter, whereas Peter considers her as his mother. One day while telling stories to the Lost Boys and her brothers, John and Michael, Wendy recalls her parents and then decides to take them back and return to England. Unfortunately Wendy and the boys are captured by Captain Hook. He poisons Peter's medicine while the boy is asleep. When Peter awakes, he learns from the fairy Tinker Bell that Wendy has been kidnapped. When he goes to drink the medicine, Tinky does not have time to warn him of the poison. She drinks it herself, causing her near death. The belief of the children in fairies alone could save her. Peter asks the audience to clap hands if they accept it.

The Rescue:

Peter decided to save all. He heads to the ship. On the way, he encounters the ticking crocodile. He decides to copy the tick, so that the other animals will recognise it and leave him unharmed. He does not realise that he is still ticking as he boards the ship. On hearing the sound, Hook cowers, mistaking Peter for the crocodile. While the pirates are searching for the crocodile, Peter sneaks into the cabin to steal the keys and frees the Lost Boys. When the pirates investigate a noise in the cabin, Peter defeats them. When he finally reveals himself, the climactic battle happens between Him and Hook. Peter easily wins. He kicks Hook into the jaws of the waiting crocodile. Hook dies with the satisfaction that Peter had literally kicked him off the ship, of course in a "bad form". Then Peter takes control of the ship, and sails the seas back to London.

Mrs. Darling Adopting the Children:

Wendy decides that she should live only in London, much to the joy of her mother. She brings all the boys but Peter back to London. Before Wendy and her brothers arrive at their house, Peter flies ahead, to shut the window so that Wendy will think her mother has forgotten her. But when he learns of Mrs. Darling's distress, he bitterly leaves the window

open. The heartsick mother becomes alright on seeing the children. She is ready to adopt the Lost Boys, including Peter. Peter refuses. He is afraid that they will "catch him and make him a man."

The Cycle of Innocence Continues:

Peter promises to return for Wendy every spring. The final scene of the play takes place after many years. Tinker Bell has died during since fairies are naturally short-lived creatures. Peter has already forgotten about Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys and even Hook. Wendy alone retains her wistful wish to marry Peter and take him to London. But Peter's refusal continues. Barrie attributes this to "the riddle of his very being". After some years, Peter finds Wendy with her little child. It is said, she has married Tootles, one of the Lost Boys. Peter feels depressed that Wendy has betrayed him. As a consolation, Jane, the younger daughter of Wendy, is willing to be his mother at Neverland. Barrie says this cycle will go on forever as long as children are "gay and innocent and heartless".

Conclusion:

The play's subtitle "The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" underscores the primary theme: the conflict between the innocence of childhood and the responsibility of adulthood. Peter has chosen not to make the transition from one to the other, and encourages the other children to do the same. However, the opening line of the novel, "All children, except one, grow up", and the conclusion of the story indicates that this wish is unrealistic, and there is an element of tragedy in the alternative.

Fiction

Alice in the Wonderland

-Lewis Carroll

Introduction:

Lewis Carroll was an English writer of children's fiction, notably *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and its sequel *Through the Looking Glass*. He was also a mathematician, photographer, inventor and Anglican deacon. He was noted for his facility at word play, logic, and fantasy. The Alice books deal with the sometimes precarious world of children; the reader should keep in mind that at the time of their writing, the advent of industrialization had raised people's consciousness of child labor and exploitation. Carroll sees the world of children as a dangerous place, shadowed by the threat of death and the presence of adults who are powerful but often absurd.

"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" is the story of a young Alice after her dream when she fell asleep. After waking up, Alice relates the story to her sister. The story is about the series of events which take place in Alice's dream when she fell asleep in the course of her lessons. In the dream, the young Alice was following a white rabbit down towards the rabbit hole. As she continued following the rabbit, she met several strange creatures in the dream, which left her in all manners of curious dilemmas. Alice found herself in a situation where there was a total failure of the application of common sense. However, Alice rapidly jumps from one strange encounter to another before she wakes up and relates to her sister the whole episode.

Alice Reaches the Wonderland:

Alice is sitting with her sister outdoors when she spies a White Rabbit with a pocket watch. Fascinated by the sight, she follows the rabbit down the hole. She falls for a long time, and finds herself in a long hallway full of doors. There is a key on the table, which unlocks a tiny door; through this door, she spies a beautiful garden. She longs to get there, but the door is too small. Soon, she finds a drink with a note that asks her to drink it. There is a cake with a note that tells her to eat; Alice uses both, but she cannot seem to get a handle on things. She becomes either too large to get through the door or too small to reach the key.

Alice in White Rabbit's House:

While Alice is tiny, she slips and falls into a pool of water. She realizes that this little sea is made of tears that she shed when she was nine feet tall. She swims to the shore with a number of animals. A sensitive mouse is a notable figure in the group. Alice offends everyone by talking about her cat's ability to catch birds and mice. Left alone, she goes through the wood and runs into the White Rabbit. He mistakes Alice for his maid and sends her to fetch some things from his house. While in the White Rabbit's home, she drinks another potion and becomes too huge to get out through the door. She eventually finds a little cake which, when eaten, makes her small again.

The Two Sides of the Mushroom:

In the wood again, Alice comes across a Caterpillar sitting on a mushroom. He gives her some valuable advice, as well as a valuable tool: the two sides of the mushroom, which can make Alice grow larger and smaller as she wishes. The first time Alice uses them, she stretches her body out tremendously. While stretched out, she pokes her head into the branches of a tree and meets a Pigeon. The Pigeon mistakes her for a serpent. Though Alice tries to reason out, the Pigeon tells her to be off.

Meeting with the Cheshire Cat:

Alice gets herself down to normal proportions and continues her trek through the woods. In a clearing she comes across a little house and shrinks herself down enough to get inside. It is the house of the Duchess; the Duchess and the Cook are battling fiercely, and they seem unconcerned about the safety of the baby that the Duchess is nursing. Alice takes the baby with her, but the child turns into a pig and trots off into the woods. Alice next meets the Cheshire cat. Actually, the cat was sitting in the Duchess's house silently. The Cheshire cat helps her to find her way through the woods, but he warns her that everyone she meets will be mad.

The Mad Tea Party:

Alice goes to the March Hare's house, where she is treated to a Mad Tea Party. She finds the March Hare, the Hatter, and the Dormouse there. Ever since Time stopped working for the Hatter, it has always been six o'clock; it is therefore always teatime. The creatures of the Mad Tea Party are argumentative in nature.

The Queen of Hearts:

Alice leaves them and finds a tree with a door in it. When she looks through the door, she spies the door-lined hallway from the beginning of her adventures. This time, she is prepared, and she manages to get to the lovely garden that she saw earlier. She walks on through, and finds herself in the garden of the Queen of Hearts. She finds three gardeners, whose physique resembles playing cards. They are painting the white roses red. If the Queen of Hearts finds out that they planted white roses, they will be beheaded. The Queen herself soon arrives, and

she does order their execution; Alice helps to hide them in a large flowerpot. The Queen invites Alice to play croquet, which is a very difficult game in Wonderland, as the balls and mallets are live animals. The game is interrupted by the appearance of the Cheshire cat, whom the King of Hearts dislikes. The Queen takes Alice to the Gryphon. The Gryphon takes her to the Mock Turtle. The Gryphon and the Mock Turtle tell Alice bizarre stories about their school under the sea. The Mock Turtles sings a melancholic song about turtle soup.

The Knave of Hearts:

The Gryphon drags Alice off to see the trial of the Knave of Hearts. The Knave of Hearts has been accused of stealing the tarts of the Queen of Hearts. But the evidence against him is very bad. Alice is appalled by the ridiculous proceedings. She also begins to grow larger. She is soon called to the witness stand; by this time she has grown to giant size. She refuses to be intimidated by the bad logic of the court and the bluster of the King and Queen of Hearts. Suddenly, the cards all rise up and attack her, at which point Alice wakes up. Her adventures in Wonderland have all been a fantastic dream.

Conclusion:

Carroll has managed to create very unique characters in this book. Alice has been depicted as a very superb heroine that everyone wishes to admire and emulate. Even though Alice meets all sorts of backwards and reverse adventures, there is the dominance of her sensibility and analytical reasoning. She always tries to reason out her way in spite of the prevalent unreasonable situations.

CRITICISM

The Value of Children's Literature

Martha Crippen

Introduction:

Children reap many benefits from consuming literature during their development. Martha Crippen of Luther College states in her article *The Value of Child Literature* the various benefits of child literature. Children are able to analyze and develop opinions of what they read. They are able to find an application of their reading to their real life experiences. In addition, Crippen states that children are able to develop emotional intelligence from reading about the stories of various characters.

Benefits of Reading Children's Literature:

Giving children access to all varieties of literature is important for their success. Educators, parents, and community members should help students develop a love and passion for reading. Reading literature helps in developing cognitive skills. Children's literature provides students with opportunities to respond to literature. Children are able to appreciate their own cultural heritage. It develops their emotional intelligence and creativity. It nurtures the growth and development of the student's personality and social skills. I transmits important literature and themes from one generation to the next.

The Cognitive Development:

Children's literature provides opportunities to young readers to respond to literature. This strengthens the cognitive developmental domain. Quality literature paves way for different perspectives of the readers. Norton says that for children, "wordless picture books are excellent stimuli for oral and written language". By reading "A Ball for Daisy", "The Yellow

Umbrella”, and “The Red Book” children will be able to analyze the illustrations and develop their own dialogue for the story.

Knowing Cultural Heritage:

Children’s literature provides an avenue for students to learn about their own cultural heritage and values. This is important because developing positive attitudes toward our own culture is necessary for both social and personal development. Some of the children’s books are more accurate in teaching culture to the young readers. They have a positive message about encouraging acceptance of the cultural differences among people. The book, “Going Home” by Bunting tells the story of an American to Mexico, with their children. The children realize the importance of the culture of their homeland.

Developing Emotional Intelligence:

Children’s literature helps students develop emotional intelligence. Stories have the power to promote emotional and moral development. Children’s literature “contains numerous moments of crisis, when characters make moral decisions and contemplate the reasons for their decisions.” “The Scar” is a Story The story that speaks about a boy whose mother dies. It is an effective book to know about and respond to grief. This requires a complex level of emotional intelligence, as many young children do not understand death. Another book that encourages emotional intelligence is “Selma”, which discusses what it takes for a young sheep to be happy. “The Big Box” is a story about children who have their freedom taken away by being put into a box.

Igniting Creativity:

Children’s literature encourages creativity. Norton stresses “the role that literature plays in nurturing and expanding the imagination”. The House in the Night depicts the creativity that a young girl has in her dreams at night. “Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin” encourages students to learn about music and art. Thus, Children’s literature promotes the learner’s internal imagination.

Fostering personality and Social Development:

Children’s literature is of value because it fosters personality and social development. It helps them develop into caring, intelligent, and friendly people. It encourages to accept other people and their differences. Books like “And Tango Makes Three” and “Molly’s Family” present situations that might encourage students to become more open-minded to different types of families and understand that love is the most important thing in a family. Children’s literature can also encourage students to develop relationships with people, encouraging social contact.

Creating responsible Citizens:

Children’s literature is of value because books are the major means of transmitting our literary heritage from one generation to the next. “The Cat in the Hat” speaks of the literary heritage. Children could build their cognitive and language skills through exposure to Mother Goose rhymes. Exposing children to quality literature can contribute to the creation of responsible, successful, and caring individuals.

