

1.4 Revathi's Musical Plants

Warning up:-

1. Discuss in groups and share your answers with the class.

(1) Can you name the famous musician in Emperor Akbar's court, who could perform miracles, when he sang different Ragas?

Ans:- Tansen.

(2) What miracles could he perform with his music?

Ans:- It is said that Tansen could create rain and fire just through his music. If he sang the Raga Deepak, the area around him, would catch fire. If he sang Megha Malhar, it would begin to rain. If he sang an evening raga during daytime, the sunlight would diminish and it would look like it was dusk already.

(3) What impact does music have on human beings?

Ans:- Music can make human beings happy, sad, nostalgic, mournful, etc. It can soothe them when they are stressed. It can also convey a lot of emotions like love, anger, etc. that may not be conveyed easily through words.

(4) Do you think that music can have an impact on animals, birds and even plants?

Ans. Yes, definitely. It has already been proved by Jagdish Chandra Bose that plants respond to music. It is said that cows give more milk if they listen to good music. Our folklore is full of instances of snakes swaying to the music played by snake charmers.

2. Affirmative and Negative sentences.

Read the sentences below spot the difference in their framing:-

1. (a) I could not complete the work.

Ans:- could not

(b) I failed to complete the work.

Ans:- failed

2. (a) There is no sense in what you say.

Ans:- no sense

(b) There is hardly any sense in what you say.

Ans:- hardly any sense

3. (a) He said he wouldn't go.

Ans:- wouldn't

(b) He refused to go.

Ans:- refused

You will observe that sentences marked (a) and (b) convey the same meaning. But in all sentences marked (a) there are negative words (no, not, wouldn't) whereas the ones marked (b) do not have them. Negative words are those that convey a negative meaning.

For example: never, no, neither, nor, not, cannot, don't, isn't, nothing etc. If a sentence contains Negative words, it is called a NEGATIVE SENTENCE.

If a sentence does not contain any Negative word, it is called an Affirmative sentence.

Say whether the following sentences are Affirmative or Negative ones.

1.We must avoid hurting others.

Ans:- Affirmative sentence

2.She didn't offer me any help.

Ans:- Negative sentence

3.Never give up hopes.

Ans:- Negative sentence

4.You must keep away from bad company.

Ans:- Affirmative sentence

5.There is nothing in the bag.

Ans:- Negative sentence

6. Entry is prohibited, without permission.

Ans:- Affirmative sentence

English Workshop:-

1. Read the story and complete the following.

(1) At first, Revathi's plants did not look normal and healthy because,

Ans:- they had pale green leaves and their growth was stunted due to insufficient sunlight.

(2) When Revathi played her favourite raga, the plants began to move because,

Ans:- they liked the music she was playing.

(3) Revathi's grief knew no bounds because,

Ans:- she could not find her pot of balsam plants.

(4) Revathi was confident of proving her ownership of her pot of plants because,

Ans:- she knew that her plants loved music and would respond to her favourite raga. They would bend their stems towards her, proving that they were hers.

(5) Revathi won the prize for the 'Best plant' because,

Ans:- her plants were the best-looking and the healthiest.

2. Answer in your own words.

(1) What did Revathi discover about her balsam plants?

Ans:- Revathi discovered that her balsam plants were not only taller and healthier than the other balsam plants, but they had started flowering earlier too. The flowers were big and brightly coloured, and one of the plants had an unusual kind of flower. She also discovered that while the plants liked her favourite tune, they did not like the tune with a quick rhythm.

(2) Why did Revathi decide to keep her new knowledge 'a secret'?

Ans:- Revathi decided to keep her new knowledge a secret perhaps because she felt that it was something only between her and her beloved plants, whom she considered her friends. Or perhaps she felt that nobody would believe her if she mentioned that her plants were music lovers.

(3) How did the plants respond when Revathi played her favourite tune?

Ans:- When Revathi played her favourite tune on her violin, the plants all bent their stems towards her even though there was no breeze.

(4) How did the plants react to the fast rhythmic music?

Ans:- When Revathi played a tune with a quick rhythm, the plants turned away from her as though they did not like what she was playing.

(5) How did Revathi prove to the organisers of the competition, that the plants truly belonged to her?

Ans:- When Revathi played her favourite tune, the plants bent their stems towards her as though they wanted to touch her in their happiness. This convinced the organisers that the plants were hers.

(6) What helped Revathi to claim her plants - her belief in magic or the belief in her convictions? Explain your choice.

Ans:- Her belief in her convictions helped Revathi to claim her plants. She was sure that her plants were music lovers and would respond to her favourite raga as they had done before. There was no magic involved. It was a fact.

3. (A) A word chain consists of words of a certain category that begin with the letter that the previous word has ended with.

Complete the word chain adding four nouns from the text.

Ans.

Ans. Music - Courtyard - Distribution
Neighbour - Rhythm - Mission.

(B) Add the appropriate Prefix to make the following words opposite in meaning.

