

CHAPTER

4

THE ENEMY

—Pearl S. Buck

Chapter Analysis

Question Type & Marks	Year					
	2016		2017		2018	
	D	OD	D	OD	D	OD
SA	3	-	-	-	-	-
LA	-	-	1	1	-	-

Introduction :

It is the time of the World War II. Japan is at war with America. An American prisoner of war gets washed away to the doorstep of a Japanese, Dr. Sadao. The choice is very hard for Dr. Sadao and his wife. Should they hand him over to the police or save him from dying ? Being a doctor, Sadao gives top priority to save the life of a dying man. Not only does he save him but also helps him in escaping to freedom.

Summary :

1. Sadao's Education—His Father's Main Concern

Dr. Sadao Hoki's house was built on the Japanese coast. His father never joked or played with him. Sadao knew that his education was his father's chief concern. For this reason, he had sent him to America at twenty-two to learn surgery and medicine. He had come back at thirty and before his father died, he had seen Sadao become a famous surgeon and scientist.

2. Sadao Married Hana

Sadao had met Hana in America but didn't fall in love with her until he was sure she was a Japanese. His father would never have accepted her unless she had been 'pure in her race'. Sadao met her at an American Professor's house. They came home to Japan. Their marriage had been arranged in the old Japanese way. They were perfectly happy and had two children.

3. Wounded American Soldier Tom Found Crawling

Sadao and Hana found something coming out of the mist. A man seemed to be on his hands and knees crawling. Then, they saw him fall on his face and lie there. He was wounded and lay motionless on the sand. He was a white man. On the right side of his lower back, Sadao saw that a gun wound had reopened. He was bleeding. He had packed the wound with the sea moss. The man cried but didn't awake. They read the faint letters on his cap : "U.S. Navy". The American was a prisoner of war.

4. Sheltered a White Man

If they sheltered the white man in their house, they would be arrested. But if they turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die. The couple was in a fix. All Americans were their enemies. If he were healthy, they could hand him over to the police. But he was wounded. He would die unless he was operated upon. At any rate, something was to be done with him. The servants were frightened at what their master had just told them. They thought that their master should not heal the wound of that white man. Even Yumi refused to wash the white man and returned to her work. Hana herself washed Tom's breast and face with steaming hot water carefully.

5. Tom was Operated on

Sadao asked Hana to help him to turn the man. She obeyed. She was asked to give the anaesthetic if needed. The bullet was still there. He had lost much blood. Hana couldn't bear the sight and ran out of the room. She had never seen an operation. Sadao went on with his work. But she came with a bottle and some cotton in her hand. Then, with a very clean and precise incision, the bullet was taken out. The man quivered but was still unconscious. He only muttered a few words in English. Dr. Sadao declared that the man would live in spite of all.

6. The Young man Woke up Terrified

The young man woke up. He was very weak. His blue eyes were terrified when he saw where he was. Hana consoled him not to be afraid. She comforted him that he would soon be strong. On the third day, Dr. Sadao examined the wound. Tom asked what they were going to do with him. He looked barely seventeen. For a moment, Sadao didn't answer. Tom was a prisoner of war and should have been handed over to the police.

7. Servants Grew Ruthless

The servants felt that they could not stay if Sadao hid that white man anymore in the house. People would think that they liked Americans. The servants grew more watchful daily. Sadao wanted the prisoner to get up on his feet. He should practise it everyday till he gained strength. The man thanked the doctor for having saved his life. The doctor cautioned him not to thank him so early. The last stitches had been pulled out. The young man would be all right within a fortnight. On the seventh day, the servants left all together. Hana was terrified but maintained her pride as a mistress. She paid them off and thanked them for all they had done for her.

8. The Old General

The old General was sick. He knew that Sadao was indispensable to him. He didn't want Sadao to be arrested. What would happen if Sadao were condemned to death and the next day he himself had to have his operation? He didn't trust other surgeons. The General hit upon a plan. It would be best if the American could be quietly killed. He had his own private assassins. He could send two of them to his house at night. Sadao agreed that it would be very natural.

