

NCERT Solutions for Class 12

English Kaleidoscope

NON-FICTION - WHY THE NOVEL MATTERS

Questions

Stop and Think (Page no.168)

1. What are the things that mark animate things from the inanimate?

Ans: The author says that all the things that are within our body are alive including brain, soul, skin and hair. He says that animate things have flicker in them but the inanimate things do not have. Animate things make a whole body with many parts but inanimate things do not have this quality. Animate things have their complete existence and they do activities during the entire life but the inanimate things do not have these qualities. No doubt, inanimate things like words, thoughts, signs and aspirations are helpful and supportive to our life but they are not alive.

2. What is the simple truth that eludes the philosopher or the scientist?

Ans: According to the author, novel is the real thing in life. Neither a philosopher nor a scientist sees life as a whole. The philosopher talks about the Paradise and his thoughts matter. He considers thought to be life. A scientist takes each body part as a living being and considers the man as dead. He considers each body part equally important not the whole. In this way, both of them fail to see the truth that life is a whole and no part of life can be able to define life completely.

Stop and Think (Page no.171)

1. How does Lawrence reconcile inconsistency of behaviour with integrity?

Ans: According to the writer, nothing is absolute in this world. Change continuous every time in everything. Lawrence is aware of the changes in human behaviour. He says that love for change is a natural instinct. A thing that is important today may not be so tomorrow. Even in a novel if the characters do not change, the novel becomes a dead thing. But even in the

change, one maintains a certain integrity. The behaviour changes with the passage of time but that change occurs with a certain design that depends on the will of the human being.

Understanding the Text

1. How does the novel reflect the wholeness of a human being?

Ans: According to the writer, the novel is the book of life but books are not so. A novel, like most other literary genres, consists of characters. These characters manifest the real human beings on paper. The author claims that he is not a soul, not a body, a mind, an intelligence, a brain, a nervous system but he is alive and greater than his soul, spirit, body, mind, consciousness or anything.

He says that the liveliness of the novel depends entirely upon its characters. The novel exhibits several personality traits of characters. It peeps into deep insight of the characters. In this way the novel reflects the wholeness of the human being.

2. Why does the author consider the novel superior to philosophy, science or even poetry?

Ans: The author considers the novel superior to other genres like philosophy, science or even poetry. He is of the opinion that all the books are not so lively as a novel. The novel like, a tree, grows in all the dimensions not in a particular direction. A novel induces a kind of liveliness in the readers which makes the entire man alive. In his opinion, Bible, Shakespeare and Homer all are great novels. Philosophy reflects different types of thoughts, science considers all parts of body as dead while poetry is known for imagination. But on the contrary, novel induces life in the readers. Thus, novel is considered superior to philosophy, science or even poetry.

3. What does the author mean by ‘tremulations on ether’ and ‘the novel as a tremulation’?

Ans: The author means to say that 'tremulation on ether' induces a kind of life in readers which the other books can't do. Other books do not stimulate the readers so they seem similar to reading messages or hearing news over the

radio. Thus, the words, thoughts, sighs and aspirations of a philosopher are the 'tremulations in the ether'. They are not alive, but if a person accepts them in his life, they become alive. "The novel as a tremulation" can make the whole man alive tremble. Novel on its Zenith is important as a tremulation. The novel as a tremulation makes the readers tremble with life and the wisdom of life with its wholeness. Thus, the novel is a life inducing agent of the writer's thought process which has considerable effects on the readers.

4. What are the arguments presented in the essay against the denial of the body by spiritual thinkers?

Ans: Lawrence is of the opinion that our body is not merely a vessel for containing the soul and that soul is the only living entity. He says that our hand itself is alive. It hops from word to word to write something like a grasshopper. It is as much active ones alive as the mind which dictates the words to be written. In the same way, a person talks about the importance of souls in Heaven. But according to Lawrence "paradise is in the palm of your hand." A philosopher talks about infinity and the pure spirit who knows everything. Hence, the body is alive, perhaps more alive than any other entity and denying it is an erroneous decision by spiritual thinkers or priests.

Talking about the Text

Discuss in pairs

1. The interest in a novel springs from the reactions of characters to circumstances. It is more important for characters to be true to themselves (integrity) than to what is expected of them (consistency). (A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds—Emerson.)