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

UNIT - I

1. What does Stevenson describe in “From a Railway Carriage”? (Thrilling journey and sights)
2. The train moves much faster than ----- . (Fairies and witches)
3. What is the movement of the train compared to? (Soldiers’ troop in a battlefield)
4. How do the railway stations look like as the train goes fast? (Painted pictures)
5. What is the child gathering in “From a Railway Carriage”? (Blackberry fruits)
6. What flowers are used by the women to make garlands? (Daisies)
7. What is A.A. Milne popular for? (Winnie-the-Pooh stories and children's poetry)
8. Why do Alice and Christopher visit of to the palace? (To see the changing of the guards)
9. How does Alice express her special interest in the guards? (Ready to marry a guard)
10. What is going on inside the palace? (Big parties)
11. What is the king busy with, as said by Alice? (Signing things)
12. What phrase conveys Alice and Christopher are back to their life? (Time for tea)
13. What does Roald Dalh’s “Revolting Rhymes” refer to? (Parody of traditional folk tales).
14. Why does the wolf go to the old woman’s house? (Out of hunger)
15. What harm does the wolf do to the old woman? (He eats her up)
16. How does the wolf decide to deceive the girl? (Dressing himself as old woman)
17. How does Red Riding Hood put an end to the wolf? (By shooting him down)
18. What is the coat of Red Robin Hood made of? (Wolf’s skin)
19. Which book of Hilaire Belloc comprises “Matilda”? (Cautionary Tales for Children)
20. Where does Matilda reside? (In a large London house)
21. What is the worst habit of Matilda? (Telling lies)
22. What is the worst lie, told by Matilda? (House is in Fire)
23. Which play does Matilda’s aunt see, leaving her at home? (*The Second Mrs Tanqueray*)
24. How do the public refer to Matilda? (A little liar)
25. What concepts pervade the poem “A Child’s Prayer”? (Faith, belief and family)
26. What quality should be added to the words of the child? (Grace)
27. What should God grant to the child’s mother? (Health and strength)
28. What shuld God do with the child’s father? (Preserve him)
29. Who should not be sloth, as said by the child in his prayer? (His brothers)
30. What is needed to reach the Abode of Heaven? (Innocent and grateful heart)

UNIT – II

31. What do Violet and Peony make out of snow? (A snow girl)
32. Why do Violet and Peony make a snow girl? (A companion to play with)
33. In which part of the snow image do Violet and Peony find the purest snow? (Bosom)
34. What is Mrs. Lindsey proud of? (Her daughters’ creativity)
35. What does Mr. Lindsey do with the snow girl? (He thaws it)
36. What aspect of Mr. Lindsey is expressed, when he thaws the snow girl? (His materialism)

37. What is the profession of the troll in "The Snow Queen"? (Headmaster)
38. What magnifies the bad and ugly aspects of everything? (The magic mirror)
39. Why do the troll and his pupils fly to Heaven? (To befool the angels and God)
40. Where do the splinters settle? (In the hearts and eyes of people)
41. Whose eyes and heart are spoilt by the splinters? (Kai)
42. What take away the effect of the splinters from Kai? (Tears of Gerda)
43. Who drew the tale "The Bogey Beast"? (Arthur Rackham)
44. What is the central theme of "The Bogey Beast"? (Optimism)
45. How does the old woman earn her living? (By running errands)
46. What does the old woman see alongside the road? (A black pot)
47. What is the final conversion of the treasure in the pot? (A Bogey Beast)
48. What is the reaction of the woman, on seeing the Bogey Beast? (Laughter and wonder)
49. Name the popular stories, written by Grimm Brothers? (The Sleeping Beauty & Cinderella)
50. What is grown in the garden of the enchantress? (Rampion)
51. What does the woman make using the rampion fruits? (Salad)
52. How does the enchantress name the child? (Rapunzel)
53. Where does the enchantress leave Rapunzel? (In the desert)
54. How does the prince lose his eyesight? (By the thorns)
55. Who is Androcles? (A Roman slave)
56. Where does Androcles hide himself? (In the jungle)
57. What has caused the wound in the lion's paw? (A big thorn)
58. How does the lion show its gratitude to Androcles? (By giving him food)
59. What is the punishment given to the criminals in Rome? (Combat with lions)
60. How does the lion react on seeing Androcles? (Fawning upon Androcles)

UNIT – III

61. Whom does the title "The Boy who wouldn't Grow up" denote? (Peter Pan)
62. What is the nature of Peter Pan? (Innocent mischievous boy)
63. What is the special skill of Peter Pan? (Flying)
64. Who inhabit the island of Neverland? (Mermaids, fairies, Native Americans and pirates)
65. Where is Wendy Darling's house? (Bloomsbury)
66. Who narrates bed-time stories to the children at Bloomsbury? (Mrs. Mary Darling)
67. What does Peter Pan lose, while trying to escape from Wendy's house? (His shadow)
68. Who are the friends of Peter Pan, residing in Neverland? (The Lost Boys)
69. Why does Peter Pan invite Wendy Darling to Neverland? (To narrate bed-time stories)
70. Who accompany Wendy Darling to Neverland? (John and Michael)
71. How are the children thrown out, during their flight to Neverland? (By a cannon)
72. By whom is Wendy about to meet her death? (Tootles)
73. Who build a small house for Wendy in Neverland? (Peter Pan and the Lost Boys)
74. Where does Peter Pan take Wendy after her recovery? (To his underground home)
75. What is the role assumed by Wendy in the underground home? (Mother figure)
76. Whom does Peter Pan take along with him during his adventures? (The Darlings)
77. Which adventure is dangerous to Peter and the Darlings? (Mermaid's Lagoon)
78. What is the name of the princess, saved by the Lost Boys? (Tiger Lily)

79. Who is Captain Hook? (A pirate)
80. Who is the arch nemesis of Peter Pan? (Captain Hook)
81. To whom does Captain Hook lose his left hand? (A crocodile)
82. What does the crocodile swallow along with Hook's hand? (A ticking clock)
83. Who attacks Peter Pan severely? (Captain Hook)
84. Who saves the life of Peter Pan from the tide? (A bird)
85. What does the bird give Peter Pan to escape from the tide? (Its nest)
86. Who captures the Wendys, during their return to England? (Captain Hook)
87. How does Peter frighten Captain Hook? (By the ticking sound of the clock)
88. How does Captain Hook meet his end? (By the crocodile)
89. Who adopts the Lost Boys finally? (Mrs. Mary Darling)
90. When does Peter Pan meet Wendy every year? (During the spring season)

UNIT - IV

91. Name of the ceremony, where tributes are chosen from each district? (The Reaping)
92. What is the primary industry in District 12? (Coal Mining)
93. Name of the system to put additional entries into The Hunger Games for food? (Tesserae)
94. How does Katniss get the Gamemakers attention? (By shooting an apple in pig's mouth)
95. What flower reminds Katniss of Peeta and symbolizes hope to her? (Dandelion)
96. What animal is on the pin that Katniss is given? (Mocking jay)
97. Which tribute is known to have the worst temper and snaps one of the ally's necks? (Cato)
98. What is the name of the berries that kill Foxface? (Nightlock)
99. What training score does Katniss receive? (11)
100. In which year The Hunger Games did Peeta and Katniss participate? (74)
101. What is Gale's nickname for Katniss? (Catnip)
102. Who is the last tribute to die in the arena? (Cato)
103. What gift does Katniss remember giving Prim on her birthday? (A goat)
104. What is the name of the country where the Hunger Games take place? (Panem)
105. The tributes from the wealthier districts who train for the Games are called? (Careers)
106. To what genre does *A Monster Calls* belong to? (A fantasy novel)
107. What elements are blended in *A Monster Calls*? (English history, mythology & Fantasy)
108. Who is the protagonist of *A Monster Calls*? (Conor O'Malley)
109. What is the age of Conor O'Malley? (13 years old)
110. In what distress is Conor caught up? (His mother's illness)
111. Where does the Monster have his birth? (A yew tree on the hill)
112. What is mysterious about Conor's dream? (Waking up at same time every night)
113. Where does the Monster spend its daytime? (In the cemetery near Conor's house)
114. How does the Monster transform at night? (A terrifying tree-creature)
115. What is the skin of the Monster made of? (Yew Tree leaves)
116. What is the teeth of the Monster made of? (Bark of the yew tree)
117. How was the young queen suspected by the king and the people? (A witch)
118. Whose house is destructed by the Monster and Conor? (The parson's house)

119. What has been destroyed by Conor in real? (His grandmother's house)
120. What is the medicine taken by Conor's mother for the disease made of? (Yew tree)

UNIT – V

121. Which work is the master-piece of C.S. Lewis? (*The Chronicles of Narnia*)
122. Who unifies the kingdom of Narnia? (Aslan, a noble lion)
123. In which form is Aslan in the kingdom on Narnia? (The Son of God)
124. What genre does *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* belong to? (Children's Fantasy)
125. Name the siblings in *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe* (Peter, Susan, Edmund & Lucy)
126. Who takes care of the children in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Professor Kirke)
127. Why are the children in the care of Professor Kirke? (Due to World War II)
128. Which of the Pevensie children is the first to discover the world of Narnia? (Lucy)
129. When does Lucy reach the strange, snowy wood? (On entering the wardrobe)
130. Who is the first person or creature that Lucy meets in Narnia? (The Faun Tumnus)
131. What magical food does the White Witch give to Edmund? (Turkish Delight)
132. What marks the border between Narnia and the outside world? (A lamp post)
133. What magical power is the White Witch best known for? (Turning people to stone)
134. How does the White Witch introduce herself to Edmund? (The Queen of Narnia)
135. Why do the children hide in the wardrobe? (To avoid the housekeeper)
136. What creature first leads the children through the woods? (A robin)
137. Why is Tumnus arrested by the White Witch? (For sparing Lucy's life)
138. Who helps the children to meet Aslan? (Mr. Beaver)
139. Where do the children agree to meet Aslan? (The Stone Table)
140. Who is first to address Aslan? (Peter)
141. Who is Maugrim? (Chief of the witches' police)
142. Who is the Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea? (Aslan's father)
143. Where is Aslan killed? (On the stone table)
144. Which creature is freed from stone by Aslan at the end of the novel? (Jenna, the Satyr)
145. Name the weapon used by the Queen to attack Peter? (A stone knife)
146. How does the White Witch hide herself? (As part of landscape)
147. What happens to the Witch in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*? (Killed by Aslan)
148. What is the ancient prophecy about Narnia? (Four children will rule)
149. Who gives the magic horn to Susan? (The Father Christmas)
150. For whom does Aslan sacrifice his life? (Edmund)

R.L. STEVENSON - FROM A RAILWAY CARRIAGE

Text:

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
And charging along like troops in a battle,

All through the meadows the horses and cattle:
All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
Painted stations whistle by.

Here is a child who clammers and scrambles,
All by himself and gathering brambles;
Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;
And there is the green for stringing the daisies!
Here is a cart run away in the road
Lumping along with man and load;
And here is a mill and there is a river:
Each a glimpse and gone forever!

Introduction:

Travelling experiences are a source of great happiness for children. Everyone has a fascination towards travelling in train because of its length, the sound produced by the mechanical movement of the wheels and the loud horn. In his poem “From a Railway Carriage”, R L Stevenson describes his thrilling journey in a train and about those sights that he saw then. Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) was a Scottish writer. He had literary interests even in childhood so that he used to write stories in spite of his several diseases. He is well known for his evergreen works like *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*.

The title “From a Railway Carriage” captures the essence of the poem, as it is a record of the poet’s journey in a train. The poem communicates the poet’s observations and thoughts as he was sitting in a railway carriage.