9. Sadao Saved Tom but Wondered Why

Sadao thought over the General's plan. The whole thing could go out of his hands. He didn't tell anything to Hana. The next morning, he went to the guest room. He thought of putting his boat on the shore that night with food and extra clothing in it. The American might be able to row to that little island not far from the coast. Nobody lived on that island. He gave all necessary instructions to Tom. If his food ran out before he caught a Korean boat, he could signal him two flashes. The young American shook Sadao's hand warmly and walked into the darkness of the garden. Sadao informed the General that the young man had escaped. The General had promised Sadao to get him killed. But due to his own illness, he forgot to respect his promise. Sadao got his reward. He didn't receive any signal. No one was on the island. The prisoner had gone safely. Sadao remembered that he had great difficulty in finding a place to live in America because he was a Japanese. The Americans were full of prejudice. White people were repulsive. It was a relief to be openly at war with them at last. Then, he remembered the 'haggard face of the prisoner—white and repulsive'. "Strange", he thought, "I wonder why I could not kill him?"

Short Answer Type Questions

[2 marks each]

(Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each.)

Q. 1. What was his father's chief concern about Dr. Sadao? [Delhi Set I, 2016]

Ans. Value Points : father's chief concern was Sadao's education [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 2

Detailed Answer : Dr. Sadao's father had a great concern for Sadao's career. His chief concern was his education. In order to fulfill that requirement, he sent him to America at the age of twenty-two to learn surgery and medicine.

Q. 2. What was Sadao's father's dream for him? How did Sadao realise it? [Outside Delhi Set III, 2015]

Ans. Value Points :

- Sadao's education was his father's chief concern
- was sent to America at the age of 22 to learn all he could of surgery and medicine
- became an eminent surgeon and scientist
- perfecting a discovery which would render wounds clean [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 2

Detailed Answer : Sadao's father wanted his son to be a doctor. Sadao realized this dream by becoming one of the most known and respectable

surgeons of the country. He was also working to perfect a discovery which would render wounds clean. He was so trustworthy as a doctor that the General had not sent him abroad with the troops as he wanted to keep Sadao around for his surgery.

Q. 3. Why was Dr. Sadao not sent abroad along with troops? [HOTS] [Delhi Set II, 2016]

Ans. Value Points

- there may be danger to the old general's life; might need operation; so Sadao required
- Sadao was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 2

Detailed Answer : Dr. Sadao was not sent abroad with the troops for two reasons—

- (i) He was working on a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean.
- (ii) The General was in a condition where he might need an emergency operation. He could only trust Sadao as his surgeon.

Commonly Made Error

- Most of the students do not know the actual reason for this answer and give vague answers.

Answering Tips

- The doctor's need in the country for supervising the health of the General was considered more important than his service to the troops in the enemy country.

Q. 4. How nearly had Dr. Sadao missed marrying Hana ? [Comptt., Delhi Set-I, 2013]

Ans. Dr. Sadao met Hana at a party. He did not want to go to that party and had almost avoided going to the party. If he had not gone there, he would never have met Hana and would have missed marrying her. 2

Q. 5. What role did the American play in bringing Hana and Sadao together ?

[Outside Delhi Set II, 2015]

Ans. Value Points :

- American professor and wife were kind-hearted
- anxious to do something for foreign students
- Professor Harley invited students to his place
- Sadao found rooms too small and food bad
- met Hana, felt he would love her if it were all possible [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 2

Detailed Answer : Sadao had met Hana at an American professor's house. The professor and his wife had been kind people. They wanted to do something for their few foreign students. Sadao had almost not gone to Professor Harley's house that night. But when he went there, he had found Hana, a new student, for whom he developed a liking.

Q. 6. Where, when and how did Dr. Sadao meet Hana ? [Delhi Set-III, 2016]

OR

Where had Dr. Sadao first met his wife ? What had been his initial reaction ?

[Comptt., Delhi / Outside Delhi 2018]

Ans. Value Points :

- had met her in America / in his American professor's house
- had waited to fall in love with her until he was sure she was a Japanese

(CBSE Marking Scheme 2018)

Detailed Answer : Dr. Sadao met Hana in America at an American Professor's house during a party. At first, he had almost avoided going to the party. Had he not gone there, he would have missed meeting and marrying her. 2

Q. 7. In what condition did Dr. Sadao find the American soldier at the seashore ?

[Outside Delhi Set I, 2015]

OR

In what condition was the American soldier when Sadao found him ?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-I, 2013]

Ans. Value Points :

- motionless with his face in the sand
- unconscious
- with a gun wound on the right side of his lower back which had reopened / flesh blackened with gunpowder

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 2

Detailed Answer : Dr. Sadao found the American soldier in an unconscious state. He was badly injured with a gun wound on the right side of his lower back, hit by a bullet and battered by rocks. The waves had thrown him onto the shore. He was bleeding profusely.

