

## Unit-VI

### The Accidental Tourist (Prose)

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#### Warm up

##### Question 1.

Often on formal occasions, we admire friends and strangers who appear elegant, who are pleasant to converse with and who conduct themselves gracefully. At times, we also see people who are awkward, nervous and doubtful about their next move.

Recall a few examples of awkward actions that can cause discomfort or disturbance to others like spilling a cup of hot drink on someone nearby.

##### Answer:

Mr. X has travelling sickness. Once he was in a city bus, his wife advised him to take a polythene bag so that he can vomit inside it if he felt like it. But he forgot her advice. As the bus moved on, he had a feeling that he wasn't fine. He craned his neck out of the window of the bus and vomited his undigested breakfast.

As the bus was moving fast, people seated behind him had their shirts and sarees sprinkled with the undigested breakfast and dinner. The conductor and driver got upset. The whole day, passengers refused to sit on those three seats.

#### Textual Questions

**A. Based on your understanding of the lesson, answer the following questions in one or two sentences each:**

##### Question 1.

Give a few instances of Bryson's confusing acts.

##### Answer:

He would end up standing in an alley on the wrong side of a self-locking door trying to locate a restroom in a cinema theatre. He would often go to the hotel

desk, at least two to three times a day asking what was his room number. The author had a serious problem of orientation in any new place:

**Question 2.**

What were the contents of the bag?

**Answer:**

The contents of the bag were newspaper cuttings, loose papers, 14-ounce tin of pipe tobacco, magazines, passport, English money, and film.

**Question 3.**

Describe the Buttery cascade of things tumbling from the bag.

**Answer:**

The side of the bag flew open and everything within was extravagantly ejected over an area about the size of a tennis court. The carefully stored documents came raining down in a fluttery cascade. Coins bounced to a variety of noisy oblivions. Lidless tobacco tin rolled crazily across the concourse disgorging its content as it went.

**Question 4.**

Why did the author's concern over tobacco shift to his finger?

**Answer:**

The author's concern over tobacco shifted to his finger as he gashed his finger on the zip and blood started shedding in a lavish manner.

**Question 5.**

What happened to Bryson when he leaned to tie his shoelace?

**Answer:**

When Bryson leaned to tie a shoe lace inside the air-craft, someone in the seat ahead of him threw his seat back into full recline. The author found himself pinned helplessly in a crash position.

**Question 6.**

How did Bryson free himself from the crash position?

**Answer:**

By clawing (hurting) the leg of the man sitting next to him, Bryson managed to free himself.

**Question 7.**

Give a brief account of the embarrassing situation of Bryson when he knocked down the drink.

**Answer:**

Bryson rose from the dinner table looking as if he had just experienced a localized seismic event. While opening the lid, he used to spill the contents on his family and fellow passengers and thus embarrassing them. To avoid such anxious moments, his wife used to give directions to the children. "Take the lids off the food for daddy".

**Question 8.**

What was Bryson's worst accident on a plane?

**Answer:**

His worst accident as he fell into a conversation with a young lady in the next seat for 20 minutes sucking his pen. Later he discovered that his pen had leaked and that his mouth, chin, tongue, teeth, and gums remained navy blue for several days.

**Question 9.**

What did Bryson wish to avoid in his life?

**Answer:**

Bryson wished to avoid air travel especially with his family members.

**Question 10.**

How would staying away from liquid mischief benefit Bryson?

**Answer:**

Staying away from liquid mischief benefitted Bryson by cutting down his laundry bills.

**B. Answer the following questions in about three to four sentences each:**

**Question 1.**

Why doesn't Bryson seem to be able to do easily what others seem to? Give a few reasons.

**Answer:**

Bryson lacks orientation. He has great capacity in forgetting hotel rooms, the location of rest rooms in a cinema hall and the number of his room in a hotel. He goes at least three times a day to the reception desk to ask which room is allotted to him.

**Question 2.**

What was the reaction of Bryson's wife to his antics?

**Answer:**

Bryson's wife was not angry or irritated by looking at his behaviour. She was rather struck with wonder thinking how a normal human being could behave in that manner.

**Question 3.**

Briefly describe the 'accidents' encountered on the flight by Bryson.

**Answer:**

Once the author was trying to tie a shoe lace. He bent to tie it. Just that moment, the passenger in the front seat reclined in full swing. The author was pinned down in a crash position. On another occasion, he engaged an attractive woman in a witty conversation. While talking to her, he sucked his pen. The pen left a scrub-resistant navy blue on his gum, mouth, teeth and his chin for several days.

**C. Based on your understanding of the text, answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 100 – 150 words:**

**Question 1.**

'To this day, I don't know how I did it' – What does 'it' refer to?

**Answer:**

'It' refers to the incident which Bill Bryson experienced while knocking down a soft drink to the lap of a sweet little lady sitting beside him. It was really the most embarrassing moment for him. When he knocked a soft drink onto the lap of the lady, the flight attendant came and cleaned her up. He was then provided with a replacement drink which he knocked it onto the woman again.