Ans: It is true that characters are the backbone of any literary text. Everything including plot, story, dialogues, revolve round the characters. Hence, it is very difficult for the characters to be true. If they fail to remain true to themselves, they lose their charm and become dull and flat characters which remain unaffected during the entire course of the novel. On the contrary, Round characters continuously go on developing with the progression of the story. They help to take the reader to the climax and the readers are glued to the novel. Thus, if there are flat characters, they make the

novel to be monotonous and the novel will lose its charm. This is the reason why it is more important for characters to be true to themselves (integrity) than to what is expected of them (consistency).

2. 'The novel is the one bright book of life'. 'Books are not life'. Discuss the distinction between the two statements. Recall Ruskin's definition of 'What is a Good Book?' in Woven Words Class XI.

Ans: According to the author, the novel portrays the real issues in life. Novel also depicts life in its truest form and this is the reason why the readers are overwhelmed reading a novel. The readers get an insight into life and acquire several lessons in life. So, the author calls the novel to be "the bright book of life". But in the same tone, he says "Books are not life." This statement means that it is true that the novel depicts real-like issues and characters, yet it is not real in itself. It seems to be a figment of author's imagination which might have been inspired by real life issues and characters. Thus, although it depicts reality yet novel is not real in itself. Ruskin Bond also lays stress in his work "what is a good book?". He says that a reader must know the feelings of the author what the author wants to convey. In this regard both Ruskin Bond and Lawrence have the same idea. Lawrence also wants that the readers should get inspired from the novel.

Appreciation

1. Certain catch phrases are recurrently used as pegs to hang the author's thoughts throughout the essay. List these and discuss how they serve to achieve the argumentative force of the essay.

Ans: The author has put a number of catch phrases in the essay which convey a direct idea to the readers. These catch phrases are :

1. 'Body' in which the author depicts the importance of the poetry.
2. 'Me alive' in which the author presents that until a man is alive, he can do nothing at all.
3. 'Spirit - the author considers spirit to be a misleading concept which makes a man delve deep into vagueness.

4. 'Tremulations in the ether'-where he thinks that tremulations are the ideas of the saints and philosophers which influence a man to change.

5. 'I am man alive' -where the author thinks that he is able to do because he is alive. This is a realistic concept in which he believes that everything happens because man is alive.

6. 'According to pattern'-where the author thinks that everything happens with a framework.

7. 'Superior to poetry, philosophy and science'.In this catch phrase, the author believes that novel is for superior to poetry, philosophy and science.The whole essays depicts the author's emphasis on the fact that all the body parts make him alive which form a 'wholeness'. So these phrases are extremely important to prove the essence of life and novel.

2. The language of argument is intense and succeeds in convincing the reader through rhetorical devices. Identify the devices used by the author to achieve this force.

Ans: Rhetorical devices are used by the authors to make their text deep and intense. These devices convince the readers to understand the arguments. Lawrence has used so many devices at different places and occasions.

1. Allusion-The author has used the allusion of Bible.

2. He asks - When the author puts the question whether there is any significant difference between his hand or brain or mind.

3. Amplification-The author has used the repetitive use of words like 'manalive', 'spirit', tremulations', to emphasize his arguments.

4. We're in a Cul-de-sac at present means the poet wants to convey the idea that we are living in such a street which is closed at the other end. Apart this,

the author has given a number of examples in which he establishes the superiority of novel over poetry, philosophy and science. He presents the novel as perfect genre of literature.

Language Work

A. Vocabulary

1. There are a few non-English expressions in the essay. Identify them and mention the language they belong to. Can you guess the meaning of the expressions from the context?

Ans: 1. Mens sana in corpore sano : This is a Latin phrase which means “a healthy mind in a healthy body.”

2. Nirvana : This is a term taken from Hindu scriptures which means renunciation.

3. C'est la vie : This is a Latin phrase which means to express acceptance or resignation in the face of a difficult or unpleasant situation.

4. Cul-de-sac : This is also a Latin phrase which means a street which is closed at the other end.

2. Given below are a few roots from Latin. Make a list of the words that can be derived from them

mens (mind) corpus(body) sanare (to heal)

Ans: Latin words -- English meaning

mens -- mind

corpus -- body

sanare -- to heal

annus -- year

aqua -- water

bene -- well, good

naturae -- nature

solis occasum -- setting of the sun

B. Grammar: Some Verb Classes

A sentence consists of a noun phrase and a verb phrase. The verb phrase is built around a verb. There are different kinds of verbs. Some take only a subject. They are intransitive verbs.

