

"ENGLISH"

Complete Set

For

Class XI

MUHAMMAD HASSAM

"POEM SECTION"

UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

Q.1: What the philosophical idea do you get from the poem “Under The Greenwood Tree”?

Ans. The philosophical idea of the poem “Under The Greenwood Tree” is that simplicity is the only way to make life joyful, peaceful and contented, because the singer and his companions have experienced the grandeurs of court and palace life as well as the misfortunes and miseries brought about the human enemies. But presently, in their simple life, they are leading in the forest of Arden, they have no longer human enemy.

According to singer the forest life is free from dangers and conspiracy so he invites others to join them, he persuades his invitation by telling them that life in the forest is free from enemies and this carefree life is more calm and quiet and although enjoyable as well.

The singers also invites those people who wants to get rid off their ambitions in order to escape worries so that they can obtain mental piece because in forest everyone is obliged to seek food for himself. Only they have to contend with “winter” and “rough weather”.

THE CHARACTERS OF HAPPY LIFE

Q.1: What are the characters of happy life according to “Sir Henry Wotton” in the poem “The Characters of a Happy Life”?

Ans. According to Sir Henry, a person who has freedom of will and whose thoughts leads happy life, he does not act according to other people’s wishes. His only weapon is simplicity and truth. Such an outspoken man is not a slave of his desires. He is always prepared for death. This man is not concerned about being famous and never desires of public fame or private breath.

This upfront man knows that flattery always gives deepest wounds; no one can never compel him to do an unwanted deeds because he does not follow the rules of society but follows the rules of good, which lead him to right path.

This man prays God early and late and always ask for His mercy and grace he spends his time in reading good religious books. He is a man who is truly happy and is free from slavery of his desires. He is not ambitions and does not expect too much therefore, his hopes are not shattered. This man has not got lands or wealth and yet he has everything because he has got the greatest wealth of contentment and happiness.

Q.2: What idea do you get from the poem “The Characters of a Happy Life”?

Ans. The poem “The Characters of a Happy Life” has been written by Sir Henry Wotton. This poem is written with full sense of religious spirit; we find the idea from this poem that the virtuous man is happy not only in the promise of heavenly reward but also in the enjoyment of a serene life of virtue in this world. Sir Henry has described the characteristics of a person who can truly be called a happy man.

This poem actually is a sharp sense of contrast between uneasy life of an ambitious man and the contented life of man satisfied to live an obscure life of peaceful virtue. That idea man is honest, simple and not slave of his desires. He always follows the rules of goodness, which lead him to right path.

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ABOU BEN ADHEM

INTRODUCTION OF THE POET:

James Henry Leigh Hunt was born in 1784. He was a religious man educated at Christ Hospital. He then became the editor and writer of a newspaper called The Examiner. Leigh Hunt is known for his achievements as an editor, a critic and an essayist and not so much as a poet.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POEM:

“Abou Ben Adhem” is a simple and lovely tale briefly told in an easy and rhymed couplet by James Henry Leigh Hunt. Leigh Hunt has made a successful attempt to convey to the readers a message regarding service to mankind, by composing this poem.

SUMMARY:

Abou Ben Adhem was a holy man. He deeply loved God and had profound Affection for his fellow men. What happened was, one day he was enjoying sound asleep. At mid night he was awakened by an extraordinary light and profound peace. Abou also noticed the presence of heavenly creature in his room (An angel). Who was writing something in a heavenly book that glittered like gold. Abounding peace and serenity in the room encouraged Abou to ask angel what he was writing. Looked Abou with great affection the angel answered that he was writing down the names of such persons who loved God. Abou then asked further for himself whether his name is included in the list. The Angel’s reply was negative. Abou then humbly whether request to the angel to write his name as those people who love God’s fellow men and serve them. The angel granted the favour and disappeared.

On the following night the same angel with a still glistening light again visited Abou Ben Adhem and displayed him the name of those person who had been favoured and blessed by God. Abou’s delight and surprise knew no bound when he found his name at the top of the list.

MORAL:

This poem conducts the idea that we should love humanity and care for people

“To get love from God, love the board.” _____ Williams Words Worth

INCIDENT OF FRENCH CAMP

INTRODUCTION OF THE POET:

This remarkable poem “The Incident of French Camp” is composed by great English poet Robert Browning. Robert Browning was a poet of the Victorian period. In the history of English Literature, his name holds supreme position.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POEM:

This is subjective poem, In this piece of poetry, the poet has given a poetic amount of incidence that took place during the attack of French army on German City Ratisbon. The poem for all its weaknesses is fast moving and exciting.

SUMMARY:

In this piece of poetry, we are told that once the French army made a sudden attack on Ratisbon under the command of Napoleon. The war was in full swing and Napoleon watched the scene of the battlefield from a neighboring hill. Napoleon was very much distracted, thoughtful, curious and mentally disturbed because Germans were defending Ratisbon with great determination and coverage. He was thinking that all his success depends upon the fate of the war. If they lost the war, all their plans of conquests would fall to earth. Napoleon wished that once his army leader LANNES appeared on the walls of the city it would no be difficult to win the war.

All of a sudden, a young soldier pierced the cloudy smoke and dust. Full galloping he approached the spot where Napoleon was standing. As he came closer Napoleon noticed that he was a young boy seriously wounded and not far from his death. To have reached Napoleon, he jumped of the horse and gave happy news of victory. He exclaimed with joy that French had conquered the Ratisbon and he himself has hoisted the flag of France on German city with a Little touch of pride in lie tone he informed Napoleon that he has played a important role in the victory at the risk of his life. Actually he expected some words of appreciation from his Emperor.

“A work of real merit wants favour at last.” _____ A.B. ALCOTT

Napoleon was overjoyed to have got the news of long awaited victory. He reflected the glooms of joy just for a moment but he quickly noticed the condition of the young soldier. Concealing his feelings of happiness Napoleon asked the boy if he is severely wounded. The boy misunderstands the formula of Interrogation and though that emperor had neglected his remarkable performance and courage. His self-respect got deeply hurt from indifferent attitude of Napoleons and his self-respect didn't allow him to admit that he was injured.

“A killing tongue but a quite sword.” _____ Shakespear

The young boy had done a great job for his homeland and he had almost laid down his life to give victory to France. When Napoleon said “you are wounded.” He said, “no” with a deep feeling of remorse and on the other hand he uttered proudly “I am killed, sir.”

Having uttered the words he fell down before his master and died with a graceful and proud smile on his face.

THE TOYS

INTRODUCTION OF THE POEM:

Coventry patmore's poetic creation "The Toys" is blended with religious adoration. Patmore was a deeply religious man who sincerely associated to the ordinary happenings of his life with his religious belief. The verses of this poem are different from other poems. The lines are uneven and are rhymed in an irregular manner.

SUMMARY:

The poet tells a story about his son. One night, the poet's son disobeyed him the seventh time though he was a grownup boy. Being irritated, the poet scolded his son for disobeying orders and spoke in loud voice and sent him to his bed unkissed. The child went quietly to his bedroom in great frustration with a gloomy heart. After some time, the poet realized that he had committed a big mistake, as his son was lonely and his mother had died. If child's mother were alive, she would be a great source of consolation for him.