He was just thinking about it and could not understand how it happened repeatedly. He felt that it so happened in a strange manner as what usually happened in 1950s horror movies with the title 'The undead Limb'. The lady looked at him with the stupefied expression which was quite natural and uttered an oath that was not heard by Bryson before. Thus 'It' was really an embarrassing moment for Bryson.

**Question 2.**

But, when it's my own – well, I think hysterics are fully justified' – How?

**Answer:**

The author had planned to go to England with all his family members. He arrived at the Logan airport at Boston. When they were checking in, he suddenly remembered that he forgot to use his frequent flier card (British Airways). He also remembered how he had left it in a bag. He tried to open the bag. The zip was jammed. He tried to open it by force. After several attempts, it gave away spilling all the contents in a sprawling corridor in the airport. He ignored the flying documents, silver coins and even passport.

He worried about the tobacco-box which was rolling away crazily disgorging its content on the way. He cried "My Tobacco" remembering how expensive it would be to buy tobacco for his pipe in England. Just then he realized that he was bleeding profusely. He had made a gash on his finger while trying to open the zip of his bag by force. He cried hysterically on seeing his own blood, "My finger" My finger". In general, he was not comfortable flowing other's blood. But when it came to spilling his own blood "hysterics" was really justified.

**Question 3.**

Bring out the pun in the title 'The Accidental Tourist' (one who happens to travel by accident or one who meets with accidents often on his or her trips!).

**Answer:**

A pun is the humorous use of words that have two meanings. The title 'The Accidental tourist' is a pun which brings out two meanings. 'One who travels by accident' and the other meaning is the one who meets with an accident often in his/her trip. The second meaning is what aptly suits this story. We come to know that Bill Bryson, a globetrotter often meets with catastrophes when he is there on travel.

Once on an aero plane when he tried to tie his shoelace leaning down he got pinned helplessly in crash position just as the person ahead of him threw his seat back to rest. The next accident has he knocked down a soft drink onto the lap of a young lady who was sitting beside him. The worst accident was sucking his pen thoughtfully without knowing that it was leaking and found his mouth remained navy blue for several days. All the above incidents clearly bring out the pun in the title.

**Question 4.**

Can a clumsy person train himself/herself to overcome short comings? How could this be done?

**Answer:**

Yes, a clumsy person can train himself to overcome his short comings. People with severe Parkinson's disease learn to hold a spoon and eat with great difficulties. Children with multiple disabilities and nervous problems learn to button up their shirts, tie the shoe laces and even assist friends with similar ailments. There is no difficulty in the world that is insurmountable. Practice makes one perfect. The author's wife, without rebuking him publicly for his callous clumsiness, trains her children to be supportive of their father Mr. Bryson who always spills drinks or bumps on something or even sits on chewing gum or spilled oil.

As clumsiness is not a welcome behavior pattern among adults, one must learn how to mend oneself and try to overcome one eccentricity per day with deliberate effort. The author does admit to restrain himself to reduce the laundry bill. But if he extends his efforts even during the presence of his family on long distance air-travels, it would be nice. Cultivating acceptable behaviour in public places is not an impossible task for any sensible man.

“I am not clumsy. It’s just the floor that hates me.  
The tables and chairs are bullies  
And the wall gets in the way.”

**Question 5.**

As a fellow passenger of Bill Bryson on the flight, make a diary entry describing his clumsy behaviour during the trip and the inconveniences caused to others as a result of his nervousness.

**Answer:**

I had a trip on a plane where I happened to meet a clumsy person named Bryson. There arose many inconveniences to fellow passengers because of his clumsy behaviour. He leaned over to tie his shoelace and was pinned in the crash position as the person ahead threw his seat back to relax.

He might have informed the person in his front row to pull the seat front. Instead, he hurt the leg of the man sitting next to him and freed himself. Later he knocked down a soft drink onto the lap of a young lady who was sitting next to him. The lady got drenched and was helped by the flight assistant to clean herself. To her surprise, Bryson knocked down yet another cup of drink on her lap. She was really shocked by his behaviour and didn’t know what to do. I understood that everything happened because of his nervousness.

## Unit-VI

### The Hollow Crown (Poem)

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#### Warm up

(a) Work with a partner take this short quiz to find out how well informed you are about history.



**Question 1.**

Name a few wars and battles you have read about.

**Answer:**

World War I, Indo-Pak War. Battle of Panipat War of Roses.

**Question 2.**

What is the difference between a war and a battle?

**Answer:**

A war is a long-drawn affair. The conflict may continue even for years. Battles are small segments of a big war.

**Question 3.**

Why do rulers wage wars and battles?

**Answer:**

Rulers are greedy. They want to expand their kingdoms. So, they wage wars and battles.

**Question 4.**

Is the outcome of a war always fair?



**Answer:**

No, the outcome of war is not always fair.

**Question 5.**

Do you think rulers understand the true meaning of life – in defeat or in victory?

**Answer:**

No, rulers involve a large number of people whose lives or deaths don't matter for them. So, rulers usually don't understand the true meaning of life.

**Question 6.**

Can you name a few kings and leaders who have fallen from glory to disgrace?