Q. 8. Why does Dr. Sadao mutter the word, 'My friend' while treating the American prisoner of war ? What is ironical about his words ?

[HOTS] [CBSE, SQP, 2014, 2015]

Ans. Value Points : Sadao trained to talk to patients

- to comfort them - elicit response - Ironical : as the soldier / sailor is an enemy - Sadao saves his life [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 2

Detailed Answer : Being a doctor, may be he was trained to talk to patients in a friendly manner to comfort them and to get back response. It was ironical because the patient was a soldier of the American army which was their enemy. Finally, Sadao, saved his life, too.

Q. 9. Why Hana had to wash the wound herself ?

[Delhi Set-II, 2012, 2011]

Ans. When Hana saw that her husband was willing to help the wounded man, she also got ready to help him. When the maid-servant refused to wash the wounded man, she herself washed him. 2

Q. 10. What forced Dr. Sadao to be impatient and irritable with his patient ?

[Outside Delhi Set-I & II, 2013]

Ans. Hana started vomiting when she saw Dr. Sadao operating on the prisoner, as she had never seen an operation in her life. Sadao wanted to help her in distress but he couldn't leave his patient alone because the wounded man urgently needed an operation or he could die. This situation made Dr. Sadao impatient and irritable with his patient. 2

Commonly Made Error

- Many students answer that the condition of Hana on seeing an operation irritated the doctor.

Answering Tips

- The students must read and understand the question thoroughly before proceeding with the answer.

Q. 11. What help did Dr. Sadao seek from Hana while operating on the wounded white man ?

[Delhi Set-III, 2012]

OR

How did Hana help Dr. Sadao while he operated upon the enemy soldier ? [CBSE, SQP I, 2012]

Ans. When the maid-servant refused to wash the wounded man, Hana herself washed him. When her husband asked her to help him to turn the man she did so. He asked her to give the anesthesia, on seeing the blood Hana ran out of the room. Then, she came back with a bottle and some cotton in her hand and assisted her husband in removing the bullet. 2

Q. 12. What made a cool surgeon like Sadao speak sharply to his wife and what was her reaction ?

[Outside Delhi Set-III, 2013]

Ans. The sight of blood made Hana choke. Sadao spoke sharply and asked her not to faint. He argued if he stopped, the patient would die. Hana clasped her hands to her mouth and ran out of the room. 2

Q. 13. Did Hana think that the Japanese tortured their prisoners of war ? Why ? [Delhi Set-I, 2012]

Ans. Hana thought that the prisoners of war were tortured. She had heard stories of the sufferings of the prisoners. When the wounded American soldier was brought in, she had seen the red scars behind his neck. In fact, these scars were the proofs of torture, he had suffered in prison. 2

Q. 14. Who sent a messenger to Dr. Sadao? What for ?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-I, II & III, 2012]

Ans. The General sent a messenger to Dr. Sadao as there was an emergency operation which had to be performed. His gallbladder needed to be operated upon. 2

Q. 15. What dilemma did Dr. Sadao face ?

[Comptt., Delhi Set-I/II, 2017]

Ans. Value Points: dilemma between duty towards nation and duty towards profession

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : Dr. Sadao found an American soldier badly wounded. As a doctor, it was his duty to save the dying man, yet he was in a dilemma as the American soldier was an enemy of his country, Japan and it was his duty to report to the army about the soldier.

Q. 16. Why did Dr. Sadao's servants leave his service ?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-III, 2015]

Ans. Value Points: servants unhappy at Sadao's decision to treat the wounded soldier, felt it was unpatriotic [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 2

Detailed Answer : The servants felt that they could not stay if Sadao kept that white man any more in the house. People would think that they liked Americans. The servants grew more watchful daily. On the seventh day, the servants left all together.

Long Answer Type Questions

[6 marks each]

(Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words each.)

Q. 1. Why did Sadao Hoki go to America ? Narrate his experiences there. [Outside Delhi Set-II, 2012]

Ans. Dr. Sadao Hoki was sent to America by his father at the age of twenty-two to learn surgery and medicine. He had come back at the age of thirty and before his father died, he had seen Sadao become a famous surgeon and scientist.

