**2. Dream Children**

**Introduction:**

**Charles Lamb** (1775-1834) was a British author, poet, and essayist. His best-known works include *Essays of Elia* and Children's Book *Tales from Shakespeare*. His pen name was James Elia.

**Summary:**

**Lamb's grandmother and his childhood days:**

Lamb tells about his dead relatives and past days of childhood to his children (John and Alice) in his day-dream. He mentions in detail about his maternal grandmother named Mrs. Field in front of his kids. Also, he reports that his grandmother was a religious and kind-hearted person. She was the best dancer in her youth, and her disease of cancer could not low her high spirits. Besides, she was the housekeeper of a rich person's mansion in Norfolk. Then, the writer discusses his holiday time in that house and its garden. He says that he used to spend time in its old-fashioned chambers alone. Also, Lamb loved to gaze around in the large garden and lie on its grass. Then, he narrates about the death of his grandmother owing to cancer. Her funeral was full of many classes of people. Also, the author explains that her grandmother was kind to everybody. And that is the reason behind people's attending her funeral across miles.

**Details about Lamb's brother, John L :-**

Then, Lamb tells about his elder brother called John L-. Also, he narrates about the physical beauty and outdoor activities (like riding) of his elder brother. The writer reports about that brother's holding him upon his back when Lamb was a lame-footed boy. Then, he tells his children that John L- was the most favorite grandchild of Mrs. Field. John L handsome and high spirited nature. Further, Lamb tells about the painful period of John L- as a lame person due to some limb surgery. Besides, the writer adds that the doctor took off the limb of his elder brother during that surgery. Lamb also regrets in front of his kids that he could not take care of his brother as he did for him. Also, the author mentions that he did not mourn much for his brother after his death. However, Lamb admits that he loved his brother because he missed John a lot after some time.

**Incident of Lamb's wife and awakening from his dream:**

Later, Lamb reports some event about the dead mother of his children upon their request. He says that he passed seven long years in marrying their mother. Also, the author confesses that it was very tough to have acceptance for his marriage proposal from their mother. Then, Lamb noticed suddenly that the eyes of little Alice exactly looked like her mother’s eyes. Afterward, the images of kids started to grow fainter. Later, only two mournful segments remained in front of the author's eyes. These elements told Lamb that they are nothing but the creations of his dream. Then, Lamb opened his eyes all of a sudden and found himself seated in his chair as a bachelor.

Questions:

1. How does “Dream Children” reflect the personal elements from Lamb’s life?
2. Sketch the character of John’s grandmother.
3. How is the essay “Dream Children” a mingling of humour and pathos?
4. Narrate the story of Lamb’s childhood memories.

Third Thoughts

E. V. Lucas

The story ‘Third Thoughts’ by E.U Lucas (1868-1938) is a great satire to the common human mentality. This story was told to Lucas by his friend. Lucas tells how his friend regularly failed in business incurring the loss.Lucas says it was because his friend purchased expensive goods in expensive markets and sold in the cheaper prices. Because of this, he was in despair.

One day unexpectedly the writer’s friend purchased the original painting of Turner. The dealer just desired to charge 10 shillings as he was not sure of its origninality. Finally, the writer’s friend paid **10 shillings** to the painting. Then he went for inquiry of painting’s originality. He found that the painting was original and so expensive. He found the customer and sold the painting for **50 pounds**.  As a result he got huge profit. Then he decided to be honest with the painting dealer. So he wanted to share fifty percent of his profit with the dealer. He wanted to be ethically loyal with shopkeeper for his undesired and unexpected profit. Therefore, he became ready to dispatch the half of the profit putting in an envelope to the painting dealer.  But he postponed dispatching the envelope till next day due to lack of postage stamp.

#### In the next day, early in the morning he recalled all the past mistakes that he committed in the business. He questioned himself why he failed in the business world? Due to his self –thoughts, he changed his mind immediately. He revised his plan to send just 10 pound to the dealer. He thought that he could not become so ideal. After this event, he just thought for few moments and again changed his mind. He decided that he would not give him 10 pound. Because he thought that such kind of his action might generate more expectation and greed in the mind of the dealer from other customers as well. This time, he decided to send 5 pounds and thought it would be fair for his sense of business responsibility.

#### In the morning, he again started to reconsider his plan in the fourth time. This time too he revised his plan. Finally, he just prepared to send just one pound to the painting dealer. He thought that one pound is fair amount because he could not dispatch more money from his profit. He viewed that if he intended to give more amounts lavishly. It could hurt the goddess of business. At last, he wrote a note and packed one pound in an envelope to transfer the dealer.

#### Then after, he went in a club for lunch. In the club, he played disastrous game and lost all the money including the one pound in his pocket.

Questions:

1. Give the significance of the title of the lesson ‘Third Thoughts’.
2. Write a note dilemma of the narrator after getting an unexpected profit.
3. Summarize the story of essay in “The Third Thoughts”.

On the Rule of the Road

* A. G. Gardner

A. G. Gardiner is one of the most delightful essayists of the modern times. In this essay “The Rule Of the Road” he points out what constitutes true liberty. The essay begins with a stout old lady walking down in the middle of a street in Petrograd. It caused great confusion in the traffic. When this was pointed out, the old lady replied that she has the liberty to walk where she likes to roam. But the old lady doesn’t know that if liberty entitles the foot passenger to walk down the middle of the road, it also entitles the cab driver to drive on the pavement. The end of such liberty would be a universal chaos. The author points out that this kind of individual liberty would become a social anarchy.