Ans:-

Words	Prefix
(1) continue	(1) discontinue
(2) definite	(2) indefinite
(3) place	(3) displace/misplace
(4) possible	(4) impossible
(5) believe	(5) disbelieve
(6) known	(6) unknown
(7) certain	(7) uncertain
(8) important	(8) unimportant
(9) regular	(9) irregular

(C) Use the following expressions to make sentences of your own.

(1) make up one's mind

Ans:- One should think carefully before one makes up one's mind about anything important.

(2) struck as odd.

Ans:- My friend's continuous laughter on seeing her marks struck me as odd.

(3) knew no bounds.

Ans:- My joy knew no bounds when I saw the little puppy on my bed.

(4) flash across one's mind.

Ans:- When Sonam saw the tears in Dia's eyes, it flashed across her mind that there was some problem.

(5) to surmise

Ans:- When the teacher saw Naomi crying, she surmised that she had failed in the test.

(6) not to deter

Ans:- The loss of a leg did not deter Sudha Chandran from dancing.

4. Imagine there is a 'Best Plant' Competition in the locality / colony where you live. Frame a Notice about the same, in the form of an attractive poster.

(Cover the following points.)

- (1) Name of the organisation
 - (2) Name of the Contest
 - (3) Day, Date, Venue
 - (4) Who can participate
 - (5) Prizes
 - (6) Contact details for further enquiry
- Ans.



5. Types of sentences
Study the following sentences.

Set (A) (1) Revathi was a student of music.

(2) The flowers were big and brightly coloured; indeed.

(3) They were requested to believe her.

All the above sentences are statements or assertions, and called *Assertive or Declarative sentences*.

Set (B) (1) Wasn't Revathi a student of music?

(2) How can we doubt her?

(3) Do plants have ears?

The above sentences in Set (B) are Questions. They are called *Interrogative sentences*.

Set (C) (1) Please believe me.

(2) Let us watch the fun.

(3) Sit straight.

(4) Excuse me.

In Set (C) the sentences are either requests, appeals, commands, suggestions etc. Such sentences are called *Imperative Sentences*.

Set (D) (1) How big and bright the flowers were !

(2) What a surprise !

(3) Ah, what beautiful music that is !

Set (D) has sentences that express strong feelings. They are called *Exclamatory Sentences*.

State the kinds of the following sentences.

(1) How happily she played the violin!

Ans:- Exclamatory sentence

(2) They all bent towards her.

Ans:- Assertive sentence

(3) Don't play that quick tune.

Ans:- Imperative sentence

(4) She kept the knowledge a secret.

Ans:- Assertive sentence

(5) How can plants enjoy music?

Ans:- Interrogative sentence

(6) How proudly did Revathi carry home her prize!

Ans:- Exclamatory sentence

(7) What could have taken my plants?

Ans:- Interrogative sentence

(8) The organisers were not convinced.

Ans:- Assertive sentence

6. Make the following Negative using the negative words given.

(1) There were a few potted plants in the courtyard (not many)

Ans:- There were not many potted plants in the courtyard.

(2) They looked healthier than other plants. (not as healthy as)

Ans:- The other plants did not look as healthy as these plants.

(3) She refused to share her secret. (would not)

Ans:- She would not share her secret.

(4) She went around asking everyone about her plants. (no one/did not)

Ans:- She did not omit anyone when she went around asking about her plants.

Or

She omitted no one when she asked about her plants.

7. Make the following Affirmative using the words given.

(1) There was no breeze. (hardly)

Ans:- There was hardly any breeze.

(2) Their ridicule did not deter her. (failed to)

Ans:- Their ridicule failed to deter her.

(3) Her mother knew nothing about it. (denied)

Ans:- Her mother denied knowing anything about it.

(4) She did not give up. (refuse to).

Ans:- She refused to give up.

8. Imagine that Revathi's father is abroad on business and she wishes to convey the news of her prize - winning plants. Draft an email for the above subject.

(Use an email format.)

Ans.

From : revathi@yahoo.com

To	shekhar@hotmail.com
Subject	My balsam plants

Hi Dad,

How are you? How is your trip? Have you done a lot of sightseeing the past weekend?

Please don't forget to send some pics. I wish we could all have been in Paris with you.

I have some excellent news for you. Do you know those potted balsam plants in the corner of our courtyard? Well, I took one pot and gave it a lot of love and care. And guess what! It won the first prize in the 'Best Plant' contest in our colony!

But more important than that, Dad, is the fact that I have discovered that my plants love music, especially my favourite raga, Mohanam. They bend towards me when I play that raga on my violin, and move away when I play some music with a quick rhythm. No, it is not my imagination; I proved it to the organisers of the contest, and they have praised me for my discovery. They will certainly talk to you about it when you come back.

Dad, I want to prove my discovery to you too. Please come back soon. Rest everything is fine. Lots of hugs and kisses from all of us.
Revathi.