During his stay in America, he had quite an unpleasant experience with white people. He had faced great difficulty in finding a place to stay because he was a Japanese. The Americans had been full of prejudices and it had been a bitter experience to live with it, acknowledging them as superior. He had despised the ignorant and dirty old woman who had at last consented to house him in her miserable home. He had once, tried to be grateful to her because she had nursed him through influenza but it was difficult for she was no less repulsive to him in her kindness. 6

Q. 2. Dr. Sadao faced a dilemma. Should he use his surgical skills to save the life of a wounded person or hand an escaped American P.O.W. over to the Japanese police ? How did he resolve this clash of values ?

[Outside Delhi Set I, 2015]

OR

What conflicting ideas arise in Dr. Sadao's mind after he has brought the wounded American soldier home ? How is the conflict resolved ?

[Comptt., Delhi, Outside Delhi, 2014]

[Comptt., Delhi Set-I & II]

OR

To choose between professional loyalty and patriotism was a dilemma for Dr. Sadao. How did he succeed in betraying neither ?

[Outside Delhi Set-I/II/III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points : conflict between his duty as a doctor and as a patriotic citizen

As a professional :

- overcame his prejudice
- retained professional loyalty
- treated the wounded enemy soldier (American)
- cared during recovery period

As a patriot :

- informed the General about the POW
- without reluctance accepted the General's decision to send assassins

(Any other relevant point)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 6

Detailed Answer : Dr. Sadao and his wife Hana remained in a state of conflict for quite a long time. They couldn't throw a wounded man again into the sea. They thought if they gave shelter to him in their house, they could be arrested. Handing him over to the police, would have meant throwing him into the jaws of death. They were in a state of intense conflict. Ultimately, the duty of a doctor overpowered all other petty considerations. The servants revolted at the idea of serving a white man. Hana herself washed the wound. Dr. Sadao had decided to operate on Tom.

Hana obeyed her husband without a word. Hana was to give an anaesthetic if the patient needed it. The doctor made a clean and precise incision. The bullet was out. At last, Dr Sadao declared : "This man will live in spite of all." So, Dr. Sadao saved a dying man. Hence, the ethics of a doctor won over petty racial considerations.

But at the same time being a true patriot, he did inform the General about the prisoner. It was sheer luck that the General forgot to send the assassins and the prisoner was saved.

Q. 3. Sadao was a patriotic Japanese as well as a dedicated surgeon. How could he honour both the values ? [Delhi 2015]

OR

Good human values are far above any other value system. How did Dr. Sadao succeed as a doctor as well as a patriot ? [Delhi Set-I/II/III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points : Sadao :

As a doctor :

- took enemy home, operated upon him
- gave post-operative treatment
- risked arrest
- desertion by the servants (Any two)

As a patriot :

- married a Japanese
- informed the General about him
- did not allow himself to get emotionally involved with the prisoner
- he disliked Americans (Any two)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 6

Detailed Answer : Dr. Sadao was in a great dilemma when he found an American prisoner on the shore. As a patriotic Japanese, he should have handed over the prisoner to the police but he knew that if he did that, the prisoner would die and as a doctor to let a person die without treating him was against his values. So, he brought the prisoner home and treated him. In this way, he honoured the value of being a doctor. But he informed the General about it and so he honoured the value of a patriot. It was fortunate for him that the General forgot to send the assassins and so he got an opportunity to send him away.

Q. 4. Do you think Dr. Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstances ? Why

/ Why not? Explain with reference to the story, 'The Enemy'. [Delhi Set-I, II & III, 2013] (TBQ)

OR

Individuals who belong to enemy countries tend to hate each other even if they don't know each other personally. At times, it is seen that some of them rise above such prejudices. What makes a human being do so ? [HOTS] [CBSE, SQP-II, 2013]

OR

How did Dr. Sadao rise above narrow prejudices of race and country to help a human being in need ? [Outside Delhi Comptt., Set-I, II & III, 2011]

Ans. It is said that war arouses passion. During the war, hatred against a member of the enemy race is justifiable. It is a natural human reaction. We find it in the servants of Dr. Sadao. Even Yumi refuses to wash the wound. They don't want to commit the sin of saving the enemy. Hence, they leave the house as long as the American lives there. It does not mean that Dr. Sadao loves or likes Americans. On the other hand, he has had very bitter experiences with them when he was in America. He knows that Americans were suffering from racial prejudice. He considers it as a relief that Japan is at war with America. Even Hana is reluctant to wash the wound of the prisoner of war. Only her human qualities and devotion to her husband compel her to look after the enemy. So far as Dr. Sadao is concerned, his duty as a doctor makes him operate on Tom and save him from dying.

