

## LESSON 5. A SUNNY MORNING

### COMPREHENSION I

1. Do you think Laura was a regular visitor to the park? What makes you think so?  
Yes, Laura was a regular visitor to the park because of her statements. She says to her maid Petra that she was glad to be there in the park and she feared that her seat would be occupied, and she also used to feed the bread crumbs to the birds every day.
2. Why are Don Gonzalo and Laura annoyed with each other?  
Laura was annoyed because Gonzalo had walked through towards the birds and scared them away which were feeding on Laura's bread crumbs and she also does not like to share her bench with him. Gonzalo was annoyed because he thinks that she is being not courteous as she did not wish him back when he wished her 'Good Morning'. He is also irritated, for she keeps interfering in his affairs.
3. Dona Laura reads without her glasses as
  - a) she has keen eyesight
  - b) she wants to impress Gonzalo
  - c) she knows every word by heart
4. Gonzalo and Laura keep up humorous conversation because they:
  - a) have nothing else to do.
  - b) enjoy being with each other.
  - c) have the same temperament.
5. Laura and Gonzalo's friendly conversation begins with
  - a) Gonzalo reading the poems.
  - b) Laura's witty remarks.
  - c) a pinch of snuff.
6. Do you think Laura is an effective narrator?  
Yes, Laura is an effective narrator.
7. Gonzalo does not reveal his identity because
  - a) he no longer loves her.
  - b) his appearance has changed.
  - c) He looks grotesque and old.

### COMPREHENSION II

1. Precisely at what point of time, do you think, Laura and Gonzalo begin to recognise each other? When Gonzalo reads the line from the book, 'Twenty years pass. He returns.' Both Laura and Gonzalo exclaims themselves that if it could be he? And is it he? Respectively. But when Gonzalo tells Laura that he was brought up in the place Valencia and he had spent his early youth, and spent several seasons there and then mentions about Maricela villa, Laura was startled at hearing this name. Gonzalo also told her that there lived a beautiful woman he ever had seen and her name was Laura –Llorente, again Laura was startled at this name and both look at each other intently. Thus at this point Laura and Gonzalo begin to recognize at each other.
2. What were the circumstances that led Gonzalo to flee Aravaca? Gonzalo and Laura were young and intimate lovers. But Laura's parents had proposed a merchant of high reputation to marry Laura, whom Laura did not like. One night, when Gonzalo was waiting under Laura's window to hear her sing, the merchant presented himself unexpectedly and he started insulting Gonzalo. This led to a quarrel which later turned to a duel. At sunrise, on the beach

the merchant was wounded badly by Gonzalo. Thus Fearing for the consequences, Gonzalo concealed himself and fled from Valencia to Aravaca.

3. Did Laura and Gonzalo pine for each other after they were separated by circumstances? Who is more passionate? How do they react to each other now?

Gonzalo and Laura were separated by the circumstances, and they accidentally met in the park of Madrid as strangers. Through their conversation they learn that they were the once upon time lovers. But they stand firm in not revealing their identities because of their old age appearances. They pretend as if they do not know each other. But their love in their hearts is true and they are happy that they both met after a long time. Both are passionate. They intend to meet each other the next the next day also. When Laura leaves the park, she is surprised to find Gonzalo stooping with great effort to pick up the violets that Laura dropped. Both bid farewell smiling as if she were again at the window and he below in the rose garden. They are happy to keep alive their past love

4. What makes Dona Laura conclude that Don Gonzalo is an ill-natured man? When Gonzalo enters the park, he finds that his usual seat was occupied by three priests. Finally, Juanito, Gonzalo's servant asks him to sit on Laura's bench. Gonzalo makes way towards Laura's bench and scares away the birds which were feeding on Laura's bread crumbs. Laura gets angry and shouts at him. But Gonzalo says that he does not care about the birds. Gonzalo replies her in a rude, careless and indifferent manner, and asks her how she could take the liberty of addressing him in any ways. Thus, Gonzalo's attitude towards her made Laura conclude that he is an ill-natured man.
5. Laura and Gonzalo create stories about themselves so that they can:
  - a) fool each other.
  - b) Forget the past.
  - c) Conceal their emotions.

### COMPREHENSION III

1. Trace how the irony is built in the play? Did you guess the character's past even before they did so?

Gonzalo and Laura accidentally meet at the park as strangers. Laura does not like Gonzalo's way for he scared away the birds which were feeding on her bread crumbs and she gets annoyed and accuses him of doing so. But Gonzalo is careless and does not bother for what she says. He speaks to her in a rude and indifferent manner. Laura also calls him an ill-natured man. On the other side, Gonzalo calls Laura a senile old lady for he does not like Laura interfering in his affairs and she does not wish him properly when Gonzalo wishes 'good morning' to Laura. Later a pinch of snuff brings peace between them that irons out their differences. As they continue their conversation, they identify each other and get to know themselves that they are past lovers. They also recall their past memories. Gonzalo and Laura spin fictitious stories about themselves. The irony here is that, though they happy that they have met after a long time, they do not want to reveal themselves. Rather, they conceal their identities till the end because of their old age appearances. They wish to meet the next day also. They bid farewell with sweet memories of the past. The readers could definitely guess the character's past.
2. Why do Dona Laura and Don Gonzalo spin fictitious stories about themselves?

Gonzalo and Laura spin fictitious stories about themselves because they do not want reveal their true identity, for they were old and grotesque. Since both of them were separated by the circumstances, each does not know the truth about the other after they got departed. Laura married subsequently and Gonzalo also married a ballet dancer. They wanted to be

remain in each other's memories as young lovers .Laura wanted Gonzalo to remember her as the black- eyed girl tossing flower as he passed among the roses in the garden and Gonzalo wanted Laura to remember him as the gallant horseman who passed daily beneath her window tossing flowers. They wanted to spend their remaining life with the sweet memories of past.

3. Bring out the feelings of Laura and Gonzalo as they leave the park. Is it different from what they felt about each other in the beginning of the play? At the beginning of the play, Gonzalo and Laura act very indifferently to each other. They are not in good terms and pull each other's leg in complaining, interfering and mocking at each other. But gradually a pinch of snuff brings between them. As they get into conversation, they identify each other's and get to know that they were the once upon time lovers. Gonzalo and Laura are happy to find their lost love to be face to face in the park of Madrid. But they do not reveal their identity because of the old age appearances. After they had spent a quality time, it gets time to leave the park. Laura asks Gonzalo if he would come to the park the next day. Gonzalo replied positively. He said that he would come to the park the next day if it was a sunny morning and sit with Laura in the same bench. And added that he would not scare away the birds and he would bring the bread crumbs as well. He also says that it had been an honour and a great pleasure. Laura is also happy to share her bench with Gonzalo .Both are happy and they bid farewell. They smile once more, as if she were again at the window and he below in the rose garden. Both are happy to cherish their past memories.

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