

## 1.2 A synopsis - The Swiss family robinson

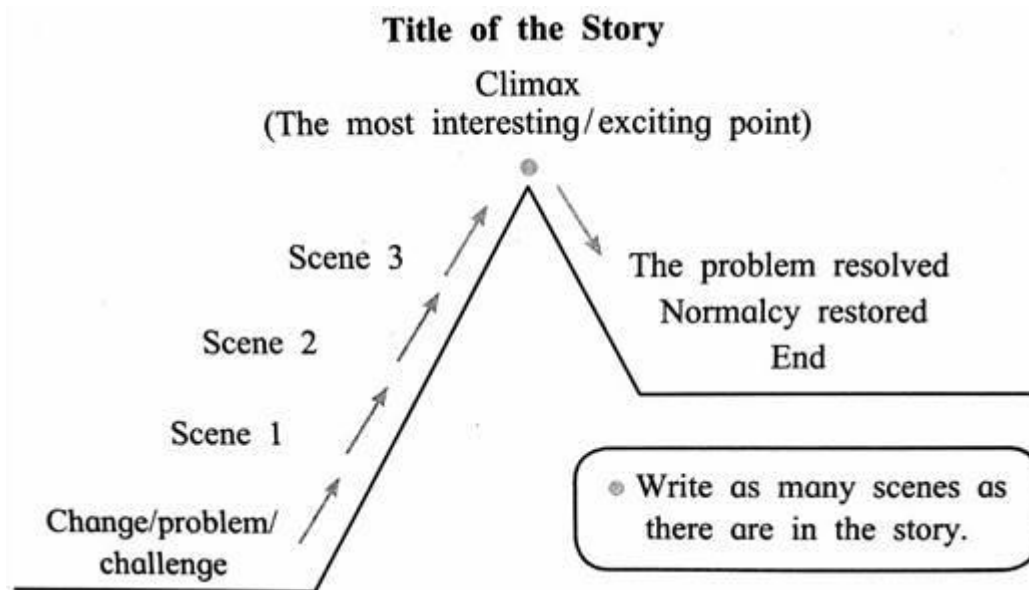
... Warming up!...

1. Do you know any stories about people who were lost in uninhabited places and were later rescued? Name them.

Ans. Captain Nemo, Gulliver, Robinson Crusoe, etc.

2. Think of one of your favourite interesting stories and fill in/draw an outline-chart like the one shown below.

Ans.



(1) **Change/problem/challenge:** To find out the person who murdered rich Mr. Leonides.

(2) **Scene 1:** The narrator, Charles, meets Sophia, the girl whom he wants to marry.

(3) **Scene 2:** Sophia's grandfather, the rich Mr. Leonides, is murdered. Sophia will not marry Charles till the murderer is found.

(4) **Scene 3:** Charles tries to help Scotland Yard in the investigation.

(5) **Scene 4:** Family secrets tumble out. Everybody seems to be a possible killer.

(6) **Scene 5:** There is an accident to a member of the family and another death. Everyone is tense and there is suspicion all around.

(7) **Climax:** The mystery is solved, with a thrilling climax.

3. Divide the class into groups of 4-6. Each group selects for itself one of the difficult situations listed below. Each group imagine themselves to be in that situation.



**(a) marooned on an island:** A group of people are marooned on an island in the middle of the ocean.

(Points: Tiny island - 10 people marooned - only water all around - cannot be drunk - but small freshwater lake on island - some afraid, some hopeful, some ill - ray of hope is that there are plenty of fruit trees and vegetables 1 see land in the distance - they plan to make a raft - two people to go for help - take food, water, some medicines, etc. - make fire on island - see some planes go by)



**(b) lost in a forest:** A group of people walking through a thick jungle have lost their way.

Ans. (1) Oh, look at these huge trees, with so many leaves - there is barely any sunlight at the bottom here! What are those queer noises? There seem to be thousands of creepy-crawly insects and birds! What if there are poisonous snakes? Dangerous carnivorous animals?

(2) "Ouch! What was that!" said Reena.

"Oh my God! Are there tigers and lions here?" said Mohan.

"Someone please save me!" shrieked Ria.

(3) The only ray of hope was the probable return of the guide before the sun went down. He would then take us to our camp, which was a safe haven, with boundary walls and guards.

(4) Mohan and Sandeep are going for help. They will take a lantern and matches, in case it gets dark before they can get help. They will take stout sticks to protect themselves from animals, and food and water to keep themselves from starving. They will also take one of the whistles to tell us where they are.