The poet then being forced by the fatherly love as afraid that the child would not be able to sleep because of grief and sorrow reached the room of the child with love and pity. But when he entered the room, he saw the boy calmly sleeping in bed. The poet noticed marks of tears on his cheeks. He also saw some toys neatly arranged on a table besides his son, which were kept to comfort the sad heart. The sight of the room was very uncomfortable for the poet. He felt sorry for his attitude and learnt the importance of toys for the child.

The poet was inspired by the whole incident. He kissed his son and cleared the tears in his eyes. He understood that God loves his fellowmen more than a father loves his son. Then why should not God forgive the people who commit mistakes. He also realized that as the toys were of no importance to him, this world has no worth before God. We only console our hearts by the beauty of this world. This thought gave the poet a New Hope. He prayed all night with the feeling that God is merciful and would forgive him.

MORAL:

We should forgive the mistakes of people and live with a friendly atmosphere. God is merciful on us and he forgives those people who forgive the mistakes of human beings.

"Let me be a little kindness, let me be a little blinder to the faults of those
around me." _____ Edgar A. Guest

THE ABBOT OF CANTERBURY

Q.1: What lesson do you get from the poem “The Abbot Of Canterbury”?

Ans. The Abbot of Canterbury is an anonymous poem. The time of the poem is Medieval England, particularly the days of King John. The locale of the poem is England and as to type it is southern ballad. The style is entertaining even conversational. Two lessons we get from the poem, one is wisdom is not confined to the wise, even an ordinary person can at times be as wise as the wisest of the land second idea that with wit and wisdom we can defeat the might of a king. To generalize wit is more effective than brute power.

Q.2: What three questions did king ask from Abbot?

Ans. The king actually felt that the Abbot might be doing treason against him. So, the king played a trick with Abbot. He gave questions to the Abbot which he must answer or be ready for beheading. Therefore, to the first questions to the Abbot which he must answer or be ready for beheading. Therefore, to the first question the king asked what was the worth of king in one penny when he was having such a precious crown on his head. To the second question the king asked how soon could he make the journey of the whole world and in the last question the king wanted to know what the powerful man was thinking at that time.

Q.3: Why the king called Abbot to his court?

Ans. The Abbot of Canterbury is actually the head of a monastery. He is so rich and popular and so rich is he that he keeps hundred servants everyday, fifty of them wearing gold chain and velvet coats. He is so popular that people come to him from far and wide to see his health, to be his guest and even to receive charity. This wealth and popularity seemed a challenge to King John who was not just a king and hence not popular at all. Therefore, the king felt that the Abbot might be doing treason against him. So, the king called Abbot to his court. He wanted to do away with the holy man but he could not do so in straight way because as the Abbot was highly popular and in case of his beheading people might stand against the king. So, the king played a trick and gave him three questions which he must answer in three weeks time or be ready for beheading.

Q.4: What happened when the king asked his questions from Abbot?

Ans. Having heard those difficult questions Abbot got much confused. He confused that he had no mind to answer the questions yet. So, he took three weeks' time. The Abbot of Canterbury went to Oxford in Cambridge, the two vital centre of learning but no doctor there could make answers to those to those mind boggling questions. One his way back, he met his poor shepherd who promised him to answer the questions before the king. If the Abbot allowed him to appear before the king not as the simple shepherd but as the Abbot of Canterbury. So, permission was given and the poor shepherd appeared before the king and answered the questions.

Q.5: How Abbot gave the answers to those three questions? Or what answers to those three questions were put before the king?

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On the appointed time, the shepherd appeared before the king with all the answers. The king was happy that the Abbot had kept his promise and put before him all three questions. To the first question the shepherd told that our Christ was sold for thirty penny and the king might be given for twenty nine as he was one penny less than the Lord. To the second question he said that if he got up with one sun rise and rode on till the next sunrise, within twenty four hours he would have moved round the world. To the third question the shepherd answered, the king was taking him as the Abbot which he was not and that his poor shepherd who had come to beg pardon from the king.

Q.6: What happened when the king came to know the trick played by the shepherd?

Ans. All the answers were quite amusing to the king and he got really so impressed by the performance shepherd as Abbot. He decided to make the shepherd as the Abbot of Canterbury but the shepherd did not like the idea as he was quite illiterate and only had some common sense which often worked. The king awarded four gold coins a week to the shepherd and pardoned the Abbot of Canterbury.

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LUCY GRAY

Q.1: What were the qualities possessed by Lucy Gray?

Ans. "Lucy Gray" is one of the most famous poem composed by "William Wordsworth", having a melancholy impact. In the poem, Lucy Gray is as a little country girl who symbolizes purity, simplicity, transparency and natural beauty lived in a wild moor with her parents. Their house was located in the countryside far away from the cities. Nobody neighbored their house and Lucy lived having friends and playmates. These were the common qualities possessed by Lucy Gray.

Q.2: Discuss the event which conforms Lucy's death?

Ans. One day a heavy storm was expected and Lucy's mother had gone to the town and her father asked her to go and bring her back before storm. Lucy set out for the town with a lantern in her hand. Unfortunately, the storm appeared before its time and Lucy lost her way.

When the little girl did not come back, her parents went out in the snowy mountains shouting for their daughter, they searched for her all night but found no sign of hers. Next day her parents again went out at daybreak and many hills they crossed but there was no positive sign. On their way back Lucy's mother found her footprint and said:

"In heaven we all shah meet!"

They tracked those footmarks and crossed an open field, footmarks were still there, they traced the marks and finally reached to a wooden bridge. In the middle of the bridge they lost those footmarks which means Lucy fell down in the river and died. Grief suffering parents came back only with the sweet memories of their little girl.

Q.3: Why it said that Lucy is still alive?

Ans. Lucy Gray symbolizes purity, simplicity and transparency and overall she is an attractive good looking lonely little girl. According to the poet Lucy is still said to be alive and could be seen in the more.

Actually, the poet means to present the idea that Lucy was the part of natural beauty. She had physically died but was alive in the shape of sweet memory. She was so beautiful and beauty never dies because:

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever" _____ John Keats

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"LESSON SECTION"

BIRKENHEAD DRILL

INTRODUCTION:

“Birkenhead Drill” is a tragic story that will be remembered for as long as the world exists. In the history of human race it has become a milestone for others to follow. It is an epic of heroism that teaches us the fundamental lesson of sacrifice and discipline.

The story relates to the tragic incident which took place near Cape Town, South Africa. It so happened that the Birkenhead was approaching its destination when it hit a hidden rock which lay under the sea. The ship broke into pieces. The commander ordered his troops to situate women and children on the life boats, while they themselves gallantly died at sea.

SUMMARY:

The Birkenhead was a troopship carrying young and inexperienced British soldiers and their families. Six hundred and thirty people were on board the ship, out of which one hundred and seventy were women and children. The ship set off for Cape Town, South Africa and was near its destination somewhat sixty four kilometers, when a disaster occurred. A rock lay in the sea that had been undiscovered on the maps of the sea. It stayed under waiting for its prey.

On 25th February 1851 at two a.m. in the morning, the ship struck the hidden rock and was severely damaged. Ten minutes later the ship had another collision which tore it apart and split it into two. The people on board woke up from their sleep. They rushed for the deck but wherever they went, they found water pouring in. Desperately, running away from their fatality they were able to get to the deck. Due to the collision the life-boats had collapsed or destroyed. Only three of them were useful, providing room for only one hundred and eighty.