The rule of the road means that in order “to preserve the liberties of all; the liberties of everybody must be curtailed”. When the policeman puts out his hand at Piccadilly circus street, we must not think that our liberty has been violated. If we are a reasonable person we will reflect that he didn’t interfere. Hence result would be that we would never cross the Piccadilly Circus Street at all. We have submitted to a curtailment of private liberty in order that we may enjoy a social order, which makes our liberty a reality.

The author point out that liberty is not a personal affair, but it is a social contract. It is an adjustment of interests. He lists out some examples of like-

**Wearing a gown and walking down the street,**

**Having long hair,**

**Walking with bare foot,**

**Dyeing one’s hair or waxing,**

**Going to bed early,**

**Getting up late** are few things that ask no man’s permission. If one practices a **trombone** from midnight until three in the morning, on the Helvelly no one would ask that. But if we intend to play it in the street, the neighbours will remind us that our liberty to blow the trombone interferes with their liberty to sleep quiet. The author once got into a railway carriage he started to read a blue book. He did not read that for pleasure instead a humble purpose of turning an honest penny out of them. Since he was reading for a task, he required reasonable calmness and that is what he didn’t get. A couple of men came in the next station. They were talking for the rest of the journey in a loud and pompous voice. The author closed his book and looked out of the window. Here the author believes that the rights of small and quiet people are as important to preserve as the rights of small nationalities. Hazlitt said that a man wanted to learn that fearsome instrument was entitled to learn it in his house. He can practise with his trombone by shutting the windows. Since it is his business, he can make nuisance as slight as possible. The same thing applies to a gramophone. If we want to hear, we can hear by limiting the noise.

At the end, the author concludes that we must be a judicious mixture of both anarchist and socialist. We have to preserve both the individual liberty and social liberty. It is in the small matter of conduct in the observance of the rule of the road. We must pass judgement upon ourselves and declare that we are civilized or uncivilized. These are little habits of commonplace intercourse that make up the great sum of life and sweeten or make bitter the journey.

**On Good Resolutions**

* Robert Lynd

Robert Lynd is one of the greatest of the essayists in English literature. His essays are filled with his personal life experience, gentle humour and elegant style.

Every New Year people take a lot of good resolutions. But seldom put them into practice. If a man wants to reform his life with good resolutions, his neighbours and friends may discourage him.

Robert Lynd lists **three kinds** of resolutions. They are **fairly easy, difficult and most difficult.** Most people take the **most difficult resolutions.**  Lynd calls them the **Himalayan resolutions** such as getting up early in the morning to do exercises or winning the trophy for the school football team. These good resolutions are like day dreams and cannot be fulfilled. Common man cannot change his habit of getting up late. The boy also has never played football! However, Robert Lynd says that good resolutions are very delightful form of morality. So we must encourage people to take more and more good resolutions. This world is lack of moral qualities. Good resolutions are golden anticipations of the day’s work. These are fresh and untarnished and full of song.

But some people take resolutions which are so **silly** and very **easy** to put into practice in one’s life. These resolutions are contemptible and to be rejected. For example going to bed before midnight, getting up before noon, giving up tobacco etc. are some of the good resolutions. But even these resolutions are put into practice only from tomorrow or next New Year or next month. So there is a great comfort to be got out of the thought. The thought is that tomorrow and next New Year will never come! Robert Lynd says that good resolutions are the intelligent anticipation of events which do not take place. They are the April of virtue with no September following.

If we put into effect a good resolution once in a blue moon, it gives us thrill and joy because of its novelty. For example, you decide to get up early morning, the first day you will get great joy and thrill because of the freshness and silent beauty of the morning. You have never seen this beauty of morning before. But if you continue to do it, the thrill and joy will be worn out and only the habit is left. Any good decision if you do seldom enough is an intoxicating experience and you get great joy out of it. In this context, Lynd quotes the story of the prodigal son in the Bible. He says that when the prodigal son came back home a grand reception was given to him by his father. Father even killed a fatted calf. But the following day, he was not given such grand dinner. Similarly, if we do any good thing for the first day or two, we will get thrill and joy. After that it becomes a dull habit.

But some other resolutions cannot be put into practice even for a day. For example, learning grammar of a new language or doing exercise with the help of mechanical apparatus. We shall be satisfied with buying a book on health or grammar and keep them in the shelf. Robert Lynd says that human being is a slave of old habits. He needs a mighty will on the heroic scale to change his old habits. It means he must sacrifice or throw away some of his old habits and pleasures. He wants to be reformed and perfect in his character. He wants to throw away his ugly dead habits, but he cannot. However, there is some instinct of perfection in him which forces him to take good resolutions every New Year.

According to Robert Lynd, the characteristics of good resolutions are that man has a strong belief in the possibility of performing miracles. This is why common man always takes good resolutions. But he doesn’t get it and get disappointed. **Lack of will power** is the cause of his failure. Again next New Year he will take a number of good resolutions. He tries to put them into effect but again and again fails. In spite of these repeated failures, he continues to take good resolutions every New Year. This is because there is some instinct for perfection in every human being which forces us to go forward. One day we shall get the mighty will on the heroic scale to put into practice all our good resolutions.