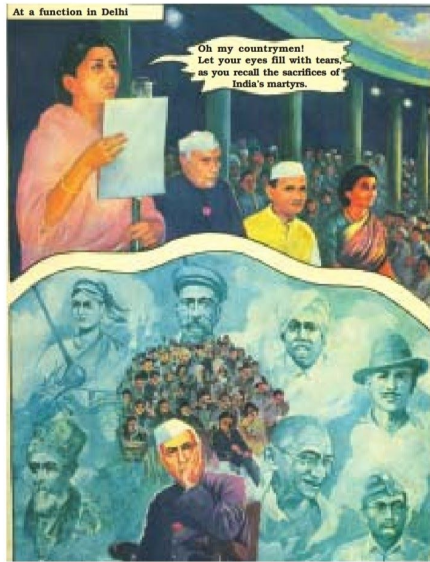


Lesson -3 Glimpses of the Past

1. The Martyrs



2. The Company's conquests (1757-1849)



3. British Rule (1765-1836)



4. Ram Mohan Roy (1772-1833)

Ram Mohan Roy, a learned man from Bengal, understood what was wrong with the country. Let us not despise ourselves, our ancient culture is great. And we are capable of greater achievements. We must first reform our society. Superstitions have been ruining us.

He told his wife Unna- Cows are of different colours, but the colour of their milk is the same. Different teachers have different opinions but the essence of every religion is the same.

He was attracted by science and modern knowledge. Knowledge should be practical and scientific.

He crossed the seas and went to England to see what made the British powerful. There he told them- We accept you as rulers, and you must accept us as subjects. But you must remember the responsibility a ruler owes to his subjects.

He started newspapers but the suspicious British stopped them in 1823.

5. Oppression (1765-1835)

But the British continued to oppress Indians. In 1818, they had passed Regulation III. Under it, an Indian could be jailed without trial in a court.

All the time British officers in India drew big salaries and also made fortunes in private business.

By 1829, Britain was exporting British goods worth seven crore rupees to India.

Governor-General Bentinck reported back home - "The bones of cotton weavers are bleaching the plains of India."

The British prospered on the Company's loot while Indian industries began to die.

6. Dissatisfaction (1835-56)

Education in India was in Persian and Sanskrit. In 1835, an Englishman named Macaulay suggested a change.

We should teach the natives through the English language.

I agree.

English education produced clerks to whom the British gave petty jobs under them. Incidentally, it also produced a new generation of intellectuals.

We must educate our brothers.

And try to improve their material conditions.

For that we must convey our grievances to the British Parliament.

By 1856, the British had conquered the whole of India.

States
British area

They cared little about the needs of Indians.

Our kings have become puppets, and we have lost our old jobs.

And lands.

They are converting our brothers!

You only talk! Do something to drive them out!

7. The Sparks (1855-57)

Taxes continued to ruin the peasants. In Bengal, the Santhals who had lost their lands under new land rules, became desperate. In 1855, they rose in rebellion and massacred Europeans and their supporters alike.

Discontent was brewing in the East India Company's army too.

The white soldier gets huge pay, mansions to live in, servants.

While we get a pittance and slow promotions!

The Angrez asks us to cross the sea which is against our religion. Who is the topwala to abolish our age-old customs?

We must drive out the Angrez.

Thousands of other sepoys revolted. They were stripped of their uniforms.

Septy Mangal Pande attacked the adjutant of his regiment and was executed.

humiliated and put in irons.

Few Englishmen had cared to understand Indian customs or the people's mind.

Oh, proud Brahmin soldiers, do you know that the grease on the bullet you have to bite is made from the fat of cows and pigs?

What?

The white man has deceived us too!

Soon, chapatties were sent from village to village to tell the people that their emperor would want their services.

Similarly lotus flowers circulated among Indian soldiers.

Death to the foreigner!

Yes, all my village men will be ready.

The masses gave all help and shelter to the patriots.

8. Revolt (1857)

Then there was a violent outbreak at Meerut.

The sepoy marched to Delhi.

Long live our Emperor Bahadur Shah!

The rebellion spread wider.

Many landlords had lost their lands because of the British policies, and they were sore.

The white man's rule must end!

Yes, we will help you.

9. The Fight for Freedom (1857)

Many former rulers like Begum Hazrat Mahal of Lucknow were bitter.

The white man has taken away my kingdom!

They joined the upsurge against the foreigner.

Popular leaders like Maulvi Ahmedulla of Faizabad told the people -

Rise, brothers, rise! The Angrez is ruining our land!

The people rose everywhere, in Bareilly, Kanpur and Allahabad.