**Answer:**

Chandragupta Maurya / Rajput's and Nelson Mandela

**(b) The Historical Background:**

The poem is an extract from William Shakespeare's play King Richard the Second. The play is based on true events that occurred towards the end of the 14th century. Richard II was crowned the King of England in the year 1367. He continued to be the British Monarch until 1399, when he was deposed by his cousin, Henry of Bolingbroke, who crowned himself King Henry the Fourth in the same year. Shakespeare's play is a dramatic rendition of the last two years of King Richard II's life.

In this brief span of time, he was ousted from his royal position and sent to prison, where he died in captivity. The following extract is set in the Coast of Wales. King Richard and some of his followers awaited the arrival of the Welsh army [after facing defeat at the hands of his cousin, Bolingbroke], of about 10000 warriors. But to their shock and surprise, they received the message that the army was not coming to their rescue. His followers tried to boost their King's courage against the news, only in vain. When Richard came face to face with the reality of his terrible fate, he spoke the following verse, famously known as the "Hollow Crown" speech in theatrical circles. In it, King Richard is reminded of the power of Death that overshadows everything else,

including the power of rulers, and renders them as powerless as any commoner at a moment's notice.

## Textual Questions

First, listen to a reading of the complete poem. Then, read silently and try to answer the questions briefly, based on your understanding. You may refer to the glossary given at the end of the monologue to help you.

Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs,  
Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes  
Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth.  
Let's choose executors and talk of wills.  
And yet not so – for what can we bequeath  
Save our deposed bodies to the ground?  
Our lands, our lives, and all, are  
Bolingbroke's,



And nothing can we call our own but death;  
And that small model of the barren earth  
Which serves as paste and cover to our bones.  
For God's sake let us sit upon the ground  
And tell sad stories of the death of kings:  
How some have been depos'd, some slain in war,  
Some haunted by the ghosts they have deposed,  
Some poisoned by their wives, some sleeping kill'd,



All murdered – for within the hollow crown  
That rounds the mortal temples of a king  
Keeps Death his court, and there the antic sits,  
Scoffing his state and grinning at his pomp,  
Allowing him a breath, a little scene,  
To monarchize, be fear'd, and kill with looks;  
Infusing him with self and vain conceit,  
As if this flesh which walls about our life  
Were brass impregnable; and, humour'd thus,  
Comes at the last, and with a little pin  
Bores through his castle wall, and farewell king!  
Cover your heads, and mock not flesh and blood  
With solemn reverence; throw away respect,  
Tradition, form, and ceremonious duty;  
For you have but mistook me all this while.  
I live with bread like you, feel want,  
Taste grief, need friends – subjected thus,  
How can you say to me, I am a king?

**Question 1.**

Pick out the phrase that suggests that King Richard was sorrowful.

**Answer:**

The phrase “Talk of graves of worms and epitaphs” suggests that King Richard was sorrowful.

**Question 2.**

Why does the King suggest that it is now time for his will to be executed?

**Answer:**

The King knows pretty well that he will be executed very soon by Bolingbroke. So, he wants his will to be executed.

**Question 3.**

What is the only thing we bequeath to our descendants?

**Answer:**

We bequeath only immovable property to our descendants.

**Question 4.**

What are the vanquished men left with?

**Answer:**

The vanquished men are left with sorrow and thoughts about death.

**Question 5.**

What does the 'small model' refer to here?

**Answer:**

The perishable human body stands as a 'small model' of the barren earth.

**Question 6.**

What does a monarch's crown symbolize?

**Answer:**

Monarch's crown symbolizes "empty power" because real power is vested with death

**Question 7.**

What mocks the ruler's power and pomp?

**Answer:**

Death mocks the ruler's power and pomp.

**A. Fill in the blanks using the words given in the box to complete the summary of the poem:**

barren-earth	friends	graves	slain
rebellious	rebellious	worms	grief
impregnable	epitaphs	death	farewell
reverence	king	pin	

King Richard the second had surrendered to his (a) \_\_\_\_\_ cousin, Bolingbroke. He experienced deep distress at the horror of his circumstances. In that desperate situation, he speaks of (b) \_\_\_\_\_, (c) \_\_\_\_\_, (d) \_\_\_\_\_ and other things connected with death. He spoke of how people leave nothing behind and can call nothing their own, except for the small patch of (e) \_\_\_\_\_ where they will be buried. King Richard yielded to dejection and talked of all the different ways in which defeated kings suffer and how some had been deposed, (f) \_\_\_\_\_ in war, (g) \_\_\_\_\_ by their wives and so forth. He attributed this loss of lives to (h) \_\_\_\_\_, who he personified as the jester who watches over the shoulder of every ruler, who mocks kings by allowing them to think their human flesh, was like (i) \_\_\_\_\_ brass. However, Death penetrates through the castle walls, silently and unnoticed like a sharp (j) \_\_\_\_\_ thus bidding (k) \_\_\_\_\_ to him and all his pride forever. Finally, Richard appealed to his soldiers not to mock his mere flesh and blood by showing (l) \_\_\_\_\_ and respect to him. He added that he too needed bread to live, felt want, tasted (m) \_\_\_\_\_ and needed (n) \_\_\_\_\_. He concluded thus, urging his men not to call him a (o) \_\_\_\_\_ as he was only human, just like the rest of them.