The Fast Movement of the Train:

The poem "From a Railway Carriage" is about the experience of the poet R.L. Stevenson during his train travel. He has written the poem very expressively. He says that the train moves much faster than imaginary characters like fairies and witches. He saw bridges, houses, hedges, and ditches along the way. He felt the train charged forward like troops of soldiers in a battlefield, who were ready to attack. He saw many brightly painted stations along the way, as he heard the whistles that indicated the arrival of the stations. But all these sights flew past him in a wink of an eye, because the train was speeding fast. The speed of the train is described by the lines,

“All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
Painted stations whistle by.”

The Various Sights:

Stevenson says that all the scenes of the hill and plain were being crossed by the train as quick as one drop of rain following the other in a storm. In the next moment, the train passed railway stations and it looked like painted pictures. He saw a child, scrambling

up brambles to gather some blackberry fruits. He also saw a tramp who was standing and gazing at the things happening around him. Some people were stringing daisies to make garlands from it. He saw a cart that was lumping along laboriously with the weight of a man and the cartload. Finally, he saw a mill and a river. The poet saw all these sights only in a glimpse, as the train sped away - leaving the images behind them. All these objects appeared and disappeared so quickly that the poet could only get a glimpse of them and they can never be seen again.

“And here is a mill and there is a river:
Each a glimpse and gone forever!”

Conclusion:

“From a Railway Carriage” by R L Stevenson presents a series of realistic images, that enable the reader to experience the feel of travelling in a train. The joy that we get from travelling is the major theme of the poem. Beauty of nature comes as a theme in the descriptions like “meadows”, “the horses and cattle”, “sights of the hill and the plain” etc. The poverty of human beings too is a theme, as suggested by the scene in which a tramp looks excitedly at the train.

A.A. MILNE - BUCKINGHAM PLACE

Text:

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace -

Christopher Robin went down with Alice.

Alice is marrying one of the guards.

"A soldier's life is terrible hard"

Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace -

Christopher Robin went down with Alice.

We saw a guard in a sentry-box.

"One of the sergeants looks after their socks,"

Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace -

Christopher Robin went down with Alice.

We looked for the King, but he never came.

"Well, God take care of him, all the same,"

Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace -

Christopher Robin went down with Alice.

They've great big parties inside the grounds.

"I wouldn't be King for a hundred pounds,"

Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace -
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
A face looked out, but it wasn't the King's.
"He's much too busy a-signing things,"
Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace -
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
"Do you think the King knows all about me?"
"Sure to, dear, but it's time for tea,"
Says Alice.

Introduction:

Alan Alexander Milne was an English author popular for his books about the teddy bear Winnie-the-Pooh and children's poetry. Milne was primarily a playwright before the huge success of Winnie-the-Pooh, which overshadowed all his previous works. Milne was the father of bookseller Christopher Robin Milne, upon whom the character Christopher Robin is based. It was during a visit to London Zoo, where Christopher became enamoured with the tame and amiable bear Winnipeg, that inspired Milne to write the story for his son. His son was famously the inspiration for the character of Christopher Robin and his stuffed animals, the inspiration for the other characters.

'Buckingham Palace' is one of the clever poems that A.A. Milne wrote featuring his famous characters from the Winnie-the-Pooh books. It depicts Alice and Christopher's trip to see the changing of the guard. The poem is a deceptively simple children's poem that comments on the role of a king and the civilians' understanding of that role. The speaker describes how two characters, Alice and Christopher, go to the palace every day to see the changing of the guard and with the hope of seeing the king. They are consistently disappointed in regards to the king. They conclude the king has to deal with every day and he may not "know" everyone he rules.

Purpose of the Visit:

In the first two stanzas of '*Buckingham Palace*,' Milne introduces the reader to the basic structure of the poem. There is a clear emphasis on repetition, as seen through the use and reuse of lines one, two, and five. It appears that over and over again Alice and Christopher, the well-known young boy from the *Winnie-the-Pooh* books, went down to see the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace. His companion Alice has a special interest in the guards. She claims she is getting married to one.

The Unseen King:

Although Alice and Christopher visit the palace with the intention of seeing the king also they are unable to. He does not come out anywhere that they can see. Despite the king not being there, Alice wishes him well "all the same". Alice shows some understanding of the role of king, its highs, and its lows. There are "big parties inside the grounds". But she states that she would not be "King for a hundred pounds". It is clear that there is something inside

Alice that understands the role of the king in a way that a young boy like Christopher Robin might not.

“They've great big parties inside the grounds.
"I wouldn't be King for a hundred pounds,"
Says Alice.”

Hope of the Children:

In the last two stanzas of *'Buckingham Palace,'* all the lines repeat again as they have been throughout the previous four stanzas. There was a “face” peering out from the palace but it is not the king. Alice and Christopher appear to be disappointed by this and Alice thinks that he must be busy “a-signing things”. The young Christopher Robin asks if “the King knows all about me”. This is an odd and complex question which raises issues around the role of the king. Alice dismisses this quickly, saying “yes for sure” but its “time for tea”. This line concludes the poem and brings the youth back into their day to day life.

"Do you think the King knows all about me?"

"Sure to, dear, but it's time for tea,"

Says Alice.”

ROALD DAHL - LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

As soon as Wolf began to feel
That he would like a decent meal,
He went and knocked on Grandma's door.
When Grandma opened it, she saw
The sharp white teeth, the horrid grin,
And Wolfie said, “May I come in?”
Poor Grandmamma was terrified,
“He's going to eat me up!” she cried.
And she was absolutely right.
He ate her up in one big bite.
But Grandmamma was small and tough,
And Wolfie wailed, “That's not enough!
I haven't yet begun to feel
That I have had a decent meal!”
He ran around the kitchen yelping,
“I've got to have a second helping!”
Then added with a frightful leer,
“I'm therefore going to wait right here
Till Little Miss Red Riding Hood
Comes home from walking in the wood.”
He quickly put on Grandma's clothes,
(Of course he hadn't eaten those).
He dressed himself in coat and hat.
He put on shoes, and after that
He even brushed and curled his hair,

Then sat himself in Grandma's chair.
In came the little girl in red.
She stopped. She stared. And then she said,
"What great big ears you have, Grandma."
"All the better to hear you with," the Wolf replied.
"What great big eyes you have, Grandma."
said Little Red Riding Hood.
"All the better to see you with," the Wolf replied.
He sat there watching her and smiled.
He thought, I'm going to eat this child.
Compared with her old Grandmamma
She's going to taste like caviar.
Then Little Red Riding Hood said, "But Grandma,
what a lovely great big furry coat you have on."
"That's wrong!" cried Wolf. "Have you forgot
To tell me what BIG TEETH I've got?
Ah well, no matter what you say,
I'm going to eat you anyway."
The small girl smiles. One eyelid flickers.
She whips a pistol from her knickers.
She aims it at the creature's head
And bang bang bang, she shoots him dead.
A few weeks later, in the wood,
I came across Miss Riding Hood.
But what a change! No cloak of red,
No silly hood upon her head.
She said, "Hello, and do please note
My lovely furry wolfskin coat."

Introduction:

Roald Dahl was a British novelist, short story writer, poet, screenwriter, and fighter pilot. He is considered one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century. His books have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide. He wrote many children's books that later were made into movies. He took inspiration from his life incidence and people he met. He wrote 21 books for children- including picture books, novels and poetry collections. "Revolting Rhymes" is a collection of Roald Dalh's poems published in 1982. It is a parody of traditional folk tales in verse. Dahl gives a re-interpretation of six well-known fairy tales, featuring surprise endings in place of the traditional happily-ever-after finishes.

Dahl's poem "Little Red Robin Hood" is about the tragedy caused by the Wolf in the life of Red Riding Hood and how she emerges out of it and become Red Robin Hood. The Wolf gets hungry and goes to Grandma's house. He eats her up in one bite but is not satisfied yet. So he decides to put on Grandma's clothes and wait for Little Red Riding Hood to arrive. When she gets there, they go through the familiar dialogue of her asking him about his big eyes and ears. Then she asks him about his furry coat. "That's wrong!" he says, pointing out

that she was supposed to ask about his teeth. Regardless, he says, he's going to eat her up. Before he has a chance, the small girl pulls a pistol from her knickers and shoots him in the head. The narrator explains that he met Miss Riding Hood a few weeks later in the wood and was impressed by her new "lovely furry wolf skin coat." He dresses himself in coat and hat.

Wolf Eating Grandmother:

The wolf enters the house of an old, rugged woman. Actually he wants to get a decent meal as he is hungry. But, on seeing the old woman, he does not think twice and eats her up. This is not enough for the wolf. He expects someone else will arrive and fulfill his hunger. He dresses himself up to look like grandma.

"He put on shoes, and after that
He even brushed and curled his hair,
Then sat himself in Grandma's chair."

The Meeting of the Wolf and Red Riding Hood:

As expected by the wolf, a little girl dressed in red enters the house. She is Little Red Riding Hood. When Little Red Riding Hood enters her grandmother's house, the wolf thinks that this will be the perfect meal and not like the old woman. The girl is shocked by the changed appearance of her grandmother. She becomes alert. She stops at the doorstep. As in the original folk tale, the conversation between Red Riding Hood and the wolf continues. Her questioning attitude makes her clarify her doubts. She wonders that her grandmothers ears and eyes have become bigger. The wolf answers trickily that he wants to hear more from the girl and see her in wide.

Riding Hood Becomes Robin Hood:

Both are involved in their own planning and execution. The wolf imagines the taste of the little girl and waits for the opportunity, whereas Riding Hood still verifies her doubts. She questions about the "lovely great big furry coat" that the wolf wears. The wolf loses her patience and sense. He cries that is not to be questioned. He voluntarily opens up his wish saying he is going to eat her away.

"That's wrong!" cried Wolf. "Have you forgot
To tell me what BIG TEETH I've got?
Ah well, no matter what you say,
I'm going to eat you anyway."

Red looks at the wolf and smiles. One of her eyelids flickers. She whips a pistol from her knickers. She aims it at the creature's head and shoots him dead.

"She whips a pistol from her nickers.
She aims it at the creature's head
And bang bang bang,
she shoots him dead."

This is a sudden and unexpected end. Dahl changes the view of Red Riding Hood as a character from an oblivious, innocent, and inexperienced, young woman to a smart and powerful hero.

The New Woman Concept:

At the death of the wolf, Dahl continues on to change his writing to first person and as if he sees Red Riding Hood personally a few weeks later. However, this time she is not dressed in red, by which she has been called as Red Riding Hood all these days. She is in a

furry wolf skin coat. She calls the narrator and draws his attention to the coat. It denotes she has made a coat out of the dead wolf's skin and wears it as her new identity.

“But what a change! No cloak of red,
No silly hood upon her head.
She said, “Hello, and do please note
My lovely furry wolf skin coat.”

Conclusion:

Dahl's ability to abruptly alter Red as a character and change the point of the story creates a different feeling. Little Red Riding Hood is the one who deals the final blow of the tale, the one who turns the screw on the plot and manages to surprise the reader. The Little Red Riding Hood has become a smart, tough woman to show the progression of the original story to modern day and the transition of human to new intelligence and an understanding. Dahl's portrayal of a brave, active, modern girl who, as if acquainted with the potential evils of today's society, takes safety measures by carrying a gun with her. This will come to the reader as a surprise since our expectations of fairy tale women are usually associated to the image of defenseless, weak creatures who cannot do a thing for themselves except waiting for the hero to help them escape - Sleeping Beauty, Snow-White.