Look at these examples from the text in this unit

(1a) The grass withers.

(1b) The chameleon creeps from a brown rock on to a green leaf.

Notice that an intransitive verb can be followed by prepositional phrases that have an adverbial function, as in (1b). Such phrases that follow an intransitive verb are called its complements.

A kind of intransitive verb that links its subject to a complement is called a ‘linking verb’ or a copula. The most common copulas in English are be, become and seem.

The copula be occurs very often in the text in this unit. Its complement may be a noun phrase or an adjective phrase. Here are a few examples

- My hand is alive. (be+adjective)**
- The novel is supremely important. (be+adjective phrase)**
- You’re a novelist. (be+noun phrase)**
- The novel is the book of life. (be+noun phrase)**

Other examples of copulas from the text are given below

- It seems important.**
- The Word becomes more and more boring.**

Can you say what the category of the complement is, in the examples above?

TASK

1. Identify the intransitive verbs and the copulas in the examples below, from the text in this unit. Say what the category of the complement is. You can work in pairs or groups and discuss the reasons for your analysis.

- **I am a thief and a murderer.**
- **Right and wrong is an instinct.**
- **The flower fades.**
- **I am a very curious assembly of incongruous parts.**
- **The bud opens.**
- **The Word shall stand forever.**
- **It is a funny sort of superstition.**
- **You're a philosopher.**
- **Nothing is important.**
- **The whole is greater than the part.**
- **I am a man, and alive.**
- **I am greater than anything that is merely a part of me.**
- **The novel is the book of life.**

Ans:

- (i) be + Noun phrase
- (ii) be + Noun phrase
- (iii) Transitive verb
- (iv) be + Adjective phrase
- (v) Transitive verb
- (vi) Transitive verb
- (vii) be + adjective phrase
- (viii) be + noun phrase
- (ix) be + adjective
- (x) be + adjective phrase
- (xi) be + noun phrase
- (xii) be + adjective phrase
- (xiii) be + noun phrase

2. Identify other sentences from the text with intransitive verbs and copulas.

Ans:

- a) My hand, as it writes.
- b) Whatever is me alive is me.

C. Spelling and Pronunciation

Let us look at the following letter combinations and the sounds they represent

- ch
- gh

ch is used for the sounds /k/ as in 'character', /tʃ/ as in 'chart', or /ʃ/ as in 'champagne'.

Word initial position

Ch/k/character	Ch/tʃ/church	Ch/ʃ/champagne
chameleon chord chemical charisma chorus	char chase chin chalk chore	chiffon chateau chef chauffeur chandelier

While 'ch' is pronounced /tʃ/ in most words, it is pronounced /k/ in many others. Generally words with Latin or Greek origins are pronounced /k/. Words of French origin are pronounced /ʃ/. Words beginning with 'ch', followed by a consonant, are always pronounced /k/, for example chlorine, chrysanthemum, Christian, etc.

Word medial position

/k/ archive	/tʃ/ mischief	/ʃ/ sachet
ochre mechanic lichen bronchitis architecture	achieve hatchet ketchup eschew penchant	crochet machine parachute Michigan schedule

Word final position

/k/	/tʃ/	/ʃ/
Hi-tech Bach loch (lake)	catch spinach preach stitch march	cache papier mache niche pastiche panache

'Ch' is not pronounced in 'schism' but pronounced as /k/ in 'schizophrenia'. gh is pronounced /g/ as well as /f/ and sometimes not pronounced at all. In the initial position it is always pronounced /g/. In the medial and final positions it may be /f/ or silent.

/g/ ghost	/f/ rough	Silent
ghoul ghastly ghetto ghat ghee	cough laughter tough draught	taught plough borough drought slough

Look for other words with 'ch', 'gh' letter combinations and guess how they are pronounced.

Ans:

‘Ch’ / k /

Initial position	Medial position	Final position
chemical	Achilles	Echo
chlorination	Anchor	Epoch
chemist	Architect	Headache
chlorine	Melancholy	Anarchy
chloe	Mechanical	Czech
chaos	Cinchona	Bronchi

‘gh’

/ g / ghost	/ f / rough	silent
ghillie	toughen	borough
gharial	enough	tonight
ghetto	laugh	delight
aghast	rough	plight