**Answer:**

- (a) rebellious
- (b) graves
- (c) epitaphs
- (d) worms
- (e) barren earth
- (f) slain
- (g) poisoned
- (h) death
- (i) impregnable
- (j) Pin
- (k) farewell

- (l) reverence
- (m) grief
- (n) friends
- (o) king

**B. The words used by Shakespeare find a place in the present-day conversations also. Here are a few examples of how these poetic, standardized English words could be used by common people in their regular speech.**

**(a) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the box and complete the statements suitably:**

[bequeath, antics, monarchize, impregnable, hollow]

1. Shraavan never keeps his promises. His friends know that his words are \_\_\_\_\_
2. The spectators died laughing at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the clown.
3. The businesswoman wished to \_\_\_\_\_ all her riches to an orphanage, after her death.
4. The fortress was \_\_\_\_\_ and could not be conquered by the enemies.
5. Alexander the Great, wished to conquer many lands and \_\_\_\_\_ the entire world.

**Answer:**

1. hollow
2. antics
3. bequeath
4. impregnable
5. monarchise

**(b) Complete the passage given below, with suitable words from the box:**

farewell	ceremonious	deposed
reverence	vain	pomp
conceited	sorrow	scoffing

Lima, a (a) \_\_\_\_\_ and (b) \_\_\_\_\_ woman, kept (c) \_\_\_\_\_ at her colleagues and went on taxing them with hard labour. Though they were (d) \_\_\_\_\_ to her,

she being their head, were offended and filled with (e) \_\_\_\_\_. It so happened, that Lima was (f) \_\_\_\_\_ from her high position due to a serious blunder she had committed. Lima, having lost all her (g) \_\_\_\_\_ and glory, realized how arrogant she had been. She gave up her pride and with (h) \_\_\_\_\_ sought an apology from everyone. She thus turned over a new Leaf and bid (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

**Answer:**

- (a) vain
- (b) conceited
- (c) scoffing
- (d) ceremonious
- (e) sorrow
- (f) deposed
- (g) pomp
- (h) reverence
- (z) farewell

**C. From your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions briefly in a sentence or two:**

**Question 1.**

What do the three words, 'graves, worms, and epitaphs', refer to?

**Answer:**

The three words graves, worms, and epitaphs' refer to the deep sorrow of King Richard II who was captured by rebellious cousins Boling broke.

**Question 2.**

What does the executor mentioned in the poem do?

**Answer:**

An executor is one who implements the contents of a will.

**Question 3.**

Who is Bolingbroke? Is he a friend or foe?

**Answer:**

Boling broke is king Richard II's rebellious cousin. He is a foe.

**Question 4.**

Are all deposed kings slain by the deposer?

**Answer:**

No, some, of the deposed kings are jailed and some are slain.

**Question 5.**

What does the crown of rulers stand for?

**Answer:**

'The crown of rulers stands for jester.

**Question 6.**

What hides within the crown and laughs at the king's grandeur?

**Answer:**

Death hides within the crown and laughs at the king's grandeur.

**Question 7.**

What does 'flesh mean here?

**Answer:**

Flesh means body's flesh. It stands for all perishable things.

**Question 8.**

What are the various functions and objects given up by a defeated king?

**Answer:**

A defeated king abdicates his crown. He parts with his scepter too. He hands over his right to rule the kingdom to the victorious king. He gives up the right to levy taxes on subjects. He also gives up his right and listens to the woes of ordinary subjects and solve them.

**Question 9.**

How does the king establish that he and his subjects are equal in the end?



**Answer:**

In the end, King Richard II pathetically explains that he is also an ordinary mortal with desires, need for friends and the compulsion to taste grief. Even a king has a cup of misery in his life.

**Question 10.**

Bring out King Richard's feelings when he was defeated.

**Answer:**

King Richard started feeling distressed about his impending death. He uses the words graves, epitaphs, and worms. He realizes his possessions will be reduced to a patch of land. He recalls how kings get slain in battlefield or poisoned to death by their own spouses. The king feels he is also an ordinary mortal deceived by the jester's 'death'. He also needs to taste grief and needs the support of friends during distress.

**D. Explain the following lines with reference to the context in about 5 to 8 lines:**

**Question (i)**

"Our lands, our lives, and all are Bolingbroke's,  
And nothing can we call our own but death;"

**Answer:****Reference:**

These lines are taken from the Poem – "The Hollow Crown", Poet – "William Shakespeare".

**Context:**

Here the poet talks about the disowning of King Richard II

**Explanation:**

Richard said that they have lost their lands, their lives, and all things by Bolingbroke. They have nothing except their death.

**Question (ii)**

"All murdered – for within the hollow crown '  
That rounds the mortal temples of a king

Keeps Death his court, ...”

**Answer:**

**Reference:** These lines are from the poem “The Hollow Crown” by William Shakespeare. The poem is an excerpt from the play “Richard II”.