HILAIRE BELLOC – MATILDA

Text:

Matilda told such Dreadful Lies,
It made one Gasp and Stretch one's Eyes;
Her Aunt, who, from her Earliest Youth,
Had kept a Strict Regard for Truth,
Attempted to Believe Matilda:
The effort very nearly killed her,
And would have done so, had not She
Discovered this Infirmity.
For once, towards the Close of Day,
Matilda, growing tired of play,
And finding she was left alone,
Went tiptoe to the Telephone
And summoned the Immediate Aid
Of London's Noble Fire-Brigade.
Within an hour the Gallant Band
Were pouring in on every hand,
From Putney, Hackney Downs, and Bow
With Courage high and Hearts a-glow
They galloped, roaring through the Town
'Matilda's House is Burning Down!'
Inspired by British Cheers and Loud
Proceeding from the Frenzied Crowd,
They ran their ladders through a score
Of windows on the Ball Room Floor;

And took Peculiar Pains to Souse
The Pictures up and down the House,
Until Matilda's Aunt succeeded
In showing them they were not needed;
And even then she had to pay
To get the Men to go away!
It happened that a few Weeks later
Her Aunt was off to the Theatre
To see that Interesting Play
The Second Mrs Tanqueray.
She had refused to take her Niece
To hear this Entertaining Piece:
A Deprivation Just and Wise
To Punish her for Telling Lies.
That Night a Fire *did* break out-
You should have heard Matilda Shout!
You should have heard her Scream and Bawl,
And throw the window up and call
To People passing in the Street-
(The rapidly increasing Heat
Encouraging her to obtain
Their confidence)-but all in vain!
For every time She shouted 'Fire!'
They only answered 'Little Liar!'
And therefore when her Aunt returned,
Matilda, and the House, were Burned.

Introduction:

Hilaire Belloc was French by birth but spent most of his life in England, becoming naturalised as British in 1902. He was an extremely prolific writer in a number of fields. Although he wrote a great deal of "serious" poetry, he is best remembered today for his satirical and children's poems. The latter included his 1896 collection "The Bad Child's Book of Beasts", "More Beasts (for Worse Children)" and "Cautionary Tales for Children". "Matilda Who Told Lies, and was Burned to Death" is one of the best-known Cautionary Tales. This poem is a modern version of "The Boy who Cried Wolf" from Aesop's Fables, told as a comic poem with a view to giving entertainment as well as imparting a lesson.

Matilda's Infirmary:

Matilda is the protagonist of the poem. Her age is not given. She lives with her Aunt in a large London house. The worst habit of Matilda is telling lies just to arouse the curiosity of the hearer. Sometimes, she tells the worst lies to the extent of making others lose breath. It is an infirmity in Matilda. But this weakness of Matilda is going to kill her.

Matilda's aunt seems to be an orthodox woman. Since her childhood, she adheres strictly to the habit of speaking truth. Her good nature of adhering to truth is in opposite in Matilda. At the beginning, she tried to believe all the lies told by Matilda. But, the more she

believes, the more Matilda increases the intensity of her lies. At one stage, the lies of Matilda become unbearable and almost they would have killed her aunt. Luckily, Matilda's aunt understands that Matilda's lies are not intentional. It is a sickness in the little girl. She decides to correct the nature of the girl by giving simple punishments.

The Consequences of a Worst Lie:

Matilda plays for the whole day. Getting bored and being alone, she decides to create sensation among the people by telling a lie. Without realizing the consequences of her act, she telephones to the Fire Brigade of London and request immediate aid as her house in fire. The false news that 'Matilda's House is Burning Down!' spread fast. The gallant band from the Fire Brigade comes from all fire stations and start piercing the whole house with water. The whole London town gather there and cheer them to act fast. Some men go through the window and try to save the portraits in the Ball Room Floor. When Matilda's aunt comes back, she realized what would have happened in her absence. With great effort, she explains to the men that there is nothing wrong in the house. Their help is not needed. In fact, she pays for the men to move off from her house.

The Sad Death of Matilda:

Matilda's aunt wants to give a simple punishment o the little girl so that her nature can be changed for good. She goes to the theatre to enjoy an interesting play. She refuses to take Matilda with her because this deprivation will make Matilda get realization. Unfortunately, a real fire breaks out in the house. Matilda screams and bawls. She calls the paasers-by through the window. None pays heed to her. They know Matilda's habit of telling lies.

“For every time She shouted ‘Fire!’

They only answered ‘Little Liar!’”

When her aunt comes back from the theatre, she could see only the buent house and the dead Matilda.

“And therefore when her Aunt returned,

Matilda, and the House, were Burned.”

Conclusion:

The second part of the poem is its denouement. The outcome of Matilda's act is a disastrous one. Belloc shows great skill in the way he builds the story, such as the account of the Fire Brigade racing through the town and being cheered on by the crowds. "Matilda" is a well-crafted and relevant poem that works well for adults and for children.

S.T. COLERIDGE - A CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER

Text:

Ere on my bed my limbs I lay,
God grant me grace my prayers to say:
O God! preserve my mother dear
In strength and health for many a year;
And, O! preserve my father too,
And may I pay him reverence due;
And may I my best thoughts employ
To be my parents' hope and joy;

And, O! preserve my brothers both
From evil doings and from sloth,
And may we always love each other,
Our friends, our father, and our mother,
And still, O Lord, to me impart
An innocent and grateful heart,
That after my last sleep I may
Awake to thy eternal day! Amen.

Introduction:

Samuel Taylor Coleridge was an English poet, literary critic, philosopher, and theologian who, with his friend William Wordsworth, was a founder of the Romantic Movement in England and a member of the Lake Poets. His short poem "A Child's Prayer" is about a child who deeply loves his family and prays for their safety and health. The poet devices of rhetoric and the effects of tone to create an atmosphere that is innocent and humble among the eyes of God. The poem begins with a humble or innocent mood or atmosphere and ends up hopeful and peaceful.

The speaker of "A Child's Prayer" is a young child praying to God. The occasion is a child in bed, and the time is at night. The child in bed acts as the subject of the poem. This child is praying for his parents' health, that he may please them and that his brothers may be kept from evil doings.

Prayer for Himself:

The child trusts and confides his expectations in God. The first prayer of the child is for his own self. But there is no selfish motive in it. He asks God to add grace to the words that he utters in his prayer. This shows the modesty and piety of the child.

"Ere on my bed my limbs I lay,
God grant me grace my prayers to say;"

The child makes a different plea to God. He asks God to fill him with the best thoughts always so that his parents, on knowing them will be filled with hope and joy.

"And may I my best thoughts employ
To be my parents' hope and joy;"

Prayer for Parents:

Concepts such as faith, belief and family pervade the poem in the poet's attempt to convey the theme that praying for the family is always effective. The child requests God to keep his dear mother always in good health and give her strength for many years. The next prayer of the child is for the sake of his father. He asks God to preserve his father forever. He asks for a wish that as a child, he also must be blessed to pay respect to his father. His prayer is different. He not only asks for the well-being of his father but also to maintain the same respect and reverence to him.

Prayer for Brothers:

Thinking of all his family members, the child next prays for his brothers. The child has two expectations about his two brothers. They should not do evil actions. They should not be lazy and while away the time. He makes this appeal to God and asks Him to preserve the boys also.

As the siblings, the child has a wish to live a happy life together for long years. So he asks God to grant them the particular wish. These children should love each other, their friends as well as their parents.

“And may we always love each other,
Our friends, our father, and our mother”

Prayer for Heavenly Life:

At the end of the poem, the child again makes a special prayer for himself. He asks God to impart an innocent and grateful heart in him so that he may reside in Heaven and await God’s arrival after his last sleep.

SHORT STORIES

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE - THE SNOW IMAGE

Introduction:

Nathaniel Hawthorne was an American novelist, short-story writer, and biographer. His work centres on his New England home and often features moral allegories with Puritan inspiration, with themes revolving around inherent good and evil. His fiction works are considered part of the Romantic movement and, more specifically, Dark romanticism.

The Snow-Image, and Other Twice-Told Tales is a collection of short stories by Hawthorne. mostly turned away from the short tales that had marked the majority of his career to that point.

Making of the Snow Sister:

The Lindsey family is the center of the story and the daily happenings in a domestic atmosphere are the events in “The Snow Image”. Violet and Peony, the two children of the Lindseys are playing in the front garden of their house during an afternoon of a cold winter. Getting tired of playing with one another, the children decide to make a girl entirely of snow in order to have someone else to play with. As soon as they begin to shape the snow image’s bosom, they try to find a bit of the purest snow because that was a special region.

The children call the image as “our little snow sister”. They are happy because of the new companion for their hours of amusement, especially during the winter. Violet observes: “What a nice playmate she will be for us, all winter long”. In their innocence, the children really think the snow image will come to life and become a playmate of theirs. They are really delighted with the snow image’s company. They believe it alive b but they do not care about its inappropriate dressing despite the cold of the afternoon.

The Mother’s Pride:

As they are busy at their work, Violet and Peony talk about the possible reactions both their mother and father would have in relation to the snow image. They trust their mother. But they fear their father’s opinion about the snow image.

Mrs. Lindsey has been watching them from the window of the house. She is proud of her children’s creativity. This woman’s pride is so great that it leads her to supernatural beliefs. She believes her children are so pure that they would attract angels from the sky to play with them. Besides being proud of her children, the mother becomes as much involved in their work as the children themselves enjoy being one with the snow image.

The Father's Cruelty:

However, the delight of Violet and Peony in the company of the little snow child collapses with the sudden appearance of their father. He has been out of the home during their play in the garden. He does not accept his children going out to play on such a cold day. He is not ready to believe the explanation given up by them about the snow image. He tries to find a way of stopping what he regards as their foolishness. He brings them all inside, including the snow image. He does not hear either his children's or his wife's arguments against taking the snow child inside. His wife makes another attempt to convince him. This time she sees the presence of the snow child as a miracle. He does not believe a word she is saying. He only replies that she is as much a child as the children. Mr. Lindsey's arrival in the garden makes all the previous enchanted atmosphere disintegrate. No one can dissuade Mr. Lindsey from his purpose. He seems to believe the snow image is human after all.

The Thawed Image:

Mr. Lindsey takes the snow child inside and puts it near the stove. He thaws it in a few minutes. He leaves home saying he will look for the snow child's parents. His wife cries for him to come back. As he re-enters his children reproach him; "We told you so, father!" screamed Violet and Peony, as he re-entered the parlour. "You would bring her in; and now our poor-dear-beautiful little snow-sister is thawed." Violet and Peony denounce the mischief their father has done. Even the stove, as if allied to the children seems to glare at Mr. Lindsey, like a red-eyed demon. But Mr. Lindsey seems insensible to the remarks. He is sure he has done right in attempting to warm the child and to look for its parents. But to the children this is the worst thing that could happen.

Conclusion:

Thus, the practicality of the father ends the childish dream of playing with a snow image.

THE SNOW QUEEN - HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Introduction:

"The Snow Queen" is a fairy tale by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen. It was first published in 1844 in *New Fairy Tales*. The story centres on the struggle between good and evil as experienced by Gerda and her friend, Kai. The story is one of Andersen's longest and most highly acclaimed stories.

The Magic Mirror by the Troll:

A troll is a being in Nordic folklore. In Old Norse sources, beings described as trolls dwell in isolated areas of rocks, mountains, or caves. They live together in small family units, and are rarely helpful to human beings. In "The Snow Queen", there is an evil-minded troll. He is the headmaster at a troll school. One day, he makes a magic mirror that distorts the appearance of everything that it reflects. The magic mirror fails to reflect the good and beautiful aspects of people and things. Instead, it magnifies their bad and ugly aspects. The devil takes the mirror and his pupils throughout the world, delighting in using it to distort everyone and everything.