The wreckage could last no longer and the decision had to be taken as to who to survive and not to. The seas around was full of wild sharks who could tear apart one in no time. People would have been eager to embark the life-boat and get away from the ever growing, seizing hold of death. They would have gone wild in their effort to survive but nothing of that sort happened. The gallant soldiers showed a great deal of discipline and obedience to their commander’s orders. He had ordered his men to assemble on the deck in proper drill order. He commanded them to let the women and children embark the three remaining life-boats. The one hundred and seventy women and children embarked the boats. As the boats were lowered down, the men wearing red uniforms and with set faces watched the life-boats sail away. The courageous and fearless soldiers, the heroic ship’s company and the spirited captain went down with the Birkenhead.

Every man is afraid of his death so one struggles for life till the last minute. Same thing happened when the Birkenhead sank into the bottomless sea. A few were able to hang on to the wreckage of the Birkenhead, hoping that they’ll be rescued later. Every one was loyal and devoted to his life and duty. At this last gasp of life, no one would dare to end his life and let others live. But the Birkenhead was to set milestones and landmarks in the history of human sacrifice, and rightly it did so.

The commander of the troops was able to keep hold of the remains of the Birkenhead, which once was thought of as a great ship. He saw two young sailors desperately struggling for their life. He pushed the wreckage towards them and all the three of them had some share of it. He observed that the wreckage was not strong enough to withstand the burden of all the three. So, he let go his hold and went down where his ship had just been to.

The order followed on all ships to this day is ‘women and children first’. Birkenhead means today ‘to stand and be still’ facing death and so that the weaker ones have a chance to live.

MORAL

The undiminished order of the soldier presented in the article reflects the quality of sacrifice and devotion in mankind. We should stand till facing certain fate so that the weak ones may have a chance to live. This has been known as Birkenhead Drill since then.

“Lives of great men all remind us we can our lives sublime.”

THE UNITED NATION

INTRODUCTION:

This essay consists of three sections. First part describes the background and circumstances, which contributed to the creation of the 'UNO' as an organization of international level. The second portion deals with the structure and framework of this organization i.e. how different parts of the body work. Third part shows the working of different agencies that struggle for the social reconstruction of the developing countries and poor nations.

CAUSE OF ITS FORMATION:

The Second World War was at its last stage in the early 1945, when the people of the world expressed of human life and properties. So, the peace was a 'crying need' of the time. "Let there be an end to war" was the burning desire of the common man. The people were aware of the fact that the scientific inventions had brought world together. So, they wished for oneness in every respect. It was to meet with this popular demand that the UNO came into existence.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNO:

The primary purpose of the UNO is to restore order out of chaos and establish peace. It has succeeded in a few cases but to a great extent it remained ineffective and helpless, but the mankind should have optimistic approach and expectations for the best. In the field of commerce, economics and social sector, it has achieved notable success. Underdeveloped countries seek help from it in order to improve the quality of life and to upgrade the standard of living of the whole population. It can be achieved by building big projects under the umbrella of the UNO. It also works for the development of communications facilities and the project for the generation of power and water resources. This enables factories to increase their products and helps farmers to multiply their agriculture output. The United Nation's day is observed every year on 24th October.

STRUCTURE OF THE UNO:

The United Nations consists of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the secretariat which functions under the supervision of the secretary General.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

It is the chief organ of the UNO. It is composed of 189 member states. Each member nation can send five persons as representative but each has one vote.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL:

The Security Council has limited number of member of them; the USA, the Russia, the UK, France, and China are the permanent members. All of them possess the right of veto. Other 10 states are its non-permanent members.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL:

He is the chief executive of the UNO. The General Assembly elects him for a five-year term with the approval of the Security Council.

THE SECRETARIAT:

The UNO has its head quarter in New York. There are more than 5000 persons employed in the secretariat. They are taken from different nations, but do not represent their respective countries. They work as the messenger of love, peace, hope and everlasting happiness.

AGENCIES OF THE UNO:

To widen the scope of work, the UNO has numerous agencies. Some of these specialized branches are independent and other form the part of the UNO. The international Bank (World Bank) lends money to developing countries for work on development projects. UNICEF works for the relief of children. There is the World Health Organization (WHO) also. It came into being in 1948. It advises member countries on the control of disease and promotion of health, the food and agriculture organization (FAO) is also a UN agency. It works to advise member nations how to increase agricultural output. There is the UN Education Scientific and Cultural Organization. (UNESCO) which works for the advancement of human well being through Education, Science and culture. It does his by training experts from member nations in these matters.

UN STANDS AS THE CHARACTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

The UNO for its various contributions and investments, in every sphere of activities, stand as a bulwark against all kinds of social and political evils today, it symbolizes love, peace and man's basic rights of self-determination. The UNO is the sign of wisdom, civilization and cultural advancement, because it fights against the curse of illiteracy and poverty. Its work in the academic and social sector, which gradually bring a healthy change in the world order. Backward nations will one day see eye to super powers due to their economic stability and technological development.

MY BANK ACCOUNT

INTRODUCTION:

Stephen Leacock; an eminent and popular story writer, is a name in American Literature known for humorous writing. He has written many humorous stories of which "My Bank Account" is one.

This fine piece of light humour describes a funny character that had always been afraid of a bank. The story is narrated in the first person. The author narrates his experience of entering a bank for the first time. His actions are a bit clumsy, funny and give a slight impression of a complete idiot.

SUMMARY:

The story begins when the author visits a Bank to open an account; his first and only Bank account. In fact, he had always been afraid visiting a bank to do business there. The sight of entering a bank frightened him, the furniture and the people around frightened him and he would feel grow awfully nervous. Despite all these factors, once he had to visit a bank as his salary had been raised to fifty dollars a month. He thought it was wise to keep the money some safe place, like a bank. He came up with the idea of opening a bank account.

In great fear, the author entered the bank and wanted to see the Manager in person. Being unfamiliar with the procedure of opening a bank account, he thought it would be wise to meet the manager. The manager thought as if he had some terrible secret to reveal so he took him to a safe place where they could talk safely. The manager took him as one of Pinkerton's detectives. The author then informed the manager that he intended to open an account. Due to his mysterious behaviour, the manager thought as if he was a very rich man who had a 'large amount' to be deposited in the bank.

Later, when the manager came to know that the 'large amount' was just fifty six dollars, his tone turned impolite and he became annoyed. He sent him back to the accountant for opening the bank account. The sudden change in the manager's tone and attitude made him feel nervous. In extreme anxiety, instead of leaving the room he stepped into the safe. This very action made the manager more irritated and he showed him the way out.

The accountant took the money and deposited it. He made the author write his name in a book, he never understood what was going on. He could only feel confused of all his actions and terrified of the people near him as they were all watching his stupid acts. After the confirmation that the fifty six dollars had been deposited safely in the bank account, an idea struck his mind of withdrawing six dollars for the present use. The clerks told him how to write a cheque.

In complete foolishness he wrote something on the cheque and handed it over to the accountant. The accountant was surprised to see that he had written to withdraw the sum of fifty six dollars which he had just deposited a moment ago. Having realized his blunder, the author felt ashamed and upset about his actions. All the people around had stopped whatever they were busy doing and started staring at him. He consoled himself that the clerks would think that someone has insulted him, that's why he has decided not to do business with the bank and withdraw the entire sum.