**Context:** The defeated king thinks about death which is looming large. He remembers how other kings had met with their death. He says these words while sharing his understanding of the power of death who rules men who wear the crowns.

**Explanation:** A king wears a crown as a symbol of his power over the country he rules. But the empty space within the crown houses death. In the empty space, death conducts his court and gives his verdict when it is time.

**Comment:** The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living.

**Question (iii)**

“Comes at the last, and with a little pin  
Bores through his castle wall, and farewell king!”

**Answer:**

**Context:**

Here the poet talks about the temporary license to ‘Monarchise’

**Explanation:**

Richard said that the crown is empty in the middle and this shows the power of the ruler is not permanent. Anytime it may be lost.

**Question (iv)**

“How can you say to me, I am a king? ”

**Answer:**

**Reference:** This line is from the poem “The Hollow Crown” by William Shakespeare. The poem is an excerpt from the play “Richard II”.

**Context:** King Richard says these words to his loyal nobels when he talks about the power of death over monarchs.

**Explanation:** British subjects usually believe that a king is born with a divine

right to rule. People respect his crown as a symbol of great power. After he is deposed from power, Henry II realizes the bitter truth that he is no way different from ordinary subjects. He also has wants, need for friends and the compulsion to taste grief. Nobody can escape death.

**Comment:** Death – the only thing inevitable in life.

## **Speaking Activity**

**E. Working with your partner, discuss the following adages and share your views with the class. You may need to give your ideas and justify your point of view. Remember to take turns while making your presentation/short speech.**

### **Question (a)**

War begets war.

#### **Answer:**

Mahatma Gandhi said, “If you are indictive and take an eye for an eye, the whole world will be blind”. Today most lethal weapons of mass destruction are being piled up in China, USA and North Korea, Russia and Iran. The leaders of these countries claim that balance of power is required in North and South. But weapons of mass destruction will not create conditions of peace. Peace has to be created by dialogues between countries. War always begets war.

### **Question (b)**

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

#### **Answer:**

Whoever is heading an organization, a team, of players, a country does have heavy responsibility. The leadership may give the person a social recognition but in day-to-day life, the responsibilities of a leader are really heavy. A captain of the army during Kargil war, found one of his soldiers wounded. The Kargil war was heading to a victory for India. The captain did not allow his junior officers to go and bring the wounded soldier. He went and received the bullets. Yet he pulled the wounded soldier to safety. He brought the wounded soldier to the bunk. While returning also he was shot many times. He dropped down dead. He had saved the wounded soldier and the subordinate officer at

the cost of his life. Sometimes, there is a cold war, people try to usurp power by secret dealings.

Aurangzeb killed many of his brothers to ascend to the throne. While in power, kings are really worried about the conspiracy being cooked by relatives to overthrow him. King's wife poisons king to death. Kings heading battles get killed too. So, we should never be jealous of people in power. Each post or power carries its own stress and unresolved conflicts, occasionally resulting in depression too. Being the head of an army, or that of a country is not always a matter of pride or glory. The grandeur conceals pain, anxiety and ever fear of impending death.

## **F. Poetic Devices**

(a) Read the poem once again carefully and identify the figure of speech that has been used in each of the following lines from the poem:

1. "Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth".
2. ("And yet not so – for what can we bequeath Save our deposed bodies to the ground?"
3. "Keeps Death his court, and there the antic sits,,"
4. "How can you say to me, I am a king?"
5. "Scoffing his state and grinning at his pomp,..."
6. "Bores through his castle wall, and farewell

**Answer:**

1. Personification (Earth)
2. Metaphor
3. Personification
4. Interrogation
5. Personification
6. Personification

(b) Pick out the words in alliteration from the following lines:

**Question (i)**

"Our lands, our lives, and all, are Bolingbroke's,..."

**Answer:**  
lands, fives

**Question (ii)**  
“And tell sad stories of the death of kings:”

**Answer:**  
sad, stories

**Question (iii)**  
“Comes at the last, and with a little pin...”

**Answer:**  
last, little

**G. Based on your reading of King Richard’s speech, answer the following questions in about 100 – 150 words each. You may add your own ideas if required to present and justify your point of view.**

**Question 1.**  
What are the causes for King Richard’s grief?

**Answer:**  
King Richard II was a popular king. He had many nobles at the service. His rebellious cousin Bolingbroke attacks him with 10,000 men on his side. He sends message to the Welsh King for sending his army to defeat Bolingbroke. But to his shock, Welsh army is not sent. He realizes with alarm the terrible fate he would suffer in the hands of his foe and his most impending death in captivity. King Richard is reminded of the power of death that overshadows everything else. Death scoffs at the power of rulers. Losing the battle, non-receipt of Welsh army and the prospect being jailed and killed worries Richard II.

He realizes that in the hollow crown death had reigned him. In fact, death, a jester had misled him to believe that he was monarchising England. He can now own only a patch of barren land. He is not an impregnable castle of brass anymore. He is an ordinary mortal. He too needs friends and needs to taste grief and face death.

“Life and death are illusions. We are in a constant state of transformation.”