Mirror in the Earth:

The devil and his pupils attempt to carry the mirror into heaven in order to make fools of the angels and God. The higher they lift it, the more the mirror shakes. As they laugh, they lose grip of the mirror. It slips from their grasp and falls back to earth, shattering into billions of pieces, some no larger than a grain of sand. The splinters are blown by the wind all over the Earth and get into people's hearts and eyes. They freeze their hearts like blocks of ice and make their eyes like the troll-mirror itself. Since then, the people on the Earth could see only the bad and ugly in people and things.

Kai and Gerda:

Years later, there is a large city, there are garrets of buildings with adjoining roofs. Kai, a little boy and Gerda, a little girl live next door to each other. They could get from one's home to the others, just by stepping over the gutters of each building. The two families grow vegetables and roses in window boxes placed on the gutters. Gerda and Kai have a window box garden to play in. They become devoted to each other as playmates, and as close as if they were siblings.

Kai's grandmother tells the children about the Snow Queen. The Snow Queen is the ruler over the snowflakes. She is seen where the snowflakes cluster the most. They are called "snow bees" because they resemble bees. One day in winter, Kai looks out of his frosted window. He sees the Snow Queen. She beckons him to come with her. Kai draws back in fear from the window. By the following spring, roses adorn the window box garden. The sight of roses always reminds Gerda of her love for Kai.

The Affected Kai:

On a pleasant summer day, splinters of the troll-mirror get into Kai's heart and eyes. Kai becomes cruel and aggressive. He destroys their window-box garden. He makes fun of his grandmother. He no longer cares about Gerda. Everyone now appears bad and ugly to him. The only beautiful and perfect things to him now are the tiny snowflakes that he sees through a magnifying glass.

The Missing Kai and Gerda's Search:

The following winter, Kai goes out with his sledge to play in the snowy market square. Accidentally, he hitches it to a curious white sleigh carriage, driven by the Snow Queen. She appears as a woman in a white fur-coat. Outside the city she reveals herself to Kai and kisses him twice. The first kiss numbs him from the cold and the second one makes him forget about Gerda and his family. By the third kiss, she will kill him. She takes Kai in her sleigh to her palace. The people of the city conclude that Kai died in the nearby river. Gerda is heartbroken. She keeps asking everyone about Kai's whereabouts. She offers her new red shoes to the river in exchange for Kai. The river refuses her gift. Anyway, it assures her that Kai did not drown. So Gerda climbs into a boat and the river carries her away, to start her sail on the right path.

Gerda in summer Garden:

Gerda next visits an old sorceress with a beautiful garden of eternal summer. The sorceress wants Gerda to stay with her forever. She causes Gerda to forget Kai. She makes all the roses in her garden to sink beneath the earth, since she knows that the sight of them will remind Gerda of her friend. However, a while later, while playing in the garden, Gerda sees a rose on the sorceress' hat. She is reminded of Kai and begins to cry. Gerda's warm tears raise a bush above the ground. The bush tells her that it could see all the dead buried under the earth. It assures Kai is not among them. So Gerda interrogates the other flowers in the garden, but they only know a single story each, which they sing to her. Realizing that they cannot help her find Kai, Gerda flees the garden of eternal summer.

News about Lapland:

Gerda realizes that it is autumn. She has wasted a lot of time, and has no warm clothes to wear. She flees and meets a crow, who tells her that Kai is in the princess' palace. Gerda goes to the palace and meets the princess and the prince, who is not Kai but looks like him. Gerda tells them her story, and they provide her with warm clothes and a beautiful coach. While travelling in the coach, Gerda is captured by robbers and brought to their castle. There she befriends a little robber girl. The girl owns pet doves. These doves tell her that they saw Kai when he was carried away by the Snow Queen in the direction of Lapland. The captive reindeer Bae tells her that he knows how to get to Lapland since it is his home.

Travel to Snow Queen's Palace:

The robber girl frees Gerda and the reindeer to travel north to the Snow Queen's palace. They make two stops: first at the Lapp woman's home and then at the Finn woman's home. The Finn woman tells the reindeer that the secret of Gerda's unique power to save Kai is in her sweet and innocent child's heart.

Kai in Snow Queen's Palace:

When Gerda reaches the Snow Queen's palace, she is halted by the snowflakes guarding it. She prays and the prayer causes her breath to take the shape of angels. They resist the snowflakes and allow Gerda to enter the palace. Gerda finds Kai alone and almost immobile on a frozen lake. The Snow Queen calls the lake as "Mirror of Reason" and she sits on her throne on the lake. Kai is engaged in the task that the Snow Queen has given him. He must use pieces of ice like a Chinese puzzle to form characters and words. If he is able to form the word, he must have the ability to spell it also. Then, the Snow Queen will release him from her power and give him a pair of skates.

The Happy Ending:

Gerda runs up to Kai and kisses him, and he is saved by the power of her love. Gerda weeps warm tears on him, melting his heart and burning away the troll-mirror splinter in it. As a result, Kai bursts into tears, which dislodge the splinter from his eye, and becomes cheerful and healthy again. He remembers Gerda, and the two dance around so joyously that the splinters of ice Kai had been playing with are caught up into the dance. When they are tired of dancing, the splinters fall down to spell "eternity," the word Kai has been trying to

spell. Kai and Gerda leave the Snow Queen's domain with the help of the reindeer, the Finn woman, and the Lapp woman. They meet the robber girl, and from there they walk back to their home. Kai and Gerda find that everything at home is the same and that it is they who have changed. They are now grown up, and are also delighted to see that it is summertime.

THE BOGEY BEAST FROM 'ENGLISH FAIRY TALES'

Introduction:

Flora Annie Steel was an English writer, who lived in British India for 22 years. She was noted especially for books set in the Indian sub-continent or otherwise connected with it. She grew deeply interested in native Indian life and began to urge educational reforms on the government of India. During her time in India, Steele formed a strong bond with the country's women. *English Fairy Tales* and *Tales of the Punjab: Folklore of India* are her works devoted to folklore and fairy tales. Arthur Rackham, a well-known American artist drew the tale "The Bogey Beast". Steele retold and published the tales under the title "English Fairy Tales". More than 40 folktales by Rackham are included in this collection of short stories.

"The Bogey Beast" is the main story with the central theme of optimism. The protagonist of the story is an aged and impoverished woman, who has all the potentials necessary to live. She is blessed with a better and happier existence. By altering one's way of life, one can evade the effects of mental illness and other life's hardships.

The Cheerful Old Woman:

There is a woman who is cheerful, though she has little to make her so; for she is old, poor, and lonely. She lives in a little bit of a cottage and earns a scant living by running errands for her neighbours. She always looks as spry and cheery as if she has not a want in the world.

The Lucky Pot:

One day, the woman sees a black pot lying in a hole dug alongside the road as she makes her way home. She goes in search of its owner, but she could not locate him. She sees a chance for herself. She wonders for a long whether the black pot has been placed here because of a flaw in it. If it has flaws it might not be of use to anyone. After this, she had the bright idea that just because something has a flaw or defect does not mean it is useless. She decides to insert a flower in it and display it in her window as a decoration. This act of the woman clearly demonstrates her positive outlook on life. Stuff with flaws is normally thrown away because of its lack of value, yet this lady uses the black pot to decorate a flower. The flower becomes a piece of silver.

Gold Becomes Silver:

When the woman puts a piece of lead into the pot, it becomes gold. She begins to pull the pot to her house. The house is partly filled with gold coins, with the help of the pot. The woman goes to sleep with awe and wonder. She dreams of silver coins. When she wakes up, she discovers that the gold coins have transformed into silver coins. At first, she is taken aback. Then she wonders whether she would have been happier if she had dreamed of gold money instead of silver. But, as time passes, she comes to appreciate the silver coins and realizes that they represent good fortune for her since they cannot be stolen. Silver is simpler to manage than gold since it is less bothersome. The thieves may take the gold and injure her.

Silver becomes Iron:

The old woman accepts the change and begins lugging the pot full with silver pieces. She takes a break on the way back to her house. She checks to see whether the treasure is in the pot. It takes her by surprise when she discovers that her silver coins have turned to iron. The old woman labels it "luck" once again. Coins made of iron are more useful than those made of silver or gold because they cannot be stolen or robbed. She thinks she can sell the bits of iron and become wealthy and richer.

Iron Becomes Stone:

The old woman takes a break again. She takes a break once again. She takes a peek around to make sure her pot is not in danger. The iron has turned into a big stone. As a precaution, she places the stone in front of her gate. She is overjoyed for being able to keep her door open.

Stone becomes Bogey Beast:

The old woman drags the stone to her home. In the meanwhile, she unties the stone and keeps it near the door. When she returns, she is surprised to see that everything is just as it has been before. She comes to a halt. The stone has suddenly morphed into a naughty guy with large ears, a long tail, and tiny legs who is giggling hysterically. Laughing with the cheeky kid, the elderly mother peered in wonder at the scene.

ROTHERS GRIMM – RAPUNZEL**Introduction:**

The Grimm brothers are well-known German authors. Both of them were linguists and philosophers. Jacob published a German grammar and together with his brother he published a German dictionary. Out of the national stories, they made fairytales. Their fairy tales are known as stories full of wisdom and cheerfulness. In the beginning, their collection contained 86 stories and through repeated publishing the number grew to 200. Some of their most famous works are "The Sleeping Beauty", "Cinderella", "Snow White", "Rapunzel" etc.

The Blessed Couple:

A man and a woman have long in vain wished for a child. At length the woman hopes that God is about to grant her desire. As they dream and wish, the woman becomes pregnant. They are happily awaiting the arrival of the child. The man tries to fulfil the simple wishes of the woman, during her conception.

The Garden of the Enchantress:

The couple have a little window at the back of their house from which a splendid garden could be seen. It is full of the most beautiful flowers and herbs. It is, however, surrounded by a high wall. None dare to go into it because it belongs to an enchantress. She has great power and is dreaded by the world.

The Woman's Wish:

One day the woman is standing by this window and looking down into the garden. She sees a bed which is planted with the most beautiful rampion (rapunzel). It looks so fresh and green that she longs for it, and has the greatest desire to eat some. This desire increases every day. She knows that she could not get any of it. But, she pines away, and looked pale and miserable. She tells her husband about her wish. In the twilight of the evening, he clammers down over the wall into the garden of the enchantress, hastily clutches a handful of

rampion, and takes it to his wife. She at once makes herself a salad of it, and eats it with much relish. The next day she longs for it three times as much as before.

Rapunzel Taken Away:

In the gloom of evening, the man clammers down the wall. He is terribly afraid because he the enchantress standing before him. She charges him as a thief. The man pleads for mercy. The enchantress allows him to take the rampion on condition that he must hand over their first-born baby to her. If he fails to do so, he will be cursed to become a pig. The man in his terror consents to everything. As said, the enchantress arrives when the child is born. She names it 'Rapunzel' and takes it away with her.

Rapunzel's Tress:

Rapunzel grows into the most beautiful child beneath the sun. When she is twelve years old, the enchantress shuts her into a tower, which lay in a forest, and has neither stairs nor door, but quite at the top is a little window. When the enchantress wants to go in, she places herself beneath it and cries,

"Rapunzel, Rapunzel,
Let down your hair to me."

Rapunzel has magnificent long hair, fine as spun gold, and when she hears the voice of the enchantress she unfastens her braided tresses and the enchantress climbed up by it.