Any how, the money was handed over to the author and he hurriedly went for the exit as if he was being chased by evil spirits. As the door swung behind him, he heard a loud roar of laughter. Since such an unpleasant incident he keeps his money in his pocket and savings in his socks.

CONCLUSION:

By writing this story Stephen leacock wants to express that unnecessary nervousness and inferiority complex of a man can lead him a great confusion and consequently can make him a thing to be laughed at. So every should have confidence in himself. He should not underestimate himself before others.

PAKISTAN ZINDABAD

INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan zindabad is an information and descriptive essay which throws light on the circumstances prevailed in the sub-continent before and after the creation of Pakistan; the political situation existed there and the factors which were behind the ideology and the demand of Pakistan. The main focus of the lesson is the spotless, stern and strong personality of the Quaid-e-Azam.

SUMMARY:

Muhammad Ali Jinnah was one of the greatest politicians of the world. He had an attractive personality and was a man of talents. He was the founder and the first Governor-General of Pakistan.

The Quaid-e-Azam came to Karachi on 7th August, 1947. He was a tall and very dignified man wearing a pure white sherwani. As soon as he appeared the whole crowd cheered with one voice, "Pakistan Zindabad". Every man pushed forward to welcome him and to get as close to him as possible to see him clearly. As he drove through the great sea of people that stretched from the airport to the city, through all the cheers and tears of joy, he gave no sign of his feelings. Perhaps he was thinking of the thousands of people who were being attacked and killed on the roads and railways as they tried to reach their homeland.

Although he looked very stern he was very kind-hearted. He thought all citizens of Pakistan equal without any distribution of religion and caste. Once he told his people, 'You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this state of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste. We are all citizens and equal citizens of one state.'

He worked day and night for the cause of the Muslims and it had a very bad effect on his health. At last he left the nation on 11th September 1948, and they buried him in the heart of the city where he was born.

THE WOLVES OF CERNOGRATZ

INTRODUCTION:

“The Wolves of Cernogratz” is an adaptation from the story of the same name written by Saki H. H. Munro, who is renowned for tales full of mysteries, the super natural and mystic powers. The story is full of creepy, bizarre and weird happenings, forcing the reader to keep on reading.

The story relates to a legend of the Cernogratz. According to the legend when a member of the Cernogratz died in the castle, the wolves from near and far appeared in great numbers and howled at the edge of the forest just before the hour of death. They all howled in chorus and as the soul of the dying one left the body, a tree would fall down in the park.

SUMMARY:

The story began when Conrad who was a merchant by profession, asked his sister (Baroness) if she knew about the legend of the castle. The Baron and Baroness had bought the castle of the Cernogratz a short while ago. The Baroness told his brother what the association of the legend with the castle was. The castle was legendary as whenever a person died in the castle the wolves would howl at his death. However, she did not believe in the super natural and thought it was just a promotional publicity so that the seller could get a better price of it. She further added that when the mother-in-law died they all carefully listened to the howls of the wolves, but nothing happened.

At that particular time everyone was astounded when they saw the old governess Amalie, giving the exact theme of the legend. She had always kept quiet and never spoke until someone else talked first. That day she was speaking fluently and seemed to look straight at them, addressing no one in particular. Her peculiar behaviour surprised her audience. She mentioned that the legend was true but the wolves cried only when a member of the Cernogratz died in the castle. According to her this happening was exclusively dedicated to the Cernogratz.

The Baroness was not moved; she asked how the governess could be so sure about the legend. Amalie’s reply was even more shocking; she revealed a secret that she was a Cernogratz herself. She told that when they became poor she had to go out to give lessons, so she changed her name to Fraulein Schmidt to keep the Cernogratz honour safe. The Baroness made up her mind that she would take notice of Amalie’s hysterical statements as soon as the New Year Festivities were over.

Before the festival ended, the governess grew seriously ill and was confined to her bed. The family was sitting in the room discussing the illness of the governess. The thought it was unusually cold that year and it might have made her suffer from the illness. At that instance, suddenly the lap dog leapt under the sofa. An explosion of angry barking started which had aroused due to the howling of the wolves. The family listened to the whining howl growing louder and then fainting. At one moment it seemed far away and at the other adjacent to the castle.

The Baroness went to see the poor governess and found her lying in bed. In spite of the intense cold of the night, the window stood open. As she moved to close the window, the governess strictly forbade her. She wanted to hear the chorus of the wolves at her last hour. She told the Baroness to go away and leave her alone.

Momentarily, a sound of a crash was heard in the park. A tree had fallen, giving them enough evidence to believe in the legend. They then figured out that the wolves were howling because they were mourning at the death of the last member of the Cernogratz. The next day newspaper bore the news of the demise of Amalie von Cernogratz, a valued friend of the Gruebel’s for so many years.

CONCLUSION:

This story reveals three beliefs of the author. First, is that sometimes nature also acknowledge the death of the noble souls. Second, the statements and views of the poor and ordinary people are totally neglected by the people of power. Thirdly everything can be bought by wealth. But nobility and honor is something that cannot be bought.

As Conrad said,

“that music can not be bought from any amount of money”

THE HOSTILE WITNESS

INTRODUCTION:

“The Hostile Witness” is an interesting play written by D.Y. Morgan, a famous name in English Literature. It is full of suspense and thrill, the plot is based upon an unpleasant incident of murder followed by robbery which took place in Newcastle. The play is so charismatic that it keeps the reader on the toes. It is captivating from the very beginning till the justified punishment in the end.

SUMMARY:

The incident which took place was that two men were taking the weekly wages to a factory. They were walking down a quiet street in Newcastle until a man appeared and shot them dead and got away with the cash. Fortunately, one of the men had survived the shot and was wounded. He later gave the full description of the killer. The killer was of medium height and built, fresh complexion, dark hair, and moustache. He wore horn-rimmed glasses, grey suit and a grey felt hat. Through his appearance he looked quite a respectable man.

The police came into action in no time and blocked all roads and railway stations so that the murderer had no chance of escape. They made sure that every car or train that left Newcastle was thoroughly checked. The killer had a very minute chance to escape the city. The police concluded that the murderer being respectably dressed, would try to mix among people of same standing. Therefore they had no choice but to visit the nearby hotels to trace the murderer at large.

In one of the hotels of the vicinity three gentlemen arrived the day the crime had been committed. They were Carter, Johnson and King. King on his way to the hotel had given lift to a stranger. His name was Charlton and he was an employ of the same hotel king was going to. He had a heavy bag with himself.

On their arrival at the hotel, Charlton went upstairs with king's luggage and the bag he had been carrying. The three guests were discussing the crime with the manager of the hotel until they were interrupted by a Detective Manning, dressed in plain clothes. King had a rather inconsiderate view about the police and behaved a bit irrational with the detective. He was with his assistant looking for the killer. He asked if the guests could hand him over the keys to their rooms and cars. Since King had a bad impression of the police, he resisted a little but handed over the keys at last.

Detective Manning went upstairs to check the rooms and came back with a revolver. It had been found in King's room and was the same used in the crime. All of the people were surprised to hear that. King was completely shocked. According to a comment passed by Charlton, Mr. King remarkably had a close resemblance with the murderer. On hearing that all the people carefully observed King and found out he was a close match. King on the other hand, strongly protested that the revolver was not his and he had no idea how it came into his room. He had never been upstairs from the moment he arrived at the hotel.