**Question 2.**

How are the eternal truths and wisdom brought to the reader here?

**Answer:**

Human's glorious life gets reduced to graves, epitaphs and worms. Men is left with nothing but his mortal remains to gift to the earth. The earth only serves as a paste and cover to the dead bodies. Great kings too have had inglorious death. Duncan was killed in bed. Hamlet was poisoned to death. Macbeth was slain in the war. The death gives freedom to monarchs from monarchising the country.

The king realizes with a shudder that Death has occupied a prominent position right inside the crown. He scoffs at the pomp and show of the temporal kings. Even the most powerful monarch who feels as strong as a brass castle is brought down by just a pin prick of death. Death is a great leveller who makes kings believe that they are also ordinary mortals with wants, need for friends and the need to taste grief.

**Question 3.**

Death has been cited to in many ways in this monologue. Identify the poetic devices used in those references.

**Answer:**

bequeath deposed bodies – Metaphor

small model of barren earth-Metaphor

hollow crown – Metaphor

antics – Personification

Dust our paper – Metaphor

scoffing his state grinning at his pomp – Personification

**Question 4.**

Who does the future generations remember easily – the victor or the vanquished? Give reasons. Also, cite relevant references from King Richard's speech.

**Answer:**

Unusually future generations remember victors. But there are rare instances of just rulers falling due to the conspiracy and greed of an aggressor. On such occasions, future generations remember the vanquished. A Shiva devotee king was very generous. His enemies entered his kingdom under the guise of Shiva devotees in saffron clothes and slew the king and captured his kingdom. Alexander, King Richard was a just ruler. He was loved by his subjects and loyal nobles. He was defeated by his rebellious cousin simply because he wanted to be a king. When Richard was thinking about the welfare of his subjects, Bolingbroke was secretly raising an army to dethrone him.

People who are mad after power resort to unjust means. So, British subjects respected and loved the vanquished but were helpless and defeated Porus who had fought so valiantly and wanted to be treated with respect befitting a king. Alexander himself respected him and returned his kingdom and sealed a life time friendship with him. From King Richard's speech one understands that he was good at heart but in the strategy of war, he was not good. Like a crooked end of a straight walking stick, a ruler has to have some secret deals with neighbouring countries to be protected during crisis. Bolingbroke turned out to be a more assertive and Shrewder king. But people would remember a just and noble person more even if defeated.

## Unit-VI

### The Never - Never Nest (Supplementary)

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#### Warm up

A. What are the essentials one needs to lead a comfortable life? Fill in the empty bubbles with some of them.



Answer:



B. List six gadgets that you want to purchase. Write them according to your priorities and state the reasons.

S.No.	Gadgets	Reasons
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		



**Answer:**

S.No.	Gadgets	Reasons
1.	Refrigerator	to preserve vegetables in shape
2.	Gas stove	to cook food quickly
3.	Micro oven	to bake things quickly
4.	Washing Machine	to wash clothes
5.	Television	to entertain self
6.	Mobile	for outside contact

**C. Answer the following questions.**

**Question (a)**

Do you think you can afford to buy all of these at once?

**Answer:**

No, we can't afford to buy all gadgets at a time

**Question (b)**

We may not have money to buy all our wants at the same time. In such a situation, what are the options available?

**Answer:**

We can buy them on loan by paying equal monthly instalment schemes.

**Question (c)**

Expand EMI

**Answer:**

EMI – Equal Monthly Instalment

## **Textual Questions**

### **A. Reading Comprehension Questions:**

#### **Question 1.**

What did Aunt Jane like about Jack's 'little nest'?

#### **Answer:**

Aunt Jane liked the furniture, the car, the piano, the refrigerator and the radio in the house.

#### **Question 2.**

Aunt Jane seemed to think that there was a mistake in the wedding present she had given Jack. Why?

#### **Answer:**

Aunt Jane had given Jack and Jill just 200 pounds as wedding gift. But Jack claimed to have bought the house. He had the car and all gadgets at home. So, she wondered if she had given them 2000 pounds instead.

#### **Question 3.**

What would make Jack the owner instead of being the tenant?

#### **Answer:**

Paying ten pounds and a few quarterly payments have made Jack Mr. Owner of the house

#### **Question 4.**

What sounded absurd to Aunt Jane?

#### **Answer:**

Aunt Jane realized that the house and all the gadgets in Jack's home were bought on loan. He was paying EMI more than his salary. He was steadily borrowing to pay his EMI. So, living beyond the means sounded absurd for her.

#### **Question 5.**

How did Jack manage to pay seven pounds eighty and eighty pence out of six

pounds? Jack managed to pay seven pounds eight and eight pence out of his salary of six pounds by borrowing the rest of the money from “Thrift and providence trust corporation”

**Question 6.**

What advice did Aunt Jane offer the couple?

**Answer:**

Aunt Jane advised Jack not to continue their borrowing spree. She gave them ten pounds to settle atleast one of their bills. –

**Question 7.**

For what purpose did Aunt Jill wish to use the cheque given by Aunt Jane?