The Love between Rapunzel and the Prince:

By chance, a prince rides through the forest and goes by the tower. Then he hears a song, which is so charming. This is Rapunzel, who in her solitude passes her time in letting her sweet voice resound. The King's son wants to climb up to her, and looks for the door of the tower, but none is found. He rides home, but the singing has so deeply touched his heart, that every day he goes out into the forest and listens to it. Once he sees the way the enchantress goes to the tower. He tries the same and reaches the place of Rapunzel.

At first Rapunzel is terribly frightened when a man such as her eyes have never yet behold, comes to her. But the prince talks to her like a friend. Then Rapunzel loses her fear. They decide to get married. Rapunzel asks the prince to bring silken threads every day. She will weave them together and using the woven cloth, they can go down together. This is the only way to escape from the sorceress.

The Miserable Condition of Rapunzel:

One day, the enchantress climbs up the tower, using the tress of Rapunzel, as usual. Forgetting the effect of her utterance, Rapunzel comments on the heaviness of the old woman, compared to that of the young prince. The enchantress becomes angry for Rapunzel has deceived her. In her anger cut off the lovely air of the young woman. Being so pitiless, she takes poor Rapunzel into a desert where she has to live in great grief and misery.

The Blind Prince:

On the same day, the enchantress fastens the braids of hair which she has cut off, to the hook of the window. When the prince makes a call, she lets the hair down. The prince ascends but he does not find his dearest Rapunzel. He sees the wicked and venomous looks of the enchantress. She says cruelly, "Rapunzel is lost to thee; thou wilt never see her more." In

despair, the prince leaps down from the tower. He escapes with his life, but the thorns pierce his eyes. Then he wanders quite blind about the forest, eats nothing but roots and berries, and laments over the loss of his dearest wife. Thus he roams about in misery for some years.

The Family Reunion:

Finally, the prince comes to the desert. There, Rapunzel, with the twins to which she has given birth lives in wretchedness. He hears a voice. It seems so familiar to him that he goes towards it. Rapunzel identifies him and cries. Two of her tears wet his eyes and they grow clear again. He could see his wife and children. He leads them to his kingdom where he is joyfully received. They live for a long time afterwards, happy and contented.

JAMES BALDWIN - ANDROCLES AND THE LION

Introduction:

James Arthur Baldwin was an American novelist, essayist, playwright, poet, and social critic. "Androcles and the Lion" is a famous short story by James Baldwin. The story narrates about a poor slave.

Androcles and the Wounded Lion:

Androcles is a Roman slave, who escapes from his oppressive master and starts living in the jungles. He wanders there for a long time until he is weary. He spends his night in hunger and despair. Just then he hears a lion near him moaning and groaning and at times roaring terribly. Tired as he is, Androcles rises up and rushes away to escape from the lion. But as he makes his way through the bushes, he stumbles over the root of a tree and falls down lamed. When he tries to get up, he sees the lion coming towards him, limping on three feet and holding his forepaw in front of him.

Friendship between Androcles and the Lion:

Androcles is in despair. He has not strength to rise and run away. The lion is coming upon him. But when the great beast comes up to him, instead of attacking him, it keeps on moaning and groaning and looking at Androcles. He observes that the lion is holding out his right paw, which is covered with blood and much swollen. Looking more closely at it, Androcles notices a great big thorn pressed into the paw, which is the cause of all the lion's trouble. Picking up courage, he seizes hold of the thorn and draws it out of the lion's paw. The lion roars with pain when the thorn comes out. But soon it finds such relief from it that he fawns upon Androcles and shows its gratitude. Instead of eating him up he brings a young deer to Androcles to make a meal from it. Thus, the lion continues bringing the food Androcles. Both of them become fond of each other.

The Cruel Punishment:

One day a number of soldiers come marching through the forest and find Androcles. They take him prisoner and bring him back to the town from which he has fled. The master identifies his slave, brings him before the authorities. Androcles is sentenced to death. The death punishment is given to the criminals by throwing them to the lions in a huge arena so that the public could enjoy the spectacle of a combat between them and the wild beasts.

The Unexpected End:

On the appointed day Androcles is led forth into the arena and left there alone with only a spear to protect him from the lion. The Emperor is in the royal box that day and gives the signal for the lion to come out and attack Androcles. The lion comes out of its cage and goes near Androcles. Instead of jumping upon him, it fawns upon him and strikes him with its paw and makes no attempt to do him any harm.

It is of course the lion which Androcles has met in the forest. The Emperor is surprised at the strange behaviour in so cruel a beast. He summons Androcles and inquires how it happens that this particular lion has lost all its cruelty of disposition. Androcles narrates the happenings in the forest. The Emperor pardons Androcles and orders his master to set him free. The lion is taken back into the forest enjoy its freedom.

UNIT-III: DRAMA

J.M. BARRIE - PETER AND WENDY

Introduction:

Sir James Matthew Barrie was a Scottish novelist and playwright, best remembered as the creator of Peter Pan. He has written a number of successful novels and plays. In *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, "fairy play" he wrote about an ageless boy and an ordinary girl named Wendy who have adventures in the fantasy setting of Neverland. The play speaks the story of Peter Pan, a mischievous yet innocent little boy who can fly, and has many adventures on the island of Neverland that is inhabited by mermaids, fairies, Native Americans, and pirates. The Peter Pan stories also involve the characters Wendy Darling and her two brothers, Peter's fairy Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys, and the pirate Captain Hook.

Peter Pan and Wendy Darling:

Peter Pan is one of the protagonists of the play. He is described in the novel as a young boy who still has all his first teeth. He wears clothes made of leaves and plays the pipes. Wendy Darling is the heroine of the play. Her family lives in Bloomsbury, London. Wendy is the eldest child of the big family. She loves the idea of homemaking and storytelling and wants to become a mother. Her dreams consist of adventures in a little woodland house with her pet wolf.

Wendy's Help to Peter Pan:

Mary Darling, the loving mother of the children is an intelligent, romantic lady. Every night, she narrates bed time stories to her children. Peter makes night-time calls on the Darlings' house' listening to Mrs. Mary Darling's stories by the open window. One night Peter is spotted. While trying to escape, he loses his shadow. On returning to claim it, Peter wakes Mary's daughter, Wendy Darling. Wendy succeeds in re-attaching his shadow to him.

Peter's Plan:

Peter learns that Wendy knows many bedtime stories. Peter has his gang of Lost boys at Neverland. The boys were once lost in the Kensington Gardens. They are longing for mother's love. Peter plans that Wendy could be a suitable mother to the little boys and she could narrate bedtime stories to them. He invites her to Neverland and Wendy agrees. Her brothers John and Michael are willing to go along with her.

Life in Neverland:

The magical flight of the group to Neverland is followed by many adventures. The children are blown out of the air by a cannon and Wendy is nearly killed by the Lost Boy Tootles. Peter and the Lost Boys build a little house for Wendy to live in while she recuperates. John and Michael adopt the ways of the Lost Boys. Peter welcomes Wendy to his underground home, and she immediately assumes the role of mother figure.

The Adventures:

Peter takes the Darlings on several adventures. The first adventure was at Mermaids' Lagoon. It was really dangerous. Tiger Lily is the Princess of the Lagoon. The island has been invaded by the evil Captain Hook. Hook was once attacked by a crocodile which bit off his left hand and wanted to eat the rest of him. Hook escaped from it. He has replaced his lost hand with a hook and probably he is named after that. The crocodile swallowed Hook's ticking clock also. So Hook is afraid of all ticking sounds. He is Peter's nemesis. Peter is wounded when Hook claws him. He believes he will die, stranded on a rock when the tide is rising, but he views death as "an awfully big adventure". Luckily, a bird allows him to use her nest as a boat, and Peter sails home. In gratitude for his saving Tiger Lily, her tribe guard his home from the next imminent pirate attack.

The Abduction of Wendy:

Wendy falls in love with Peter, whereas Peter considers her as his mother. One day while telling stories to the Lost Boys and her brothers, John and Michael, Wendy recalls her parents and then decides to take them back and return to England. Unfortunately Wendy and the boys are captured by Captain Hook. He poisons Peter's medicine while the boy is asleep. When Peter awakes, he learns from the fairy Tinker Bell that Wendy has been kidnapped. When he goes to drink the medicine, Tinky does not have time to warn him of the poison. She drinks it herself, causing her near death. The belief of the children in fairies alone could save her. Peter asks the audience to clap hands if they accept it.

The Rescue:

Peter decided to save all. He heads to the ship. On the way, he encounters the ticking crocodile. He decides to copy the tick, so that the other animals will recognise it and leave him unharmed. He does not realise that he is still ticking as he boards the ship. On hearing the sound, Hook cowers, mistaking Peter for the crocodile. While the pirates are searching for the crocodile, Peter sneaks into the cabin to steal the keys and frees the Lost Boys. When the pirates investigate a noise in the cabin, Peter defeats them. When he finally reveals himself, the climactic battle happens between Him and Hook. Peter easily wins. He kicks Hook into the jaws of the waiting crocodile. Hook dies with the satisfaction that Peter had literally kicked him off the ship, of course in a "bad form". Then Peter takes control of the ship, and sails the seas back to London.

Mrs. Darling Adopting the Children:

Wendy decides that she should live only in London, much to the joy of her mother. She brings all the boys but Peter back to London. Before Wendy and her brothers arrive at their house, Peter flies ahead, to shut the window so that Wendy will think her mother has forgotten her. But when he learns of Mrs. Darling's distress, he bitterly leaves the window

open. The heartsick mother becomes alright onseeing the children. She is ready to adopt the Lost Boys, including Peter. Peter refuses. He is afraid that they will "catch him and make him a man."

The Cycle of Innocence Continues:

Peter promises to return for Wendy every spring. The final scene of the play takes place after many years. Tinker Bell has died during since fairies are naturally short-lived creatures. Peter has already forgotten about Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys and even Hook. Wendy alone retains her wistful wish to marry Peter and take him to London. But Pter's refusal continues. Barrie attributes this to "the riddle of his very being". After some years, Peter finds Wendy with her little child. It is sais, she has married Tootles, one of the Lost Boys. Peter feels depressed that Wendy has betrayed him. As a consolation, Jane, the younger daughter of Wendy, is willing to be his mother at Neverland. Barrie says this cycle will go on forever as long as children are "gay and innocent and heartless".

Conclusion:

The play's subtitle "The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" underscores the primary theme: the conflict between the innocence of childhood and the responsibility of adulthood. Peter has chosen not to make the transition from one to the other, and encourages the other children to do the same. However, the opening line of the novel, "All children, except one, grow up", and the conclusion of the story indicates that this wish is unrealistic, and there is an element of tragedy in the alternative.

FICTION

SUZANNE COLLINS - THE HUNGER GAMES

Introduction:

Suzanne Collins came up with the idea of *The Hunger Games* while watching news coverage of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The depictions of these wars through media led Collins to imagine the dystopian setting of Panem, where violence becomes a major form of entertainment. *The Hunger Games* is the first novel in Collins' *The Hunger Games* trilogy. The story is set in the post-apocalyptic, dystopian North America known as Panem. The title is sought from the city's annual gladiatorial contest known as the Hunger Games.

What is 'Hungry games'?

The Games begin with a Reaping in which one boy and one girl (both of whom must be between the ages of twelve and eighteen) are chosen from each of Panem's districts. The children usually have their names selected at random, although they can volunteer. Selected tributes are whisked to the Capitol, where they have a brief training period before being forced to fight each other to the death. The Games are televised across the districts, and all citizens must watch; wealthy investors from the Capitol may "sponsor," or send gifts to, certain tributes. The last child to survive is the victor and their entire family is rewarded with a house in a wealthy part of their district known as the Victor's Village. However, the victors must later act as mentors toward tributes from their district in future Games.