**(c) stranded on the highway:** A team of players from an office have got down at the wrong place on a highway at night. It is a lonely spot. (Points: Five people - chess players - though highway lit by lights, no humans or cars in sight - suddenly see a humans or group of men cars on motorcycles - players afraid they are thieves - try to hide - successful - plan to remain in hiding - two members will walk along the road - other two will follow at a distance carry sticks, stones, etc.)

### **... English Workshop....**

**1. Two separate words combine together to make a new word with a different meaning. They form Compound Words. Using a dictionary, find the meanings of the following compound words.**

- Ans.** 1. Armloads - the amount that can be carried in one arm or both the arms.  
2. driftwood - pieces of wood that are floating on the water.  
3. cross-currents - currents of air-flow across a room.  
4. footprints - the impressions left by a foot or a shoe on the ground.  
5. fireplace - an open recess for holding a fire at the base of a chimney.  
6. spyglass - binoculars or a small telescope

**2. The following words can be used as nouns as well as verbs. Make two sentences of your own, using them as a noun in one and a verb in another.**

**Ans. (1) hold:**

- (a) Noun - She has a strong hold over her children.  
(b) Verb - Let me hold the bag for you.

**(2) value:**

- (a) Noun - Do you know the value of this land?  
(b) Verb - We must value our senior citizens, for they have a lot of experience.

**(3) knot**

- (a) Noun - There was a big knot in the wire

we had bought.

(b) Verb - Can you please knot these two ribbons together?

**(4) travel.**

(a) Noun - Train travel can be a very interesting experience.

(b) Verb - I travel regularly to foreign countries.

**(5) return.**

(a) Noun - The return of the lost boy brought happiness to everyone.

(b) Verb Please return the book to me soon.

**(6) reach.**

(a) Noun - Our goal was within reach when our leader gave up.

(b) Verb - Reach the appointed place on time, please.

**(7) knock.**

(a) Noun - Snow White heard a loud knock at the door.

(b) Verb - We should knock at the door before we enter a room.

**(8) attack.**

(a) Noun - The sudden enemy attack caught the people unawares.

(b) Verb - Animals do not attack unless they are frightened.

**(9) mark.**

(a) Noun - The tight elastic has left a mark on my arm.

(b) Verb - The teacher asked Rohan to mark the swampy area neatly with chalk.

**3. Given in a mixed order below are some good human attributes of the family. Pick out each from the box and write it against each line that reflects it.**

**Ans.** (a) The father told Fritz that the gourds would make excellent bowls and spoons and they cut them into various utensils, **resourcefulness.**

(b) After some days Elizabeth informed them that she wanted the family to move to a safer place. **cautiousness.**

(c) Thinking ahead of winter, father decided to create a place safe from the elements. **foresight.**

(d) Father taught the boys geometry and how to use triangles to measure big objects. **knowledge and its application.**

(e)... he believed his daughter was still alive, after three years. **perseverance and positive attitude.**

(f) Ten years had passed and the young boys grew to be young men and their parents were proud of them. **family bonds.**

(g) Fritz felt that someone needed his help and he was determined to find the sender.  
**humanity and sensitivity.**

**4. Write in your own words, how the Robinson family made each of their homes.**

**(1) First home :**

**Ans.** The Robinson family's first home was a tent on the island. They cut and spread armloads of grass to serve as their beds and soften the floor of the tent.

**(2) Second home :**

**Ans.** Their second home was a tree whose trunk was nearly 40 ft. in diameter. The branches were long and extended straight out from the trunk, making them perfect platforms for a structure. After determining the height of the lowest branch from the ground, they made a ladder. They discovered how to make candles. They also made a sledge to help them transport materials.

**(3) Third home :**

**Ans.** The Robinson family's third home was a cave they carved out in the rock abutting their camping site. They made an opening on the smooth face of the rock. Then they cut windows in the rock to allow for cross-currents of air and sunlight to enter the cave. They made four rooms, complete with a fireplace. They hung a huge oil lamp at the top of a bamboo pole for light. This was their winter home, a place safe from the elements and a strong storage spot to protect themselves and their belongings.