Charlton elaborated that King had been upstairs to his room and had a black case with unusual locks. Hearing that Detective Manning was keen to get the bag back as quickly as possible. He asked Charlton if he could tell where the bag was hidden. Charlton playing rather smart moves, brought the bag back. He had been constantly throwing suspicion on King which was incomprehensible. After having the bag back Manning arrested Charlton. Everybody was amazed to see Manning take such a decision. The police took the murderer away. Detective Manning then detailed that he never suspected King but had to pretend if he was.

Firstly, he knew for sure that King was not his man because he had a Morris car five years old. It could not drive him away fast from the scene of crime, and they found an abandoned sports car 100 meters away from where King had fetched Charlton. Secondly, Charlton had not washed his face after removing the make up. This resulted in traces of spirit gum and false hair on his upper lip. He could not disclose such clues or else he would not have recovered the stolen bag. By his clever thinking he was able to regain both; the stolen cash and the murderer.

Two One-Act Plays
Complete Notes on
“The Count’s Revenge”

By

Summary Scene I, II, III

Character Sketch

Albert
Beauchamp
Count of Morcerf
Countess of Morcerf
Count of Monte Cristo

“PROGRESS”

Character Sketch

Professor Henry Corrie

Summary Scene I

The House of Count of Morcerf

Scene-I begins in an apartment in Count of Morcerf's House. The apartment is well furnished and decorated. The two characters; "the Countess of Morcerf" and the son "Albert" are introduced. When the curtain rises, the Countess is sitting on a chair while Albert is impatiently walking to and fro. He speaks the first words of the play, saying that his father, "the Count of Morcerf" has been publicly disgraced. He states that the Count has been accused of betraying his country and that the case came up for enquiry in the chamber of Deputies (Lower House of French Parliament). The Count of Morcerf was tried and was convicted of treason on the basis of reports published in two local newspapers. He mentions that his father had denied the charge but was unable to provide evidences. The Count stood firmly to his statements and had gained sympathy until a lady arrived as a witness and provided evidence against him. She produced written, signed and attested documents in the court and told she was in Yanina when the event took place. The court finds the Count of Morcerf guilty and condemns him as traitor to his country. The Count turns pale and rushes out of the court in distress.

Hearing this, the Countess is grieved and asks Albert what he would do in such circumstances. To her surprise, Albert says that since the name of the family is disgraced he would change his name and leave Paris for good (forever), but before leaving he wants to punish the man who brought all the mischief. The Countess replies that it was of no use because they never knew who the conspirator was. Albert then introduces another character of the play "Beauchamp", saying that he is the editor of one of the newspaper, the accusation had first appeared in. He would soon find the person who had written those articles, which had caused so much trouble. If Beauchamp fails then Albert would seek the help of Count of Monte Cristo. The Countess is pleased to hear the name and tells Albert he should have sought his help from the very beginning. Albert replies that the Count was out of Paris and was enjoying his vacation with Albert when the news of the trial came to him.

The next moment the most important character "The Count of Monte Cristo" is introduced on the stage. The Count of Monte Cristo arrives. He bows and kisses the hand of Countess and then greets Albert. Albert explains what had happened to his father and the honour of the family. The Count of Monte Cristo states that the verdict was well deserved and justified, as his father was a villain. He asks Albert what his intention were. Albert replies that he is sure to find the person behind the whole event and would soon justify that man's punishment. Albert asks the Count if he would be his second in the duel. The Count of Monte Cristo refuses and remarks that the man who had wronged Albert must be treated equally. He then leaves the room while the Countess tries her level best to let the Count stay for a while and have refreshments. She realizes that in all his visits to their home, he never once broke bread. It was an Arab custom, she adds "never to eat in the house of the enemy". Albert remains standing; confused by his mother's statement.

While the Countess and Albert are busy talking, the Count of Morcerf appears and inquires about the person was who had left a while ago. Albert explains his father that the person was Count of Monte Cristo, a long time friend of Albert, who had come to console Albert at such disastrous news. In the meantime Beauchamp enters the room hastily and greets the Count, Countess and Albert. He then reveals the name of that mischievous person; it is "the Count of Monte Cristo". Everyone in the room is stunned to hear such news. Albert then decides to challenge the Count to fight a duel. His father is glad to hear that. Albert and Beauchamp leave the room when the Countess asks the Count of Morcerf if he had ever offended the Count of Monte Cristo. Morcerf says he hardly knew him.

Summary Scene II

The House of Count of Monte Cristo

Scene-II opens in Monte Cristo's House. The Count of Monte Cristo is sitting in the middle of the room with a pistol in his hand and several others lying besides him. He fires at an unseen target from time to time, often reloading the pistol. His friend Morrell is standing next to him, watching each shot as it hits the target on the right spot. Monte Cristo tells Morrell about Albert challenging him to fight a duel and asks Morrell to be his second in the duel. Morrell asks why a duel has been set and Monte Cristo answers that Albert wants to avenge his father's disgrace and fight a duel. He admits that he sent the woman to submit proof in the court of law against the Count of Morcerf. Morrell asks what his intentions are but Monte Cristo stays quiet until a lady comes to meet Monte Cristo. Morrell leaves for the next day preparations for the duel, while leaving he gives a curious glance at the veiled lady.

When the lady and Monte Cristo are left alone, she throws aside her veil, revealing her identity as the Countess of Morcerf. She explains that she had recognized him the day he arrived in Paris. She recognizes him as Edmond Dantes, the person she was formerly engaged to. She implores Monte Cristo to spare her son's life. The Count tells her that Albert had challenged him to fight a duel he did not decide it himself. She reminds him of the relationship, that they had been once betrothed some twenty years back. She asks him to have mercy on her beloved son. At that moment Monte Cristo narrates a story, which occurred and altered his life forever.

The story begins as:

Many years ago in Marseilles, a young sailor returned home from a long voyage. He was happy on his return as he was soon to be married to a Catalan girl named, 'Mercedes'. But there was a fisherman who was the villain of the story, who wanted to win Mercedes. He, with the help of conspirators, managed to produce false evidence, showing that the young sailor was a spy, an agent of the exiled Bonaparte. The sailor was tried, found guilty and was condemned to live the rest of his life in the underground dungeon. The Catalan girl was the Countess of Morcerf and the young sailor, the Count of Monte Cristo. The story ends.

Having heard the entire story, the Countess is upset. She cannot believe that her love was subjected to such a conspiracy. She was told that her love had died and she had no choice other than to marry the fisherman who happens to be the Count of Morcerf. She tells that she was never aware of such a devilish plot arranged by her husband. She admitted that Monte Cristo was justified in taking revenge from the Count of Morcerf, but implores him not to avenge her son as he was innocent. Monte Cristo declares that Albert shall live. He says that as her son has challenged him, the only way is to either fight the duel or beg pardon. He says he would die at the duel. The Countess is surprised to hear it and persuades the Count to change his idea, but all in vain. The Count orders his servant to show the Countess out of the house. Morrell returns and Monte Cristo asks him to sign his will as witness but does not allow him to read it until his death. Morrell knows about the Count of Monte Cristo being a good shot, and asks him to spare Albert's life. Monte Cristo then discloses the truth that he will let Albert live while he, himself will die. Morrell is astonished to hear that and asks him why but Monte Cristo shouts him down.