Panem: The World of the Games

Panem consists of the Capitol, a city overrun with its extravagant luxury, and twelve districts. Each district is segregated from others and is associated with a particular facet of the economy. The districts with lower "numbers" are assigned to those with poor society. While all districts are forced to sacrifice their children in the annual Hunger Games, the wealthier districts, particularly, Districts 1, 2, and 4 aim to maximize their children's chances of winning by training them as tributes. These tributes are known as "careers." These career tributes then volunteer, hoping their skills will prove strong enough to keep them alive.

The districts, led by District 13, previously rebelled against the Capitol. The Capitol ultimately won that war and instigated the Hunger Games to prevent citizens from ever again rebelling. After that war, District 13 was obliterated. However, in later books, it is revealed that District 13 does still exist, but underground and undetected by the government. District 13 proves instrumental in overthrowing the Capitol by the end of the trilogy. The first novel follows the main character, Katniss Everdeen, as she struggles to survive the titular Games. The second novel, *Catching Fire*, follows Katniss as she is dragged back into the Games' arena amid a rebellion she unintentionally sparked, while the trilogy's conclusion, *Mockingjay*, chronicles a war to end the Capitol's regime of terror.

Katniss with her Family:

Katniss Everdeen lives with her mother and Prim, her little sister. Her father died in a mine explosion years earlier. On the day of Reaping Katniss wakes up and looks at her mother and sister sleeping nearby. She goes hunting in the woods outside her District 12, with Gale, her best friend.

The Victory of the Capitol and Continuing Hunger Games:

That night, at the reaping ceremony, the mayor gives a speech describing how the governments of North America collapsed and the country of Panem rose up in their place. A war ensued between the Capitol and the districts. The Capitol won, and as a reminder of their defeat, the Capitol holds the Hunger Games every year. The mayor then introduces Haymitch Abernathy, District 12's only living Hunger-Games winner. The winner is so drunk that he ends up falling in his own vomit.

The Gratitude of Katniss to Prim:

The tributes have been chosen to take part in the Hunger Games. The district's female tribute is chosen. To Katniss's horror, it is Prim. Katniss volunteers immediately in Prim's place. Then the male tribute is selected. It's Peeta Mellark. On hearing his name, Katniss recalls her past. Years before, Katniss went to search for food for her family in the garbage bins behind the town shops. Peeta saw her and gave her bread from his family's bakery. Katniss credits him with saving her that day. Katniss and Peeta say goodbye to their friends and families and board a train for the Capitol. During the trip, Katniss and Peeta convince Haymitch, their mentor in the Games. He is responsible for getting them gifts from sponsors, to take his duties seriously.

Peeta's Love for Katniss:

Reaching Capitol, Katniss meets her stylist, Cinna, who is designing her dress for the opening ceremony. At the ceremony, Katniss and Peeta wear simple black outfits, lit with

synthetic flames. The outfits are a huge hit with the audience and make Katniss and Peeta stand out among the tributes. The next day, Katniss and Peeta attend group training. The tributes from rich districts who have trained for the Games their whole lives, called Career Tributes, show off their skills. Later, the tributes are interviewed by Caesar Flickerman, a television host. In his interview, Peeta reveals that he has had a crush on Katniss for several years.

Katniss' Escape from the Arena:

Finally the time comes. From a small underground room, Katniss is lifted into the arena and the Games officially begin. All the tributes are there, and in front of her is the Cornucopia, which houses an abundance of supplies. As Haymitch has advised, Katniss runs away from the fight. She hikes all day before making camp. At night someone starts a fire nearby. A pack of Career Tributes arrives and kills the person. To Katniss' shock, Peeta is with them.

The next day Katniss goes in search of water. She walks for hours and collapses from exhaustion. Fortunately, she finds a stream. At night, She is woken by a wall of fire moving in her direction. She runs away. Anyway, one of the numerous fireballs falls around her and grazes her leg, injuring it.

Meeting with Rue:

Katniss she hides on the top of a tree. To her shock, she notices a pack of Career Tributes under the tree. She notices a young girl named Rue from District 11 in the nearby tree. Rue points out a nest of wasps over Katniss's head. At once, Katniss cuts the branch holding the nest, dropping it onto the Career Tributes. Two of them die from the stings and the rest scatter. Katniss is stung a few times as well, but as she is running away, she remembers one of the girls who died had a bow and arrows, the weapons she has become proficient with from hunting. She runs back to retrieve them. Peeta happens to arrive as she is grabbing the bow. He yells at Katniss to run just as Cato, a very large and dangerous Career from District 2, shows up. Peeta stops him so that Katniss can escape. She passes out in a ditch shortly after.

Murder of Rue:

Katniss encounters Rue again, and the two quickly form a bond. They are able to get food hunting and foraging. Katniss realizes that the Careers would have difficulty surviving without the supplies at the Cornucopia. So she and Rue devise a plan. While Rue lights decoy fires, Katniss sneaks up to the Cornucopia. The supplies are in a pyramid away from the main camp. After the Careers leave to investigate the fires, Katniss manages to blow up the supplies by cutting open a bag of apples with her arrows. This sets off the mines set to protect the pyramid. When Katniss does not find Rue at their meeting spot, she goes looking for her and finds her just as another tribute stabs her with a spear. Katniss kills the other tribute, and when Rue dies, she covers her body in flowers.

Katniss' Attempt to Save Peeta:

Katniss is depressed all the next day. An announcement is made that there has been a rule change. Now, two tributes from the same district can be declared winners. Katniss goes looking for Peeta, and it takes her a day but finally she finds him. He' is severely injured from his fight with Cato and can barely walk. But Katniss helps him to a cave where they will be hidden. Thinking Peeta may die, Katniss impulsively kisses him. A moment later she hears

a noise outside and finds a pot of broth sent from Haymitch. She realizes that Haymitch will reward her for playing up the romance between her and Peeta. The next morning Katniss sees that Peeta's leg is badly infected and he'll die without treatment. Another announcement is made. It is said saying each tribute will find an item they desperately need at the Cornucopia. Katniss knows medicine is needed for Peeta's leg. But Peeta thinks it is too dangerous and he does not want Katniss to go. Using a sleep syrup sent from Haymitch, Katniss knocks him out.

At the Cornucopia, Katniss tries to run and grab the item marked for District 12. But she gets into a fight with a female tribute. The tribute is about to kill her. At that time, Thresh, the male tribute from District 11 who came to the Games with Rue, kills the girl instead. He spares Katniss because of the way she treated Rue. Katniss makes it back to the cave. She injects Peeta with the medicine just before passing out. They stay there for a few days while it rains nonstop outside. The love between Katniss and Peeta progresses. When the rain lets up, Peeta and Katniss need to find food. Katniss leaves Peeta in charge of foraging while she goes to hunt. She comes back hours later and finds a small pile of poisonous berries Peeta collected thinking they were safe. They discover the body of a tribute who Katniss nicknamed Foxface. Katniss realizes she died from eating the berries. By this point Cato, who killed Thresh, is the only tribute left, and Katniss decides to keep some berries in case they can trick Cato the same way. Eventually the streams and ponds dry up, and they know the only source of water left is the lake near the Cornucopia. Without any other choice, they start walking to the lake.

Death of Cato & Katniss and Peeta Become Winners:

By the lake, Cato comes suddenly barrelling toward them. Unexpectedly, however, he runs straight by them. Katniss realizes there are strange creatures chasing him, and they all run to the Cornucopia and climb up. The creatures are mutant wolves engineered by the Capitol, and Katniss realizes they are actually the dead tributes, who have been turned into these monsters. Taking advantage of the situation, Cato attacks Peeta, but Katniss and Peeta manage to push him over the edge. The creatures overpower him, but because of the body armour he remains alive for hours. Katniss shoots him out of pity. Just as Katniss and Peeta think they have won, another announcement is made that there can only be one winner again. Neither Katniss nor Peeta will kill the other. So Katniss takes out the poisonous berries. Just as she and Peeta pop them in their mouths, the announcer shouts for them to stop and declares them both winners.

The Union of Katniss and Peeta:

Katniss and Peeta go back to the Training Center and Katniss is kept alone for days while she recuperates. When she is let out, Haymitch warns her that she is in danger. The Capitol took her stunt with the berries as an act of defiance. So she has to convince everyone that she was desperate at the thought of losing Peeta and not being rebellious, or even her family could be at risk. In their final interview, she's reunited with Peeta, who lost his leg and now has a prosthetic. When Haymitch tells her she did great, Peeta wonders what he means, and Katniss explains everything, including the romance strategy during the Games. Peeta is angry and hurt, but as they arrive back in District 12, they hold hands one more time to greet the crowd and cameras.

PATRICK NESS - A MONSTER CALLS

Introduction:

Patrick Ness is a British-American author, journalist, lecturer, and screenwriter. Born in the United States, Ness moved to London and holds dual citizenship. He is best known for his books for young adults, including the *Chaos Walking* trilogy and *A Monster Calls*. Ness won the annual Carnegie Medal in 2011 and in 2012, for *Monsters of Men* and *A Monster Calls*.

A Monster Calls is a young adult fantasy novel that explores topics of terminal illness, grief, death, anger, and the grieving process through the eyes of a child; it does so by using elements from English history and mythology. The novel details the story of Conor O'Malley, a 13-year-old boy who is dealing with his mother's illness. Her impending death hangs over the bulk of the book, and Conor must explore his own emotions through stories to find peace in her passing and how he feels about it.

The Appearance of the Yew Tree Monster:

The Monster, birthed from the yew tree on the hill, appears in Conor's room one night. Every time Conor has the dream, he wakes up at exactly seven minutes past midnight. So when he wakes up one night and there's an actual monster outside his bedroom window. But Conor is not terrified. However, it's not the monster Conor's been expecting, so he's kind of unimpressed. This monster spends its days as a yew tree in the cemetery behind his house, but at night it turns into a terrifying tree-creature with skin made of leaves and slices of bark for teeth. But Conor's not scared, because the monster in his dreams is way scarier—at least until the yew tree monster demands the scariest thing of all: the truth about Conor's nightmare.

Conor feels like it will be scary. He refers to his “real” nightmare and the “real” fear. But the yew tree does not scare him. The Monster tells Conor he has come to tell him three stories. After that, he will hear a fourth story from Conor, and he promises the truth will come out in the process. Although Conor feels like he is dreaming, he sees evidence of the tree in his bedroom the next morning.

The Left Alone Conor:

Conor's mother is still in the house, but is too ill to do much. Conor feeds himself and goes to school, where he is bullied by a local boy and his friends. A girl named Lily is there to stand up for Conor, but he will not receive her help; in fact, he rejects her. Back at home, Conor's mother warns him that his grandmother will be coming the next day to help them.

The First Tale:

That night, the monster tells the first tale. There once was a king, whose sons, wife, and daughter passed away over the course of his life, leaving only his grandson, a young prince, as an heir. The king then remarried a young queen, whom many people suspected was a witch. When the king passed away, the queen wanted to marry the prince in order to retain her throne. But the prince instead ran away with his lover, a farmer's daughter. One morning on their journey, the prince woke up and saw that someone had murdered the girl and made it look like he did it. The young prince assumed that it was the queen, and rallied the villagers to burn her at the stake. The monster, however, saved the queen from this fate, because it was actually the prince that did it. Conor asks if the lesson he is meant to learn is to be nicer to his

grandmother, an idea that the monster laughs off. The monster then explains that the queen was an evil witch, but was not a murderer, and that's why he saved her. Conor wonders who the "good guy" is in the story—the monster explains that life does not always have a good guy and bad guy.

