

UNIT-4

At the Theatre

ACTIVITY - 1

The chief interest of a story or film lies in its element of suspense and mystery. And if the mystery or suspense is revealed to us beforehand, all its charm is spoiled. The revelation must come to us step by step as the story progresses. Some people, who have seen a play or a movie, earlier, are in the habit of talking aloud while watching it again. They keep talking and telling what is going to happen next. Thus, they ruin the charm for all those who are sitting around watching for the first time.

1. How many of you go to watch movies at the cinema ?
2. Have you ever met people described in the above passage?
3. What will you do if you find yourself in the same situation described in above passage?

ACTIVITY - 2

Rules of etiquette are important for smooth social life. We expect people to behave in certain ways. If they do not, they hurt our feelings and cause us inconvenience or disturbance.

Here are a few examples of annoying manners – lacking in etiquette.

- Talking very loudly in public places.
- Smoking in buses and trains.
- Spitting on roads and public places.
- Throwing garbage anywhere.
- Entering somebody's premises without permission.
- Interrupting when two persons are talking.

Now, make a list of acts of behaviour you consider to be improper and annoying. Compare your list with that of your friends.

ACTIVITY - 3

Make a list of undesirable behaviour in the class room and school. Compare your list with that of your friends. Write the list on a chart paper and display it in the class.

ACTIVITY - 4

Read and enjoy:

At the Theatre (To the Lady behind me)

- A.P. Herbert



Dear Madam, you have seen this play:
I ever saw it till today.
You know the details of the plot
But, let me tell you, I do not.

The author seeks to keep from me
The murderer's identity,
And you are not a friend of his
If you keep shouting who it is.

The actors in their funny way
Have several funny things to say,
But they do not amuse me more
If you have said them just before.

The merit of the drama lies,
I understand, in some surprise;
But the surprise now must be small
Since you have just foretold all.

The lady you have brought with you
Is, I infer, a half-wit, too,
But can understand the piece
Without assistance from your niece.

In short, foul woman, it would suit
Me just as well if you were mute
In fact, to make my meaning plain,
I trust, you will not speak again.

And - may I add one human touch?
Don't breathe upon my neck so much.

ACTIVITY - 5

Match A with B:

A	B
Plot	interest or give pleasure
Seeks	events in the story of a play
Merit	interest
Amuse	to try to find, get or achieve
Foretold	stupid
Infer	told beforehand
Halfwit	reach an opinion from facts
Foul	a composition in music, drama, sculpture etc.
Piece	manner less
Assistance	the son or daughter of a bother or a sister
Mute	help
Niece	speechless

ACTIVITY - 6

Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of play, do you think, was the poet watching at the theatre?
2. How did the poet know that the lady had seen the play earlier?
3. Why did the poet get annoyed? Give reasons.
4. What is the poet's remark about the lady? Why did he say so?
5. The poet told the lady two things plainly. Write them in your words.

ACTIVITY - 7

Select appropriate alternative for each of the following:

1. 'I ever saw it till today.' means
 - A. I saw it in the past.
 - B. I haven't seen it so far.
 - C. I am seeing it again today.
2. 'But the surprise now must be small' means
 - A. the play has no suspense at all.
 - B. the suspense of the play is rather lost.
 - C. the suspense of the play is intact.
3. 'Don't breathe upon my neck so much.' means
 - A. don't hit my neck with your words.
 - B. don't breathe so heavily.
 - C. don't keep so close to me.



ACTIVITY - 8

Here, in this poem, the word 'piece' means: a work of art- a play.

Taking the help of a dictionary, find and write different expressions with the word 'piece'.

Example: a piece of wood, a piece of advice

- 1. A piece of _____
- 2. A piece of _____
- 3. A piece of _____
- 4. A piece of _____
- 5. A piece of _____

ACTIVITY - 9

Find out the difference between the following types of literature. Write one or two sentences on each different type.

Literature	
Major forms	Genres
Novel	Comedy
Poem	Drama
Drama	Epic
Short story	Lyric
Novella	Tragedy

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.