**(4) Fourth home :**

**Ans.** They used four strong trees growing in a square near one another as the foundation for their fourth home. The trees were of equal size, approximately twelve feet apart. Thus they built another safe house

**5. Expand the following ideas in a paragraph or two :**

**(1) Where there is a will, there is a way.**

**Ans.** This proverb means that if one really wants to do something, one can. If we read the biographies of great men and women like Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, Mother Teresa and Abraham Lincoln, we will find that it is their strong will which has helped them overcome great difficulties and setbacks, and helped them find a way to achieve their goals.

All of us wish to achieve many things in life, but we may not succeed. When this happens, we tend to blame our luck, our circumstances and our fate. We do not realize that the fault lies within us. Every student thinks that getting a high score in examinations is beyond his or her capacity. But if a student resolves firmly to achieve his or her goal and works towards it sincerely and wholeheartedly, he or she is certain to achieve success. If one comes across any obstacle and can't climb over it, one must walk around it. There is always a way, if there is the will!

**(2) Courage and resourcefulness are the keys to overcome problems.**

**Ans.** When we talk of courage and resourcefulness, the first person that comes to my mind is the dancer and actress Sudha Chandran.

Sudha Chandran, a Bharatnatyam dancer, did not let an accident come in the way of achieving her dreams. At the age of seventeen, she met with an accident which resulted in the amputation of one leg, below the knee. To any ordinary person, this would have meant the end of a dancing career. But Sudha took it as a challenge; with an artificial leg, she began to dance again. Today her story is the story of inspiration for many.

We have only to look around us at the cancer survivors to realize how courage can help us overcome all odds and achieve our goals in life. We must never give up hope; if one way seems too difficult, we must think of the other ways available. All we need is renewed determination and effort and we will finally succeed.

## **6. Individual Project**

**Choose any novel/book that you enjoyed. Prepare a synopsis of the novel. It should include the major events and the links between them as described in the novel. You may prepare a chapterwise outline first, and then put the outlines together to write a brief synopsis.**

### **Ans. Emma**

'Emma' is the fourth novel by Jane Austen and centres round Emma Woodhouse, a twenty-one year-old rich and clever young woman, Emma is an heiress who lives with her widowed father at their estate, Hartfield, in the small village of Highbury. The novel is about Emma's misplaced confidence in her matchmaking abilities, which results in several misunderstandings and romantic episodes. The major part of the book focuses on the topic of marriage: who will marry whom and why. At the centres of the narration is the protagonist of the novel, Emma Woodhouse.

'Emma' is a novel dealing with courtship, social manners and social distinctions. Although Emma is convinced she will never marry, she believes she is an excellent matchmaker and that it is she who has arranged the recent marriage between her former governess, Miss Taylor, and the widower Mr. Weston.

The book begins with the reader being told that Emma, suddenly deprived of Miss Taylor's companionship, is feeling lonely. Gradually, she decides to take an orphan Harriet Smith under her wings as a protégé. Emma decides that Harriet is a perfect match for the vicar, Mr. Elton, and discourages Harriet's interest in Robert Martin, who she feels is not a 'gentleman' and is unworthy of Harriet. Encouraged by Emma, Harriet becomes infatuated with Mr. Elton; but Emma's plans go wrong when Elton makes it clear that his love is for Emma, not Harriet. He had been spending time with Harriet merely to please Emma. Elton, spurned by Emma and angry by her assumption that Harriet is his equal, leaves and marries another girl almost immediately. Harriet, who is initially upset by this turn of affairs, later falls in love with Mr. Knightley, Emma's special friend.

Meanwhile, two new visitors arrive in Highbury Jane Fairfax, a beautiful orphan, and Frank Churchill, the handsome son of Mr. Weston. Emma dislikes Jane, and flirts with Frank, but this interest does not last.

Frank leaves Highbury mysteriously, and it turns out that he and Jane have been engaged

all along. Suddenly, Emma realizes that she loves Mr. Knightley. She confesses that she had never loved Frank. Mr. Knightley too professes his love for Emma. She is overjoyed and they decide to marry. Emma is later pleased to learn that Harriet has decided to marry Robert after all.

The novel thus concludes happily with three marriages: Jane and Frank, Harriet and Robert, and Emma and Mr. Knightley. After all her attempts to make suitable matches fail, Emma finally begins to realize the emptiness of social distinctions. By the end of the novel, Emma has learned her lesson without too much harm being done.

**7. Read about the novel 'Robinson Crusoe' by Daniel Defoe and Gulliver's Travels' by Jonathan Swift.**

**Ans.** Its an activity for students.