Azimulla Khan told Taty Tope

We should have Peshwa Nana Sahab as our leader in this war of independence

Eighty-year old Kunwar Singh of Bihar received a bullet in his wrist.

Mother Ganga! This is my last offering to you!

The patriots pounced upon the British and fought pitched battles all over North India.

from *Our Freedom Movement*
S.D. SAWANT

Students kindly go through the text given in comic form and note down the following question and answers.

Comprehension check (Page No. 45)

Question1: Look at picture 1 and recall the opening lines of the original song in Hindi. Who is the singer? Who else do you see in this picture?

Ans: The original song is “Ae mere watan ke logon zara aankh mein bhar lo paani”.The singer is Lata Mangeshkar.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi can be seen in the picture, sitting in the audience. Bahadur Shah Zafar, Rani Laxmi Bai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi are also seen in the picture.

Question 2: In Picture 2 what do you understand by the Company’s “superior weapons”?

Ans: The company’s superior weapons mean all their wits, strength, rules and regulations.

Question3: Who is an artisan? Why do you think the artisans suffered? (picture 3)

Ans: An artisan is a skilled manual worker who crafts items that may be functional or strictly decorative. The artisans suffered because the British were extracting very high taxes from them, which ruined them economically. Moreover, machine-manufactured goods imported from Britain were sold extensively, which ruined the business of the artisans’ hand-made goods.

4: Which picture, according to you, reveals the first sparks of the fire of revolt?

Ans: Picture 7 ‘The Sparks’ reveals the first sparks of the fire of revolt.

Working with the Text

Question 1:

Do you think the Indian princes were short-sighted in their approach to the events of 1757?

Answer:

Yes, the Indian princes were short-sighted in their approach to the events of 1757. They failed to understand the evil intention of the Britishers to capture the whole India by helping them to win small - small battles.

Question 2:

How did the East India Company subdue the Indian princes?

Answer:

The Indian princes were constantly at war with each other. They sought the help of the English merchants in their fights. The people had no peace due to such constant fights. The rivalries helped the East India Company subdue the Indian princes one by one.

Question 3:

Quote the words used by Ram Mohan Roy to say that every religion teaches the same principles.

Answer:

According to Ram Mohan Roy, "Cows are of different colours, but the colour of their milk is the same. Different teachers have different opinions, but the essence of every religion is the same."

Question 4:

In what ways did the British officers exploit Indians?

Answer:

The British officers exploited Indians in many ways. They imposed heavy taxes on the Indian farmers and reduced import duties on goods manufactured in England. This crippled the Indian industries. In 1818, they passed Regulation III. Under it, an Indian could be jailed without trial in a court.

Question 5:

Name these people

(i) The ruler who fought pitched battles against the British and died fighting.

(ii) The person who wanted to reform the society.

(iii) The person who recommended the introduction of English education in India.

(iv) Two popular leaders who led the revolt (Choices may vary.)

Answer:

(i) Tipu Sultan

(ii) Ram Mohan Roy

(iii) Lord Macaulay

(iv) Tatya Tope and Peshwa Nana Saheb

Question 6:

Mention the following.

(i) Two examples of social practices prevailing then.

(ii) Two oppressive policies of the British.

(iii) Two ways in which common people suffered.

(iv) Four reasons for the discontent that led to the 1857 War of Independence.

Answer:

(i) Untouchability and child marriage.

(ii) The British decided to do away with import duty on goods manufactured in England. This severely affected Indian industries.

In 1818, they passed Regulation III. Under it, an Indian could be jailed without trial in a court.

(iii) The farmers were heavily taxed and many Indians lost their jobs and lands.

(iv) Four reasons for the discontent that led to the 1857 War of Independence were-

- Many Indians lost their old jobs and lands.
- Taxes continued to ruin the peasants.
- There was discontent in the East India Company's army too. There was a huge difference in the treatment of the English soldiers and the Indian soldiers.
- The religious sentiments of both Hindus and Muslims were also hurt. The grease used on the bullets was made from the fat of cows and pigs.

Macavity: The Mystery Cat (poem)

By - T S Eliot


Macavity : The Mystery Cat

Do you have a pet cat? Have you ever noticed anything mysterious about it? It is not easy to say whether every cat is a mystery, but Macavity is one, for sure. What is it that makes him a perfect mystery cat? Read the poem and find out.

Macavity's a Mystery Cat: he's called the Hidden Paw —
For he's the master criminal who can defy the Law.
He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad's despair:
For when they reach the scene of crime — Macavity's not there!