**Answer:**

Jill wished to pay Dr. Martin who had helped her deliver the baby. She owed still 20 dollars more to him. She used ten dollars to pay the doctor.

**Question 8.**

‘Just one more instalment and BABY’S REALLY OURS!’ This tells us that the couple

**Answer:**

The couple did not even have sufficient money to pay the doctor’s bill when Jill delivered the baby. Jane had a guilty feeling that she should pay ten more pounds to claim the baby as “theirs”.

**B. Answer the following questions in about a paragraph of 100 -150 words each:**

**Question 1.**

Why is there a double negative in the title: The Never – Never Nest? Elucidate with reasons from the play.

**Answer:**

The title of the play ‘The Never- Never Nest’ has two never in it, ensuring that the nest would never be built. The double negative is emphasizing the

impossibility of home The 'nest in the title, literally refers to the home of birds. Birds make their home by collecting straws and twigs of various trees.

The nest acts as their temporary home as they do migration with respect to the changing weather conditions. Also, they are not safe, as different animals might attack their nest anytime. The same is in the case with Jack and Jill. The couple can be attacked by the money – lenders anytime if the instalments are not paid on the designated time.

### **Question 2.**

Bring out the humorous elements in the play.

### **Answer:**

Jane, Aunt of Jack, gives a wedding gift of two hundred pounds to him and Jill to start a contented life. But Jane buys a home, a car, piano, dining table, cot, sofa and even a radio on loan. Every month he pays more than his salary towards the payment of EMIs. Initially Aunt Jane is pleased with Jack's comfortable life. The dramatic irony of the whole play starts when Jack tells Jane that he owes his comfortable life to her. She asks if she had given to them two thousand pounds instead of two hundred by an oversight.

Aunt Jane infers that the house would cost a great deal of rent. It was only then she has a rollercoaster ride on the shocking truth about all Jack's worldly possessions. He says that they thought it uneconomic to go on paying rent and be Mr. Tenant. To be wise, he decided to become Mr. Owner by just paying ten pounds and a few quarterly payments. Jill supports her husband's wisdom saying that he had a pay hike of five shillings. Then it dawns on Jane that all the possessions may be bought on hire purchase of long term EMI based loans. Such loans collect a lot of interest concealed under EMIs. She asks if they own the car. Jack says the steering wheel, one of the tyres, about two of the cylinders belong to them. Jack and Jill reveal the wonderful strategy of living on future earnings.

They explain that radio, piano and the furniture have been purchased on EMI from Mr. Sage. Mrs. Jane is dumbstruck. She abhors sitting on the furniture and the cot which do not belong to her relatives but to some creditors like Mr. Sage or Spencer. She gives 10 pounds as gift and leaves. She turns down the offer of a car ride as one tyre and two cylinders only belong to Jack. As soon as

they leave, Jill sends the gift cheque to Dr. Martin. The black comedy apparent is that with one more installment, she could call the baby their own.

**Question 3.**

How does the play 'The Never – Never Nest' expose the harsh reality of modern living?

**Answer:**

Jack and Jill bought each and every luxury of life cheerfully Jack and Jill believe in buying furniture to house in easy installments. They have recently purchased a house, a car and furniture in installments are higher than his income Sometimes Jack borrows from money lenders to pay the installments. Even they have got their baby in installment.

The couple can be attacked by the moneylender anytime if the installments are not paid on the designated time. Such a couple would make a nest but they will never settle happily. Thus the play 'The Never-Never Nest' exposes the harsh reality of modern living.

**Question 4.**

Jill said that they owned the steering wheel of a car, one of the tyres, two of the cylinders and leg of the sofa. What does this convey?

**Answer:**

Jills claim that they owned the steering wheel of the car, one of the tyres, two of the cylinders and leg of the sofa. This implies that none of the things that are in their home and even their home did not belong to them. His salary is six pounds but he has to pay seven pounds and eight pence. The Equated monthly installments ate away all his salary.

Jack was borrowing for the excess money from “ Thrift and providence Trust corporation”. The pathetic things that melts one’s heart is seen towards the end of the play. The gift cheque of 10 pounds is released to Mr. Martin. When Jack says doctors don’t expect to be paid so soon, Jill says that with one more installment the baby will be absolutely “theirs”. This reveal the fact, Jack and Jill do not have anything left even for medical emergencies like child – delivery or sickness. Such life is not to be flaunted but pitied.

## Listening Activity

**C. Listen to the passage read out aloud by the teacher or played on a recorder and answer the questions that follow.**

Listen to the views of a leading economist R. Azhagarasan about EMI in an interview.

We live in a world where everyone likes to lead a comfortable and luxurious life, though our salaries are not enough to meet our needs. In such a situation, the EMI seems to be the only option. It helps people pay for the expensive things, they have purchased, in parts as installments. It gives monetary power to buy expensive things beyond the capacity of a common man. Otherwise, many people will never be able to buy such things. This proves beneficial for people in purchasing a house and other essential appliances and accessories.