Above all, it is basic humanity and human values that compel a human being to rise over these prejudices. Love for humanity and human beings transcends all other narrow considerations. Both Dr. Sadao and Hana think that Americans are their enemies but Dr. Sadao has been trained as a doctor and will not let a man die if he can help him. So, he will do his duty and his wife will help him in every possible way. He fulfilled his duties as a human being and did not allow man-made boundaries to overpower humanitarianism. 6

Commonly Made Error

- Many students misinterpret the question and start answering why one should help even the enemies in distress.

Answering Tips

- The answer must encompass the qualities of a person who rises above prejudices and helps even the enemies.

Q. 5. What efforts were made by Dr. Sadao and Hana to save the life of the injured man ?

[CBSE, SQP 2015]

Ans. Being a doctor, Sadao realized that the American was in the need of urgent medical attention and thus, prevailed upon Hana not only to allow him to bring the man into the house but also to disclose the fact to the servants.

The baby's maid, Yumi, refused to clean up a white man and Hana had no choice but to do it herself.

Though Hana had never seen an operation and had never before administered anesthesia, she was able to assist her husband in the operation.

Sadao successfully managed to remove the bullet that had lodged itself close to the kidney.

He made every effort to keep the American alive.

He further made arrangements for the American to escape.

He assisted him in all the ways that he could, by giving him boat, food, Japanese clothes and even a torchlight with which he could indicate in case his supplies ran out or if he did not find a Korean fishing boat to rescue him from the island where he was to seek refuge.

In the meantime, Sadao had carefully monitored the enemy's progress and was convinced that he was strong enough to take this chance and save his life.

They parted as friends and the American remarked that it was a second time that Sadao had saved his life. 6

Q. 6. What was the General's plan to get rid of the American Prisoner ? Was it executed ? What traits of the General's character are highlighted in the lesson 'The Enemy' ? [Outside Delhi Set-I, 2014]

Ans. Value Points :

- to send two private assassins and remove the body
- it was not executed
- self-absorption / selfish / cruel / no human consideration [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] 6

Detailed Answer : The General planned to send his private assassins to kill the American prisoner and to let his body be removed by the professional killers. He told the doctor to keep the window of the soldier's room open so that the assassins had no problem in entering his room and it would look natural also. According to the General, his assassins knew the trick of internal bleeding and no one would doubt the doctor.

No, but it was not executed. Actually, the General knew that if he would send his assassins to kill the enemy soldier in the doctor's house, then, the incident would be open and Dr. Sadao might get arrested on the charge of helping and sheltering an enemy soldier. This would put both the doctor and the General in a fix because there was no other surgeon who could operate upon the General except Dr. Sadao. So he didn't want to put the doctor into trouble. This shows that he was a self-centered man who had neither compassionate feelings towards the soldier nor any humanitarian feelings towards the doctor. All he was concerned about was himself.

Q. 7. Why did Sadao help the American soldier to escape ? How did he do it ?

[Outside Delhi Set-III, 2012]

Ans. Dr. Sadao was a doctor. So it was his moral duty to save the wounded person. He had given a new lease of life to the American prisoner of war. He and his wife Hana had taken a lot of pain to save his life. He didn't want to throw him into the jaws of death again.

He asked the young soldier to take his private boat at night. He advised him to row in the cover of darkness to a little island nearby. The young American could live there until he saw a Korean fishing boat pass by. Many of them passed by the island. He put food, water bottle and two quilts in the boat. He was also advised if the food ran out before he caught a boat, he could signal two flashes. He was not to signal in darkness because he could be seen. Thus, the prisoner escaped in a safe manner. 6

Q. 8. What impression do you form about Dr. Sadao as a man and as a surgeon on your reading the chapter, 'The Enemy' ? [Outside Delhi Set-I, 2012]

OR

How did Dr. Sadao face the dilemma he came across in his life ? What light does it throw on his character ?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-I/II/III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points :

