

## **7. The Gardener**

### **Comprehension I**

#### **1. What qualities of the old man impressed the narrator?**

The old man's eyes were suffused with strange memories and native intelligence. He was a tall figure with grey hair, a long black like nose and strong muscular arms. He had a news paper tucked under his arm. The old man would look like a labourer, overseer and philosopher, all rolled into one. He was well-versed in agriculture and could understand the problems of workers and resolving it. All these attitude of the old man was impressed by the narrator.

#### **2. Is it a significant factor that the old man came to the garden after walking hundreds of miles?**

Yes, it is a significant factor that the old man came to the garden after walking hundreds of miles because being himself rich and earned fame as a composer of ballads and singer, he was determined to teach a lesson to Basavaiah on his disappearance.

#### **3. The owner of the garden became lethargic because**

c) There was nothing much left for the owner to do.

#### **4. Why did the owner's wife start worrying about the strange ways of her husband?**

The owner's wife started worrying about strange ways of her husband because of her husband's adultery and other vices. She also started wondering whether the old man's arrival was for good or bad. Her husband had fallen into bad habits and had bad friends even though he had precious little to do, his life became crowded with colourful events. He became lethargic and shied away from all his works. Moreover their life was gradually getting out of her hand.

#### **5. When did the old man decide to narrate his story?**

When the owner's wife was worried about her husband, she came to the garden and sat on the embankment of the well. At that time the old man arrived there and behaved as though he knew all about her plight. He came near to her and offered tender coconut and sat near to her. The sun was slipping away into the western horizon, race of sun were reaching the walls of the well through the foliage of coconut, mango and jackfruit trees. During this time he began his narrative.

#### **6. Tammanna considers his rival, Sangoji/Basavaiah, an important possession because**

c) rivalry offers new possibilities of life for him.

#### **7. "No, his name was not Sangoji, but Basavaiah" told the old man because**

c) he was fictionalizing his past.

#### **8. What unique strategy did Tammanna conceive to annihilate Basavaiah?**

First of all Tammanna thought about the invisible method to annihilate him completely, which was nothing but composing all his experience with Basavaiah in the form of Ballads and singing them. His songs started making a mention of Basavaiah's greeting.

Later he thought of a great method of punishing Basavaiah that was nothing but his death. Finally he thought of stop taking revenge, by competing with Basavaiah with increase own material and land and go far away from that place.

**9. Why does Basavaiah start inviting scholars and musicians to his place?**

He wanted to invest his home with meaning as his house looked dull and empty without Tammanna's books. So, he started inviting scholars and musicians to his place.

**10. What was Basavaiah's ray of hope in his attempt to outwit Tammanna?**

One day Basavaiah came to know that Tammanna was ill. Suddenly he thought that Tammanna's illness will benefit him, like his ill health will prove good wealth for Basavaiah because he was blessed with good health. If Tammanna suffers from disease Basavaiah will increase his will power, his spirits will be strong and Tammanna will not be able to compose the songs. Thus, Basavaiah will be very happy and Tammanna's illness will be the source towards his own happiness.

**11. Tammanna decides to give up everything and live the place because**

c) he wants to put an end to the rivalry.

**12. Tammanna forgets his songs and ballads because**

b) he doesn't need them anymore.

**Comprehension II**

**1. How did the owner's life style change after the arrival of the old man?**

One day the old man came to a garden after walking hundreds of mile. The owner of that garden seeing the old man felt that he needed exactly a person like the old man to work for him. He was an expert in agriculture and could understand the problems of the labourer.

As soon as he was engaged in the garden, petty thefts in the garden came to an end, the income from the garden increased and the plantation expanded. But the owner became lethargic and kept away from hard work. His wealth and social status had risen high, he had learnt bad habits and had bad friends in his village. His life became full of colourful events. She became apprehensive about his adultery and other vices. Thus the old man's arrival had changed the life style of the owner.

**2. What advice did the supporters of Tammanna give forgetting his land back?**

At the begin Tammanna and Basavaiah had a healthy competition on assuming wealth. Later it went on beyond the limit. If Tammanna bought thousand acres of land, Basavaiah had 800 acres. So Basavaiah forcibly acquired 200 acres of land from Tammanna with the help of his supporters. Due to this incident Tammanna's supporters advice him by various means available for getting the land back. They suggested to go to the court of law and also take recourse to the police and also suggested to attack Basavaiah and take the land from him. But he was not ready to go with visible competition, he thought of an idea of competing with him with an invisible one where he wanted to annihilate Basavaiah completely.

**3. How did Tammanna react to Basavaiah's encroachment of his land?**

Tammanna wanted to annihilate Basavaiah so he hit upon the idea of composing all his experience in the form of ballade and started singing them. Tammanna did not notice the encroachment of his land by Basavaiah because art had become raison-d'être of his life.

**4. How did Basavaiah try to overcome his humiliation?**

Basavaiah tried to sing but couldn't go forward, later he performed his agricultural task more deligently. He started filling his life with all kinds of material wealth. He got a palatial massion built for himself. He appointed a number of persons to just praise him. He decorated

himself with gold, diamonds and other precious stone. He also invited scholars, poets and musicians to his place with the advice of his visitors where it gave complete meaning towards his house.