Summary Scene III

The House of Count of Morcerf

The last scene of the play opens in the house of the Count of Morcerf. The curtain rises and the two characters seen are the Count of Morcerf and the Countess. She is worried about her son and impatiently walks to and fro. She is afraid of the result of the duel which was set between Albert and Monte Cristo. At that moment the clock strikes nine o'clock and she gets more and more worried, as the duel was to take place at eight o'clock. An hour had elapsed but no sign of her son or any news about the duel results had arrived. The Count of Morcerf is upset too. The Countess knows that Monte Cristo will keep his promise of not killing her son. In a roughly manner she tells the Count that their son would leave Paris for good and so will she. The Count is confused to hear that, he defines that in such circumstances when he has been badly disgraced he needs them both. At that moment they hear the sound of a carriage in the courtyard.

In a short while, Beauchamp comes in and informs that Albert is safe meanwhile, Albert enters the room. The Countess embraces him and the Count of Morcerf extends both of his hands to embrace his son. But to his astonishment, Albert draws back. The Count thinks that Albert must have avenged the family honour but Albert reveals a rather embarrassing story. He says he had challenged Monte Cristo to a duel but night before the duel; his mother went to Monte Cristo to beg for Albert's life. Monte Cristo promised not to kill Albert and told his story about how he was subjected to live in a prison for the rest of his life. Monte Cristo said that he wanted to take revenge from the villain; the Count of Morcerf. The Count of Morcerf is amazed why Monte Cristo said so as he had never done any harm to him. Albert tells that on the day of the duel he begged Monte Cristo to forgive him and Monte Cristo rightfully did so. Hearing that, the Count of Morcerf is extremely annoyed. Albert then adds that they had breakfast together and Monte Cristo has accompanied him to his house. He then introduces Monte Cristo into the room.

Monte Cristo respectfully greets both the Countess and the Count of Morcerf. The Count of Morcerf states that since Albert had abandoned the duel it is upto him to finish it and avenge his disgrace. Monte Cristo tells the story that how twenty years ago Morcerf had cheated him and married his fiancée (a betrothed woman), Mercedes. On learning that Monte Cristo was his old time enemy, the Count of Morcerf takes out a pistol in order to shoot Monte Cristo and get rid of him once and for all. Albert and Beauchamp rush forward to seize his arm but there is an explosion and Albert and Beauchamp withdraw. The Count of Morcerf falls to the ground. Albert listens at his heart and declares that the Count of Morcerf has died.

FACTS TO REMEMBERS

Summary Scene I

1. Albert reports that his father has been tried for treason to his country, on account of articles published in the local newspapers.
2. He tells that his father denied the charge but was not able to provide evidence, until a lady appeared in the court along with documents as proof against him.
3. She mentioned that the Count of Morcerf had accepted bribes from the enemy before surrendering the Fort of Yanina.
4. The court condemns him as a traitor. The Count of Morcerf turns pale leaving the court in sorrow.
5. Albert is aggrieved and wants to take revenge from his enemy before leaving Paris forever.
6. He sends Beauchamp to find out the conspirator because the article was published in the newspaper Beauchamp works in.
7. The Count of Monte Cristo comes to console Albert. He leaves shortly, without breaking bread at Albert's home.
8. The Count of Morcerf inquires about Monte Cristo meanwhile Beauchamp arrives with the name of the man behind the plot.
9. Beauchamp discloses that the man is Monte Cristo. Albert leaves to challenge him to fight a duel.
10. The Countess asks Count of Morcerf if he had ever done anything wrong or harmful to Monte Cristo. The Count of Morcerf says he does not have any idea about it. He hardly knows him.

Summary Scene II

1. The Count of Monte Cristo is sitting in his room and is firing shots from a pistol onto a target. No shot misses the target.
2. He tells Morrel that he has been challenged by Albert to fight a duel, in which only one man may live.
3. He asks Morrel to be his second at the duel. He also states that he submitted the article to the newspaper, which brought disgrace to the Count of Morcerf.
4. He admits he sent a woman with false evidence against Morcerf in the court of law.
5. A lady comes in and Morrel leaves for the next day preparations. The lady is Countess of Morcerf.
6. She tells Monte Cristo that she has recognized him. She further implores to spare her son's life.
7. Monte Cristo tells the story about how he was condemned to imprisonment. He says that although he was innocent he had no proof.
8. Since Mercedes (the Countess of Morcerf) had been engaged to Monte Cristo way back 20 years ago, she was told that Monte Cristo had died at sea.
9. Monte Cristo wants to take revenge but she tells him to spare her son's life.
10. Monte Cristo agrees to spare her son's life and die in his place. She gets worried and asks him not to do so. He does not listen and tells her to leave.
11. Morrel arrives after the duel preparations are made. Monte Cristo asks him to sign his will, and forbade him not to read it until he is dead.

Summary Scene III

1. The Count of Morcerf walks restlessly to and fro in the room. She is worried about the result of the duel set between Albert and Monte Cristo.
2. The Countess tells Morcerf that Albert will live. The Count listens to her statement calmly.
3. Albert comes home and tells the Count of Morcerf that his mother had approached Monte Cristo and begged him to spare Albert's life.
4. He tells that when he came to know of the real story he was convinced that Monte Cristo was justified in bringing disgrace to his family.
5. He says he begged pardon when he went to fight the duel, and Monte Cristo has forgiven him.
6. They had breakfast together and Monte Cristo has accompanied him home.
7. Hearing that, the Count of Morcerf is annoyed. Meanwhile Albert introduces Monte Cristo into the room.
8. Monte Cristo comes in and tells his story about how he suffered in the dungeon for so many years and who the enemy was.
9. On learning that Monte Cristo is the old time enemy, the Count of Morcerf decides to avenge himself and takes out a pistol, aiming at Monte Cristo.
10. Albert and Beauchamp rush to stop the Count of Morcerf but a shot is fired and Morcerf collapses on the floor, laying dead.

ALBERT

CHARMING YOUNG MAN:

Albert is the son of the Count and Countess of Morcerf. He is a young man full of energy and life. He is a charming and honest man and bears a pleasant personality.

EMOTIONAL AND SENTIMENTAL:

Albert is a sentimental man, since he is young and energetic. He becomes sentimental when he hears about his father, having been tried at the court of law and condemned as a traitor. He gets upset and narrates the entire scenario in which his father has been disgraced. At first he decides to leave Paris for good, but due to his sentimental nature, he decides to avenge his father's and family honour. He asks Beauchamp, a friend who is an editor of one of the newspapers to find out who wrote those articles. He also seeks Monte Cristo's help in this regard, while the Count of Monte Cristo says that all that happened to his father is justified.

MAN OF WORD:

He is a man of word, when he is told that his enemy is none other than his cherished friend Monte Cristo, he decides to fight a duel as he had said before. He is aware that Monte Cristo is a renowned swordsman and his shot never misses, he still decides to avenge the family disgrace.

Boldness and wisdom:

Despite being sentimental, he acts wisely. His wisdom is clear from his decision to beg pardon from Monte Cristo when he comes to learn the story of Monte Cristo. At once he is convinced that Monte Cristo is justified in seeking revenge from his father. He quickly begs for forgiveness although he knows that Monte Cristo is his father's enemy. He is a brave and courageous man and has enough courage to admit that he has begged pardon from Monte Cristo. His sense of family honour, though very strong, is quite controlled and steady. It is his wisdom and sense of justice that guided him and helped in avoiding the duel.