Conor at Grandmother's House & The Second Tale:

Conor's grandma arrives; she is cold and reserved and Conor feels more alone than ever. The boys at the school still pick at him, but he welcomes it. He tells Lily that he is angry that she knew first of his mother's illness and told everybody, making everyone treat him strangely. This is why he rejects her friendship. After school Conor's grandmother reports that his mother needed to go back to the hospital and that he will have to stay at her house for a few days.

Grandma's house is meticulous and pristine and Conor does not feel comfortable there.

At 12:07 the monster arrives to tell the boy a second tale. One hundred and fifty years ago, there lived an Apothecary and a parson. The Apothecary dealt in the "old ways of medicine" and was greedy, often overcharging patients for his remedies. The Apothecary asked the parson to cut down the yew tree in the parsonage, because yew trees have healing properties if harvested correctly. The parson refused, and started to preach against the Apothecary because of his use of the "old ways." But one day, the parson's daughters fell ill with an infection, and the parson begged the Apothecary to help. He told the Apothecary that he would let him harvest the yew tree, and that he would preach sermons in the Apothecary's favor. The Apothecary told him that he could not help, and the parson's daughters died. The monster then destroyed the parson's house, because the parson was not truly a man of belief and should have given the Apothecary the yew tree when he first asked.

The monster shows Conor the destruction of the parson's house, and asks if Conor wants to join in. Conor aids in the destruction, but when the monster leaves, Conor can see that he has actually destroyed every inch of his grandmother's sitting room, which was full of priceless antiques. His grandmother arrives home and screams in horror. But instead of punishing Conor, she pulls down the only display cabinet left standing and goes up to her room, sobbing.

Monster at Conor's School & The Third Tale:

At school, the bully and his friends decide to ignore Conor rather than beat on him, and this is somehow worse. Conor's mother confesses that she is on the very last treatment option available, but that she has hope because it comes from a yew tree.

The next day, the bully at school coldly tells Conor that he "no longer sees him."

Conor is enraged, and the monster arrives at school to tell the third tale. The third tale is about a man who was invisible because people had become used to not seeing him. And so the monster made the other people see the man. As the monster narrates this story, it beats Harry up, breaking his arm, nose, and several teeth. When it is finished, it tells Conor that "there are harder things than being invisible."

Conor lands in the headmistress's office, who is shocked at the damage that Conor did to Harry. Conor tries to argue that the monster did it, but Miss Kwan says that many people saw Conor beating Harry up. The headmistress says that normally Conor would be expelled,

but that she could not in good conscience expel Conor given his mother's illness. Conor returns to class, where students are now terrified of him. He realizes that the monster was right: he is no longer invisible, but he is "further away than ever."

The Yew Tree Medicine Fails and The Monster's Assurance:

Speaking of the cancer, the last-ditch chemo the doctors tried on Conor's mother is failing. It's a drug called Taxol, and it's made from yew trees. Conor thinks this must mean the monster has come to heal his mother—but of course, that's not the case at all. When it comes to Conor's mom, there's simply no hope. A few days pass with no improvement in his mother; she develops an infection in her lungs and sleeps most of the time. He is pulled from school to see his mother, who is not responding to treatment. Conor's mother tells him that the yew tree medicine did not work, and that if Conor is angry at her and at the world and cannot talk to her, she understands. She drifts off to sleep and Conor asks his grandmother to take him home so he can visit the yew tree.

Once at his home, Conor demands that the Monster explain why he did not heal his mother. The Monster responds that he came to heal Conor, not his mother. Conor's actual nightmare appears, in which his mother is hanging over a cliff and Conor lets go of her hands. The truth is that Conor is tired of his mother's illness and is ready for her to die, and he is plagued by guilt that he has somehow caused her demise. The Monster assures him this is not true, that his emotions are normal and expected and he needs Conor to acknowledge this so he can forgive himself and live his life.

Conor goes to the hospital and tells his mother that he does not want her to die; the final scene shows him standing by her bedside, awaiting her passing.

FICTION

C.S. LEWIS - THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Introduction:

Clive Staples Lewis was a British writer and theologian. He held academic positions in English literature at both Oxford University and Cambridge University. He is best known as the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In 1950 Lewis published what has become his most widely known book, the children's fantasy *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. He went on to write six additional stories, and together the series came to be known as *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The series, which describes the conflicts between good and evil that occur in the kingdom of Narnia, is unified by Aslan, a noble lion, which is the form in which the Son of God usually appears in Narnia.

Meeting of Lucy and Tumnus:

Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie are four siblings. They were sent to live in the country with the eccentric Professor Kirke during World War II. The children explore the house on a rainy day. Lucy, the youngest, finds an enormous wardrobe. She steps inside and finds herself in a strange, snowy wood. She encounters the Faun Tumnus, who is surprised to meet a human girl. Tumnus tells Lucy that she has entered Narnia, a different world. Tumnus invites Lucy to tea, and she accepts. Lucy and Tumnus have a wonderful tea, but the faun bursts into tears and confesses that he is a servant of the evil White Witch. The Witch has

enchanted Narnia so that it is always winter and never Christmas. Tumnus explains that he has been enlisted to capture human beings. Lucy implores Tumnus to release her, and he agrees.

Edmund Ensnared by the White Witch:

Lucy exits Narnia and eagerly tells her siblings about her adventure in the wardrobe. They do not believe her, however. Lucy's siblings insist that Lucy has gone only for seconds and not for hours as she claims. When the Pevensie children look in the back of the wardrobe they see that it is an ordinary piece of furniture. Edmund teases Lucy mercilessly about her imaginary country. But one day he sees her vanishing into the wardrobe. Edmund follows Lucy and finds himself in Narnia as well. He does not see Lucy, and instead meets the White Witch that Tumnus told Lucy about. The White Witch introduces herself to Edmund as the Queen of Narnia. She feeds Edmund with enchanted Turkish Delight. The dish gives Edmund an insatiable desire for the dessert. The Witch uses Edmund's greed and gluttony to convince Edmund to bring back his siblings to meet her.

Is she a Witch or a Queen of Narnia:

On the way back to the lamppost, the border between Narnia and our world, Edmund meets Lucy. Lucy tells Edmund about the White Witch. Edmund denies any connection between the Witch and the Queen. All Edmund can think about is his desire for the Turkish Delight. Lucy and Edmund return to Peter and Susan, back in their own world. Lucy relies on Edmund to support her story about Narnia, but Edmund spitefully tells Peter and Susan that it is a silly story. Peter and Susan are worried that Lucy is insane so they talk to Professor Kirke. The Professor shocks Peter and Susan by arguing that Lucy is telling the truth.

Lucy's Plea to Save Tumnus:

One day the children hide in the wardrobe to avoid the housekeeper and some houseguests. Suddenly all four Pevensie children find themselves in Narnia. Lucy leads them to Tumnus's home, but a note informs them that Tumnus has been arrested on charges of treason. Lucy realized that this means the Witch knows that Tumnus spared Lucy's life, and that the Witch has captured Tumnus. Lucy implores her siblings to help her rescue Tumnus from the Witch.

The Enraged Witch:

Guided by a friendly robin, the children wander into the woods, and meet Mr. Beaver. Mr. Beaver brings them back to his home, where he explains that the children cannot do anything to save Tumnus. The only thing the children can do is join Mr. Beaver on a journey to see Aslan a lion. Aslan appears to be a king or god figure in Narnia. The children are all pleasantly enchanted by the name Aslan, except for Edmund, who is horrified by the sound of it. Mr. Beaver, Peter, Susan, and Lucy plot to meet Aslan at the Stone Table the following day. But they soon notice that Edmund has disappeared. Meanwhile, Edmund searches for the White Witch to warn her of Aslan's arrival and of the Beavers' plan. The Witch is enraged to hear that Aslan is in Narnia and immediately begins plotting to kill the children. The Witch wants to avoid an ancient prophecy that says that four humans will someday reign over Narnia and overthrow her evil regime.

Travel to the Stone Table to Meet Aslan:

The children and the Beavers, meanwhile, rush to reach the Stone Table before the Witch. As they travel, wonderful seasonal changes occur. First they meet Santa Claus, or

Father Christmas, who explains that the Witch's spell of "always winter and never Christmas" has ended. The enchanted winter snow melts and the children see signs of spring.

Simultaneously, the Witch drags Edmund toward the Stone Table and treats him very poorly. Once spring arrives, the Witch cannot use her sledge anymore, so she cannot reach the Stone Table before the children.

Lucy Saved from the Wolf:

When the other three Pevensies meet Aslan, they are awed by him, but they quickly grow more comfortable in his presence. They love him immediately, despite their fear. Aslan promises to do all that he can to save Edmund. He takes Peter aside to show him the castle where he will be king. As they are talking, they hear Susan blowing the magic horn that Father Christmas gave her, signaling that she is in danger. Aslan sends Peter to help her. Arriving on the scene, Peter sees a wolf attacking Susan, and stabs it to death with the sword given him by Father Christmas. Aslan sees another wolf vanishing into a thicket, and sends his followers to trail it, hoping it will lead them to the Witch.

Meeting of the White Witch and Aslan:

The Witch is preparing to kill Edmund as the rescue party arrives. Aslan and his followers rescue Edmund, but are unable to find the Witch, who disguises herself as part of the landscape. Edmund is happy to see his siblings, as he has accepted that the Witch is evil. The next day, the Witch and Aslan speak and the Witch demands Edmund's life because she says that Edmund is a traitor. The Witch says that according to the Deep Magic of Narnia, a traitor life must be forfeited to the Witch. Aslan does not deny this, and he secretly reaches a compromise with her. The Witch appears very pleased, while Aslan seems pensive and depressed.

Aslan's Scarifice to Save Edmund:

The following night, Susan and Lucy observe Aslan grow increasingly gloomy and sad. The sisters are unable to sleep, and they notice that Aslan has disappeared. Susan and Lucy leave the pavilion to search for Aslan. When they find Aslan, he tells them they can stay until he tells them they must leave. Together, Aslan, Susan, and Lucy walk to the Stone Table, where Aslan tells them to leave. Susan and Lucy hide behind some bushes and watch the Witch and a horde of her followers torment, humiliate, and finally kill Aslan. The Witch explains that Aslan sacrificed his life for Edmund.

The Happy Ending:

Susan and Lucy stay with Aslan's dead body all night. In the morning, they hear a great cracking noise, and are astounded to see the Stone Table broken. Aslan has disappeared. Suddenly Susan and Lucy hear Aslan's voice from behind him. Aslan has risen from the dead. Aslan carries the girls to the Witch's castle, where they free all the prisoners who have been turned to stone. Aslan, Susan, and Lucy charge join the battle between Peter's army and the Witch's troops. Peter and his troops are exhausted. Fortunately, Aslan swiftly kills the Witch and Peter's army then defeats the Witch's followers.

Aslan knights Edmund, who has atoned for his sin of siding with the Witch. The children ascend to the thrones at Cair Paravel, the castle in Narnia. Aslan subsequently disappears. The children eventually become adults and reign over Narnia for many years. One day, in a hunt for a magical white stag, they arrive at the lamppost that had marked the border between Narnia and our world. The Pevensies tumble back out of the wardrobe to our world. No time

has passed, and they return to Professor Kirke's house as children. The foursome tells Professor Kirke about their adventure, and the Professor assures them that they will return to Narnia again someday.