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
He's broken every human law, he breaks the law of gravity.
His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare,
And when you reach the scene of crime — Macavity's not there!
You may seek him in the basement, you may look up in the air —
But I tell you once and once again, Macavity's not there!

Macavity's a ginger cat, he's very tall and thin;
You would know him if you saw him, for his eyes are sunken in.
His brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly domed;



His coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are uncombed.
He sways his head from side to side, with movements like a snake;
And when you think he's half asleep, he's always wide awake.

Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
For he's a fiend in feline shape, a monster of depravity.
You may meet him in a by-street, you may see him in the square —
But when a crime's discovered, then Macavity's not there!

T.S. ELIOT

glossary

defy: disobey or resist openly

Scotland Yard: the headquarters of the London police force

Flying Squad: a group of police or soldiers ready to move into action quickly

levitation: floating in the air without support

fiend: devil

feline: of, or relating to, a cat

depravity: moral corruption

Kindly read the poem and note down the above given word meanings in your copy.

Summary -

Stanza 1 :

The poem is about a cat called Macavity. He is also called the "Hidden paw". The cat is a master criminal who has openly disobeyed the law and baffled the police of Scotland Yard and the Flying Squad. When the police reach the crime scene, Macavity has already fled from there.

Stanza 2 :

The poet says that there is no one like Macavity. He has broken each and every law. He has even broken the law of gravity. The fakirs are supposed to have some magical powers but even they stare upon Macavity. When one rushes to the scene of the crime, Macavity is not found. Anyone may look for him in the depths of the earth or in the air but Macavity cannot be found.

Stanza 3 :

Macavity is a ginger cat. He is very tall and thin. It is very easy to recognise him as he has sunken eyes. His eyebrows are deeply lined as if he is lost in thoughts. He doesn't take much

care of his appearance and therefore his coat is always dusty and whiskers are uncombed. He sways his head from side to side just as a snake does. When you think he is asleep, he is wide awake, he just pretends, in fact he is always very alert.

Stanza 4 :

The poet calls Macavity unique. He is a devil in the form of a cat. He is morally corrupt. You may find him anywhere - in a by- street or in a square but whenever his crime is discovered and you want to punish him, he is nowhere to be seen.

Page No: 51

Working with the Poem

1: Read the first stanza and think.

(i) Is Macavity a cat really?

(ii) If not, who can Macavity be?

Ans: (i) In the poem, Macavity is a cunning cat.

(ii) If not a cat, Macavity is a master criminal.

2: Complete the following sentences.

(i) A master criminal is one who _____.

(ii) The Scotland Yard is baffled because _____.

(iii) _____ because Macavity moves much faster than them.

Ans: (i) A master criminal is one who can defy the law and can escape from the scene of crime.

(ii) The Scotland Yard is baffled because whenever they reach the scene of crime, they cannot find Macavity.

(iii) The Flying Squad is unable to catch Macavity at the scene of crime because Macavity moves much faster than them.

3: "A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through". (Jules Verne)

Which law is Macavity breaking in the light of the comment above?

Ans: In the light of the above comment, Macavity is breaking the law of gravity.

4: Read stanza 3, and then, describe Macavity in two or three sentences of your own.

Ans: Macavity is a ginger cat who is very tall and thin with sunken eyes and eyebrows deeply lined with thoughts. While its head is highly domed, its coat is dusty and whiskers are uncombed. It sways its head from side-to-side and it is always wide awake even when one thinks that it is half-asleep.

5: Say 'False' or 'True' for each of the following statements.

(i) Macavity is not an ordinary cat.

(ii) Macavity cannot do what a fakir can easily do.

(iii) Macavity has supernatural powers.

(iv) Macavity is well-dressed, smart and bright.

(v) Macavity is a spy, a trickster and a criminal, all rolled in one.

Ans: (i) True

(ii) False

(iii) False

(iv) False

(v) True

6: Having read the poem, try to guess whether the poet is fond of cats. If so, why does he call Macavity a fiend and monster?

Ans: Yes, it seems like the poet is fond of cats. He calls Macavity a 'fiend' and a 'monster' because he might have wanted to portray an evil side. He might have used a cat in order to create a negative character who is a criminal and escapes easily from police. The quick movements of a cat and its mysterious eyes might have influenced him to create this evil character in the form of a cat.

7: Has the poet used exaggeration for special effect? Find a few examples of it and read those lines aloud.

Ans: Yes, the poet has used exaggeration for special effect.

The following statements are examples of exaggeration.

(i) 'He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad's despair'.

(ii) 'He breaks the law of gravity'.

(iii) 'His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare.'

(iv) 'He's a fiend in feline shape, a monster of depravity.'