DUTIFUL SON:

He is a dutiful son, very respectful and submissive to his mother, however his attitude towards his father is not praiseworthy due to his father's villainy. It is his mother who has always been against his father. This very nature made him feel justified about his father's disgrace. He has a strong sense of justice.

CONCLUSION:

On the whole, Albert's character is impressive, courageous, intelligent and wise. He is a loveable character of the play.

BEAUCHAMP

CLOSE FRIEND:

Beauchamp was a very close and dear friend of Albert. He was the editor of a daily newspaper in Paris. It was he who discovered the man who brought disgrace to Morcerf's family; the man was none other than Albert's friend the Count of Monte Cristo. The articles were published in the local newspaper against the Count of Morcerf. He was tried in the court law. The court condemned him as a traitor because a lady appeared in the court, along with signed and sealed proofs that the Count of Morcerf had accepted bribes from the Turks to surrender the fort of Yanina.

SINCERE AND DEVOTED:

The greatest quality that Beauchamp possessed was his sincerity to Albert. As the play started we came to know that the only man Albert could depend upon was Beauchamp. Albert asked him to seek the man who had brought disgrace to his family. Beauchamp obeyed him and found out who was the author of the articles.

WISE MAN:

He is a wise man because; he knowing well about the truth does not suddenly reveal the name of the person who brought discomfort to Albert. He first prepares ground for the revelation and then discloses the name of the man, who did wrong to his father. He tells that it was Albert's cherished friend "The Count of Monte Cristo", who wrote the articles.

COOL-HEADED:

Beauchamp is a cool-headed person. Since Albert wants to take revenge and declares to fight a duel with Monte Cristo. He asks Beauchamp to become his second. Beauchamp wisely tries to tone down Albert, not to fight a duel with the Count of Monte Cristo.

CONCLUSION:

In the end, we may say that Beauchamp is a wise, cool-headed man; who thinks before he speaks. He is sincere to his friend Albert and is his true well-wisher.

THE COUNT MORCERF

VILLAIN OF THE PLAY:

The Count of Morcerf (formerly known as Fernand Mondego) is the villain of the play “The Count’s Revenge”. He is also the villain of the original novel of ‘Alexander Dumas’ titled “The Count of Monte Cristo”. As he appears in the play we see him as a paleface man, by his thin compressed lips and by his crafty expression, that he is a villain. Due to his evil nature he caused much of the miseries and sorrows in the lives of those who came across him; his wife the Countess, the Count of Monte Cristo and his son Albert.

CUNNING AND WICKED:

The Count of Morcerf was a fisherman by profession. He was a cunning and wicked man and these two qualities of his, knew no limits. He wanted to marry Mercedes (Countess of Morcerf) but she was already engaged to Edmond Dantes (Count of Monte Cristo) so in order to get her, he set up a plot against Monte Cristo. He produced false evidence that Monte Cristo was a spy of the exiled Bonaparte. He was sentenced to imprisonment in a dungeon for life. Morcerf then took advantage of Monte Cristo’s disappearance and told Mercedes that he had died. Morcerf then proposed her and fortunately married her. After marrying her he treated her badly.

TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY:

The Count of Morcerf was a traitor to his country. He was a captain in the French Army when he took bribe from his enemies to surrender the fort of Yanina. An army officer who betrays his country during a battle must be condemned as traitor and be treated accordingly. The Count of Morcerf was treated fairly by publicly disgraced and dishonoured for his act of treachery.

A COWARD:

Morcerf was a coward. When he came to know that Mercedes was betrothed to Edmond Dantes, he did not fight Edmond in the first place to win Mercedes. He hatched a plot to get rid of Edmond by providing false evidence. At a later stage in the play, when Albert challenged Monte Cristo to avenge his father’s disgrace, Morcerf encouraged Albert to fight a duel. He was such a coward that he wanted his son to fight instead of him. He knew well that Monte Cristo was a good swordsman and his son will surely die. Towards the end of the play, rejecting all the rules of duel, Morcerf tried to kill unarmed Monte Cristo, but all in vain and he died himself.

CONCLUSION:

On the whole, the Count of Morcerf is a villain in the true sense of the term. He is a traitor to his country, cruel to his wife, wicked to Monte Cristo and his son Albert.

COUNTESS OF MORCERF

GRACEFUL AND CHARMING LADY:

The Countess of Morcerf (formerly known as Mercedes) is a charming and lovely woman. In her youth she was betrothed to a young sailor and thus, became the bone of contention between the sailor (Edmond Dantes) and a fisherman (Fernand Mondego), who eventually married her through treachery.

SINCERE WIFE AND A LOVING MOTHER:

Being a simple woman, she married Morcerf without realizing his villain nature. When she was told that her fiancé had died she was broken-hearted, at that time Morcerf proposed her and she accepted the proposal. After a long time when Morcerf is found guilty of betraying his country, she decides to leave him along with their son. It is evident that she is not very forgiving or considerate towards her husband. Although after a lapse of twenty years, she is still fond of Monte Cristo (her fiancé) and has a soft corner in her heart, for him. However, as a mother she is very kind, gentle, loving and wise. She tries her level best to save Albert's and begs to Monte Cristo to spare her son life.

WISE AND SENSIBLE WOMAN:

Since the first time she met Monte Cristo, she recognized him as Edmond Dantes and also felt that her husband must have done some terrible harm to him. At that particular time she was not aware of what had happened to Monte Cristo and was unaware of the true facts about Monte Cristo's disappearance. It was she who assuaged Monte Cristo to spare her son's life at the duel. She also told her son about the real story of Monte Cristo and told him to beg pardon. In the end, she wisely managed to end the fight between her son and the Count of Monte Cristo.

CONCLUSION:

On the whole, the Countess of Morcerf is an honest woman, a loving mother, a considerate lady and an unhappy wife. She is in fact, the heroine of the play due to her honesty and wisdom.

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

HERO OF THE PLAY:

The Count of Monte Cristo (formerly Edmond Dantes) is the hero of the play. He is a respectable man and is popular among the aristocrats. He is sociable with the fashionable society, especially with ladies. He is the hero and thus the most important character of the play.

EARLY LIFE:

While Monte Cristo is a young sailor, he is a charming young man and possesses a romantic nature. He loves a young Catalan girl (Mercedes) she loves him too. They are engaged to each other but dark clouds appear in their life when a fisherman (Fernand Mondego) brings suffering to them. The fisherman wants to marry Mercedes and in order to win her; he produces false evidence against Edmond Dantes, that he is a spy of Bonaparte. Edmond is tried in the court and sentenced to imprisonment in an underground dungeon. Fernand tells Mercedes that her fiancé had died. He then marries her and wins her.

THE COUNT'S REVENGE:

Edmond Dantes escapes from the prison after many years and goes to Paris. He disguises himself as Count of Monte Cristo. He is revengeful and bitter to Fernand and wants to take revenge, even after 20 years. Fernand has assumed name of the Count of Morcerf and is living like a rich man. He becomes a dear friend of Albert. Monte Cristo is a cool minded person he does not want to avenge his enemy. He publishes articles against Morcerf, who is condemned as traitor to his country. He sends a woman with signed, sealed evidence in the court. Albert reacts to his father's disgrace by challenging Monte Cristo.