Totally when he came to know that Tammanna was ill he was so happy, he thought that Tammanna's suffering would surely make him to survive his own spirit. All together Tammanna's disease was Basavaiah's health.

### **Comprehension III**

#### **1. The rivalry between Tammanna and Basavaiah keeps moving from the visible domain to the invisible comment.**

Man is sometimes unpredictable he keeps on changing according to the situations. Compared to all the other creatures he is more complicated in nature. Some keep revenge on others but some pretend to be good.

In this story Tammanna and Basavaiah were rivals in the village. The visible domain refers to, if Tammanna bought 4 more acres adjacent to his land, Basavaiah also followed the same. If one had 10 friends, the other acquired 15 admirers. In all Tammanna bought 1000 acres and Basavaiah had only 800 acres land. When Basavaiah asked him to sell his excess 200 acres, Tammanna did not agree. Basavaiah was not left with any alternative that he decided to snatch away Tammanna's 200 acres forcibly. He used his physical strength to grab material, property that was visible. Later the supporters of Tammanna suggested him to take help of police, court of law and physical force. But Tammanna wanted to annihilate Basavaiah completely, there-after Tammanna decided a plan to mentally destroy Basavaiah. He thought that visible things like land, gold, diamond and house could be bought to compete, but the invisible things cannot.

So Tammanna hit upon a new idea that was he composed all his experiences in the form of ballads and sang them, which took the name and fame of Tammanna to a greater level. This invisible property of Tammanna that cannot be stolen as acquired easily posed a greater threat to Basavaiah.

This is the fact that is prevalent to the rival countries to change the cause of war to cold war. Finally, Tammanna decided to avenge through his death. After his death his song separated from his body gives external torture to Basavaiah.

#### **2. How does Tammanna adopt counter strategy to challenge the material wealth of Basavaiah?**

Tammanna and Basavaiah competed separately towards each other by filling the material wealth. The movable property can be bought and sold out but the intelligence, skill, knowledge and a talent of a person cannot be stolen or separated from a person.

Tammanna was forcibly snatched away of his 200 acres of land by Basavaiah but he adopted a counter strategy to annihilate Basavaiah. He composed ballads including all his experiences and sang them. Art became the purpose of his life; his song contained the meanness and cruelty of Basavaiah. Through his songs which made Basavaiah to shrink in humiliation and he thought of filling his life with all kinds of material wealth and so on. Later Tammanna thought of yet another method of punishing Basavaiah that was through his death because if he continues at the level of the body Basavaiah would go on offering a stiff competition. So Tammanna decided to die, so that he would be able to torture Basavaiah mentally. These counter strategies revealed that human nature is strange.

#### **3. A manipulator like Tammanna turns reflective towards the end of his life? What does this tell us about human nature?**

Tammanna manipulated Basavaiah through his songs, the cruelty and meanness of Basavaiah became the theme of his songs. He gained name, fame and felicitation for his manipulation. Later he turns reflective that the absence of physical body can create the grudge in his mind. His death would separate his talent which remains even after the fall of mortal body. The rival Basavaiah would experience the futility of his survival when the rival Tammanna is not there.

The acquired rivalry loses its meaning in the absence of Tammanna. Moreover who narrates this story to the owners wife is Tammanna himself [the Gardener], the past manipulator of Basavaiah. Now Basavaiah is no more as he has become thoughtful and reflective that he tells the owner's wife that her husband will not come under the influence of any advice as he is influenced by wealth and fame in the society. Thus Tammanna becomes reflective tells us that human by nature is strange and complicated that till the day of his death he goes on living for some revenge or other.

#### **4. How does the reference to Russia and America provide another dimension to the story?**

The reference to Russia and America moves on the same plane that how Tammanna and Basavaiah were. When all of a sudden Russia told America that, "I am not your enemy, I shall not wage a war against you". The sworn enemy of America withdrawing from war is too hard to accept. The reaction, the feeling or the agony and boredom of America cannot be expressed but still the nation can withstand such kind of strange things but a human being cannot.

Hence, we experience these tendencies quiet often on the global scene. Thus Tammanna gave up everything and started off. Soon after Basavaiah died without any reason to live, Tammanna became a non entity and avenged himself.

#### **5. Observe how the story employs multiple narratives. How does this technique unveil the mystery of human relationships?**

The story the Gardens is narrated by Lankesh to his leaders through Tammanna. Tammanna narrates it to owner's wife. Ironically he himself is Tammanna, let the narrator be anybody but the applicability is same to all human beings.

Human life is always changing. It is essential for humans to adopt to changes. Mans actions are unpredictable. Related to this lesson the actions of Tammanna and Basavaiah are unpredictable. Only the people like this will be able to survive.

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#### **Assignment:**

**Antonyms :** It is a word opposite in meaning to a given word.

**Example: Impoverish X Enrich**

**Synonym:** A word that means exactly or nearby the same as another word.

**Example:** The synonym of **Impoverish** is **Deplete** and the synonym of **Enrich** is **Enhance**.

**Note :** Collect some words from the lesson "The Gardener" and write antonyms. Similarly write synonyms and antonyms of those words.

**Example:**

**Deplete X Strengthen**

**Enhance X Reduce**

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