



CLASS - VIII ENGLISH NOTES OCTOBER

Prose: 7. A Visit to Cambridge

I. MIND MAP: (stick the pic of Stephen Hawking and Firdaus Kanga with their quote)

II. ERC:

1. "I could feel his anguish."

a) **Whom does 'I' refer to ?**

Ans. I refers to the author Firdaus Kanga. He is a writer and journalist who lives and works in Mumbai. He was born with brittle bones that tended to break easily. He moves around in a wheelchair.

b) **Whom does 'him' refer to ?**

Ans. Him refers to Stephen Hawking, a differently abled scientist. He was a brilliant and completely paralysed astrophysicist. He suffers from a form of paralysis that confines him to a wheelchair.

c) **What could be the anguish ?**

Ans. Stephen Hawking 's mind was active with many thoughts that he wanted to express. However his thoughts came out in phrases or small lines without feelings or emotions. Stephen Hawking's anguish was his inability to express his thoughts effectively.

III. SHORT ANSWERS:

1. **Stephen Hawking said, " I 've had no choice." Does the writer think there was a choice? What was it?**

Ans. The writer thought that there was choice. Stephen Hawking could have chosen to leave everything, and be sad and depressed. However he chose to live creatively despite his body constraints.

2. **What is the scientist's message for the disabled ?**

Ans. The message that he gave to the disabled was that they should concentrate on what they were good at.

3. Why does the writer refer to the guitar incident?

Ans. He remembered the incident when he unstrung a guitar, when he didn't want to play it. It supports Stephen Hawking's idea that the disabled Olympics is a waste of time. One should only concentrate on what they are good at, and not take up things unnecessarily.

IV. DETAIL ANSWER:

1. The writer expresses his great gratitude to Stephen Hawking. What is the gratitude for ?

Ans. The writer expressed his gratitude to Stephen Hawking because he had been an inspiration for him. He felt that if he had been as brave as Stephen Hawking, he would have achieved a lot. Stephen Hawking had made him realise that one requires WILL to pursue what one wants. Bodily constraints are just a mental block.

Supplementary: 4. The Treasure Within

I. SHORT ANSWERS:

1. What did the Principal say to Hafeez Contractor, which influenced him deeply?

Ans: The Principal told Hafeez Contractor that his mother used to work extremely hard to bring him up and paid all his fees on time, despite his father's absence. Further, he also mentioned that Hafeez was a good student. He could score good grades with a little effort towards his studies. He motivated the young boy to rise to the occasion and study hard and also sideline his sports activities for the time being.

2. In the architect's office, Hafeez Contractor was advised to drop everything and join architecture. Why?

Ans. In the architect's office, Hafeez Contractor saw somebody drawing a window detail which is an advanced form of drawing. He told that person that the drawing was wrong and that the window would not open as drawn. The person initially disagreed but soon realized that his drawing was indeed wrong. When Hafeez's cousin's husband noticed this, he was surprised and asked him to draw a few specific things, such as to design a house,

to which he complied. His relative was so impressed and immediately advised him to drop everything and join architecture.

3. What is Hafeez Contractor 's definition of Mathematics?

Ans. According to Hafeez Contractor, Mathematics is a mix of putting design, construction, psychology and sociology together and making a sketch by combining all these elements together.

II. DETAIL ANSWER:

1. What sort of life did Hafeez Contractor lead at school before reaching his 11th class and how did his life change afterwards ?

Ans. In the first and second class Hafeez Contractor was a good student. After that he simply lost interest and never studied. His main interest was in games, running around, playing jokes and pranks. He would copy in class during examination.

Being a gang leader , he found interest in gang fights rather than books and studies. His teachers often pulled him up. He received caning every week for different reasons. When he reached 11th standard, his Principal advised him to rise to the occasion. He took the advise seriously and started to give his best.

After school, he joined The Jaihind College, Bombay. There he had to study French. Being weak in French, he had to take his married cousin's help. Her husband was an architect. So he started going to the architect's office to learn French. One day he saw somebody drawing a window design. He pointed out the mistake in it and surprised everyone.

With the help of his cousin's husband he joined in The College of Architecture.

After that he never looked back. He stood first in all the examinations and reached the heights where he is now.

Supplementary: 6. The Fight

I. SHORT ANSWERS:

1. In what way is the forest pool different from the one which Ranji knew in the Rajputana desert?

Ans. In Rajputana desert, the pools were sticky and muddy where women washed their clothes and buffaloes wallowed. But the forest pool was clean, cold and inviting. The water had a gentle translucency, and could see the smooth round pebbles at the bottom of the pool.

2. Ranji is not at all eager for a second fight. Why does he go back to the pool, then?

Ans. Ranji decides to go back to the pool to gain self - respect. If he surrenders now he will be beaten for life.

3. What surprises the warrior?

Ans. When Ranji dived into the water perfectly, Suraj was amazed to see this. Ranji was able to swim underwater as he circled Suraj and came up from behind him. This surprised Suraj and he admired Ranji 's swimming skills

II. DETAIL ANSWER:

1. What is the moral of this story? What makes the adversaries turn into good friends in a matter of minutes?

Ans. We do come across a variety of people. Some are good and some are bad to us, some are jealous of us, some inspire us, some motivate us, some help us and some wait for a chance to pull us down.

At that point one should be strong. You should not shy away or you should not run away from the challenges that you are facing. You have to face them strongly like how Ranji faced in this story.

At the same time any kind of negative feelings, any kind of enmity should not take place in your heart. You have to get rid of that enmity because, otherwise the world will not run. Ranji and Suraj the two adversaries in this lesson turned into good friends for different reasons. Both were tired of fighting. Both needed each other 's help, guidance and support. Suraj wants to learn diving from Ranji and Ranji wants to learn wrestling from Suraj.