KIND-HEARTED MAN:

Monte Cristo accepts the challenge to fight a duel. He is renowned for his excellent swordsmanship. The Countess then comes to him to spare her son's life. His old time love implores him to do so and he promises not to kill Albert. He gives her a pledge that he will die and spare Albert's life.

CONCLUSION:

On the whole, the Count of Monte Cristo is a man of character. He bears a pleasant, charming and noble personality. He is humble, gentle and a well-behaved person. He is a sincere lover, a good swordsman, a good shot and above all, a man of word.

PROFESSOR HENRY CORRIE

INTRODUCTION:

Professor Henry Corrie is one of the two main characters in the play "Progress" written by St. John Ervine. The author has presented him as the symbol of negative, harmful and destructive use of science.

Professor Henry Corrie was a brilliant scientist and scholar of high caliber. He lived in remote area of England and he would prefer an isolated life. In fact, he wanted to dedicate full attention to his research and experiments. He was a middle-aged bachelor having stern features and harsh nature.

PROFESSOR CORRIE, A LEARNED DEVIL:

Dr. Corrie has been drawn as a great dedicated scientist. When the play began we were told that he has been pursuing with whole time devotion, scientific experiment aimed at the discovery of a deadly bomb.

His dedicated research brought him success. He discovered the formula of such a powerful destructive bomb that would perish thousands of people at a time. He was very happy on his humanitarian success he said to his servant.

LUST FOR MONEY AND FAME:

Dr. Corrie had such a lust for money that he never felt even the slightest attachment to his country. He had not invented the bomb to make the position of his country safer and to make the defense of his homeland stronger. On the country, he was ready to sell his bombs to any country that paid him more money.

"I shall offer it first to the British Government of course, but if they won't pay me price, I'll offer it to somebody else."

MAN OF SELFISH AND VICIOUS NATURE:

Professor Corrie was a man of selfish, wicked and violent nature. For him, nothing was more important than his invention. He wanted to make a horrible bomb and earn money and fame. Human values and human welfare had got no significance before him.

Professor Corrie was not sincere even to his widow sister Mrs. Meldon. He never valued the finer feelings of his sister. He forgot to receive her at station. At the death anniversary of her only young son, the heatless fellow thoughtlessly breaks the news of his success to her and forced her to rejoice because he had invented a deadly bomb. The cruel fellow would say.

"It is no good for living to think so much about the dead"

AS AN ENEMY OF WOMEN SEX:

Professor Corrie is cynical about women and has a poor opinion of them. He thinks that women lack in concentration and have a fussy and talkative nature. That is why they are not very often crowned with success. According to him

"Your sex is most extraordinary, Charlotte. Always willing to break off things, or other things. No application No concentration."

HEARTLESSNESS:

Professor Corrie was no doubt an extremely heartless fellow. He advised Mrs. Meldon to forget her son, Eddie and enjoy the charms of life. Addressing to Mrs. Meldon he said,

“Try to take a more cheerful view of life.”

He told her sister in a casual way that his bomb would kill million of people, within no time. “With a single bomb we could wipe out the population of a city as big as Manchester. Single bomb. Charlotte!”

CORRIE’S TRAGIDIC END:

Mrs. Meldon gets absolutely horrified, when she learns of his terrible invention. She repeatedly implored him to destroy the formula of the bomb. She says, “Henry, I beg you to destroy your invention.”

Professor Corrie pays no attention to her, so Mrs. Meldon, in a state of frenzy, drove a sharp knife in his back. Corrie falls on his face, dead cold. Thus the curtain draws on the lay, with his tragic end.

CONCLUSION:

Thus, readers naturally dislike and condemn Professor Corrie for his vicious nature and inhuman attitude towards his sister and towards the whole humanity. He is displayed writer, a symbol of destruction and violence. He was the enemy of peace and prosperity of mankind.

MRS. MELDON

INTRODUCTION:

Mrs. Meldon is a character from a play named Progress written by St. G. Ervine. The play was sent in 1919, just one year after the First World War. Mrs. Meldon is a bereaved mother presented as a symbol of peace and love. She is the wife of late Tom Meldon and the Meldon, about forty-three years old, has played the role of a German mother, a sad widow and a friend of humanity.

BEGINNING OF HER ROLE:

Mrs. Meldon's role started from the second scene when she returns from a long journey and her brother, Professor Henry Corrie, does not receive her at the station. It was the death anniversary of her only son, Eddie.

QUALITIES AND CHARACTER:

Mrs. Meldon was the widow sister of Professor Henry Corrie. She was a miserable woman and a bereaved mother. Who has faced the emotional sufferings of life. A woman having a compassionate, patient, gentle, sensitive and graceful appearance is what Mrs. Meldon looks like.

A GRIEVED WOMAN:

She always wears a black dress, a sight of her extreme grief for the irrecoverable loss of her only son Eddie and her husband. Her son Eddie was killed in the First World War. Her husband Tom died of a broken heart. She finds nothing in life, but her love for her husband and her son. She is left alone in the vast world as a lonely mother and widow to face the hardships of life. The words of the play reflect her loneliness:

“I had a husband and a son, when the war began, I had neither when it was over.
I am the loneliest woman-cruelly alone.”

A BRAVE WOMAN:

Mrs. Meldon was a brave woman. In spite of losing all what she had, she bore the tragedy patiently. She always suffered from old memories, but never showed her bereavement. She proved herself to be a woman of tremendous courage and strong nerves.

SUPPORTER OF PEACE AND HUMANITY:

On knowing that her brother has invented a dreadful bomb, which can put millions of people to death in no time, she becomes deeply grieved. She begs her brother in the name of humanity to give up the idea of inventing the horrible bomb. She opposed her brother and called him The Most Stupid Man on Earth. She cared for all the mothers as she had seen the fury of life. She wanted that other boys like Eddie must not fall prey to the horrors of devastating wars. Mrs. Meldon, as a symbol of peace for all, did not rejoice at the achievement of her brother. She perfectly reflected her friendship towards humanity.

“Love and peace can make the world a heaven.”

WAR ANTAGONIST:

Mrs. Meldon was a true well-wisher of human beings. She was totally against war. The misfortune that fell upon her had naturally developed in her heart a strong hatred against war. She thought that war was an organized butchery of young people. She said that:

“War is an organized butchery of boys.”

She wanted a complete abolition of war. She dreamed that peace, love, care and harmony should prevail in the world and the earth should depict the shades of Heaven.

DESPERATE STEP:

Mrs. Meldon was an enthusiastic person. She becomes extremely emotional when her brother denies destroying his invention. When Professor tells his motives to her, her limit of patience and endurance gets crossed.

“It will bring me fame and fortune. I shall be rich now, but more than that I shall be famous.”

She grew extremely emotional and impulsive. In order to save the human race from the deadly invention, she picks up a knife and stabs her brother to death.

To save humanity this violence was must, That’s why Mrs. Meldon cried out.

“Eddie, Dear, I had to. I had to Eddie!”

A BROKEN HEART LADY:

Mrs. Meldon is a broken heart lady. Sobbing and tears have become the fate of her life. She wanted to die but even death was not kind to her as evident from her own utterance..

“I some time wonder why I was not granted the mercy of Death,
why I should be compelled to lie all alone?”

CONCLUSION:

Mrs. Meldon was a graceful lady, loving mother and friend of humanity. She always looked forward for the welfare of human beings without any distinction of race or colour.