It also has some negative unavoidable results. If people are not able to pay EMI on time, they have to keep on paying the loan amount for years together with interest. If people are not able to pay EMI on time, they may face serious problems such as the penalty for default, repossession of the purchased items and might even be subjected to legal actions. Moreover, people may have the tendency to buy things that are not at all necessary, paying EMIs over a longer period of time. This may lead them into never-ending debts. Hence, people should learn to spend within their means.

### Question (i)

The speaker says that our income is sufficient to meet our needs. Is it true or false?

**Answer:**

False

### Question (ii)

EMI is the only \_\_\_\_\_ for people who buy very expensive things.

- (a) consolation
- (b) setback
- (c) option
- (d) debt

**Answer:**

(b) setback

**Question (iii)**

One is able to buy costly things with \_\_\_\_\_ power offered by EMI.

- (a) physical
- (b) withstanding
- (c) honorary
- (d) monetary

**Answer:**

(d) monetary

**Question (iv)**

If people fail to pay EMIs, they may be subjected to \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) expulsion
- (b) high pressure
- (c) legal action
- (c) dejection

**Answer:**

(c) legal action

**Question (v)**

People should learn to spend \_\_\_\_\_ their means.

- (a) within
- (b) beyond
- (c) above
- (d) beneath

**Answer:**

(a) within

## **Speaking Activity**

**D. Based on your understanding of the play ‘The Never-Never Nest’, organise a classroom debate on the topic: ‘Is Equated Monthly Instalment Scheme – a boon or bane to middle- class families?’**

A : Equated Monthly Installment scheme is a boon. Middle-class people who can't dream of owning a home or even buying a two-wheeler get the benefit.

B : How do you prove it?

A : Well, a person who earns 15,000 rupees a month is able to take a house loan. Shri Ram, Finance Investment company of Bajaj Fin Serve offers scooter, car loans on as low as 7% interest. So a man can avail the benefits first but pay later.

B : My dear friend you present the matter as if it is just easy. What happens if a medical emergency happens and if the person is unable to pay back EMI for a housing loan or vehicle loan. Don't you know a farmer was beaten by "Collection agents" for not being able to pay back EMI arrears of just 50,000 rupees? The farmer, unable to face the disgrace committed suicide. Didn't you read it in the newspapers? EMI scheme is a bane.

A : My dear friends, such a rare occurrence should not be blown out of proportion. For health emergencies, one can join Prime Minister's health insurance scheme by just paying 12 rupees a month. Besides, there are also Health insurance schemes by Tamil Nadu state Government which covers the cost of critical Health care upto 60%. I assert the EMI scheme is a boon for all middle-class people who keep EMI to less than 50% of their total earnings and have 10% for other unforeseen expenses. If one leads a planned life, EMI scheme, I reiterate is a bane.

Judge : Now both the teams have argued their case very well. Now team A has almost justified that EMI scheme is a boon.

B : Sir, I would like you to take a look at the notice released by all leading bank containing the list of housing property confiscated due to non – payment of EMIs.

A : Every middle-class Indian has dreamed of owning a house. If one save money say for twenty years to purchase a land or a house the cost would definitely go up by 10 times. Save now and buy later doesn't suit the modern lifestyle. It is true that we should not speculate much. At the same time one can calculate earnings, future pay hike and keep the EMIs within payable limits – such judicious spending will really make EMI schemes a great boon.

J : Listening to the arguments of both the team, I conclude EMI scheme is both



a bane and a boon. For those who are always on a spending spree irrespective of their limited income, EMI scheme is a bane. For those who think twice before making a hasty purchase and narrow down their choice only to vital needs, definitely, EMI scheme is a boon. Use EMI scheme wisely. Good luck.

## Writing Writing Task

**E. Aunt Jane was shocked to see the life of Jack and Jill during her visit to their place. Put yourself in the place of Aunt Jane and write a letter to the couple advising them not to spend beyond their means. Make more suggestions to enable them lead a debt-free life.**

West Avenue,

New York, .

18.10.20XX

Dear Jack & Jill,

I reached back home safely. After returning from your home, I could not sleep properly for three days, I have always purchased things with cash. I feel it is a disgrace to buy things on long term hire purchase schemes. I gave you two hundred pounds to help you start your married life. But you have squandered all that seed money in making advance payment on expensive purchases like piano, furniture, car and even a home on loan. You pay equated.

monthly installments that exceed your monthly salary. You are borrowing every month to pay your dues I'm really upset. I don't know what you did with the ten pounds, I gave you. I wish to give you the following recommendation. You can print them and display them in your drawing-room. So, that you'll try to follow them seriously in your life.

- (1) Let your first expenditure be saving 10% of salary for the future.
- (2) Never buy things you don't need.
- (3) Cut your cloth according to your size.
- (4) If you spend on future income you will become a pauper.
- (5) A penny saved, is a penny earned.
- (6) Contentment is the greatest wealth in the world.
- (7) Lead a simple life befitting your income.
- (8) Don't ever try to complete with others.

- (9) Those who are thrifty invariably become rich.  
(10) Those who spend all their money in haste will regret in leisure.

Your loving aunt,  
Jane

To  
Jack,  
15, Gandhi Road,  
New Jersey,  
United States of America