- treated the POW inspite of protest from the servants
- informed the General
- when the assassins did not come, helped the POW to escape
- very balanced, matured, a great surgeon, true patriot, a great human being

(Any two supported with examples)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 6

Detailed Answer : Dr. Sadao and Hana faced a dilemma for quite a long time. Dr. Sadao was in a fix whether to serve his duty or to show his loyalty towards his nation. As a doctor, he could not throw a wounded man back into the sea. But if he and Hana gave him shelter in their house, they would be arrested. Had they handed him over to the police that would have meant throwing him into the jaws of death. Ultimately, the duty of a doctor overpowered all other petty considerations. Both of them carried the wounded man into their house. Hana asked Yumi to wash his wounds. Yumi flatly refused to obey. She revolted at the idea of serving a white man. Hana herself washed the wound with a clean steaming towel. By this time, Dr. Sadao had decided to operate on the unfortunate prisoner.

Hana obeyed her husband and followed his instructions. Eventually, Dr. Sadao removed the bullet. The man was still unconscious but Dr. Sadao declared that he would live.

Thus, we see that Dr. Sadao was a kind-hearted man who performed his noble duty as a doctor. He saved a dying man. Love for humanity and the ethics of a doctor won over petty and narrow racial considerations.

Q.9. In marriage one expects complete trust and cooperation between husband and wife. How did Hana help Dr. Sadao when he was in trouble ?

[Foreign Set-I/II/III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points :

- Hana helped to carry the prisoner into the house
- washed the soldier when servants refused
- helped during surgery even though she felt nauseated
- did not complain when servants deserted them
- took care of all the needs of the prisoner
- nursed him back to health
- did not question Sadao about his decision to treat and shelter the enemy prisoner

(Minimum 3 points)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 6

Detailed Answer : As a doctor, it was Dr. Sadao's moral responsibility to save Tom, the American prisoner of war, but Hana was under no such compulsion. In spite of this, she abided by her husband's decisions because she was a dutiful wife who pledged to support her husband even through the most difficult times.

Secondly, Hana being a woman, was soft-hearted. She could not see a wounded person being left in the lurch. As a woman, she adorned the role of a life-giver and a preserver. She could not have been a destroyer. That is why she cleaned the prisoner when her maid was unwilling to do so. She also assisted her husband in the operation on the American, despite the fact that she could not stand the blood, and started vomiting when she saw it. She was thus a dutiful wife and life-giver.

Q.10. The servants of Sadao and Hana reflect a particular mindset of the general public in society towards the thinking and broad minded human beings. Elaborate with the help of the story "The Enemy".

[SQP 2018-19]

Ans. Value Points :

- servants reflect the mindset of poor, uneducated and narrow minded section of society
- are frightened on hearing about wounded American soldier
- gardener- felt soldier should die, if saved sea would take revenge
- Yumi- refused to wash the wounds of enemy soldier, angry with Sadao for putting his family in danger
- cook- felt Sadao was too proud of his skills so operated and saved the enemy
- finally servants left Sadao's house being afraid of the repercussions of helping an enemy soldier
- could not understand Sadao's dilemma

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2018-19] 6

Detailed Answer : The servants of Sadao and Hana reflect a particular mindset of the general public in society towards the thinking of broad minded human beings. They have a mindset of poor, uneducated and narrow minded section of the society. The moment Dr. Sadao informed them about the American prisoner of war, they were frightened. All the servants reacted in different manner but with one mindset that Dr. Sadao should not treat the American soldier. When Hana asked Yumi to wash his wounds, Yumi flatly refused to obey. She revolted at the idea of serving a white man. Hana herself washed the wound with a clean steaming towel. She was annoyed with Dr. Sadao for putting his family in danger. The old gardener was also not happy with Dr. Sadao for sheltering the enemy soldier. He felt that the soldier should die. If he was saved, the sea would take revenge. Equally disturbing was the reaction of the cook, who felt that Dr. Sadao was too proud of his skills, so he operated upon the soldier and saved him.

The servants felt that they could not stay if Sadao hid that white man anymore in the house. People would think that they liked Americans. The servants grew more watchful daily. Sadao wanted the prisoner to get up on his feet. He didn't pay much heed to the servant's reaction. Finally, the servants left Sadao's house as they were frightened of the repercussions of helping an enemy soldier. In fact, they could not understand Sadao's dilemma. If they had, they would never have reacted in the manner they had.