

**This e-Content is for**  
**B.A. (English): Semester-6th (Third Year)**  
**Indian and New Literatures in English (Paper-1)**

**Paper Code- A040601T**

**Unit – 1 Prose**

• **Mahatma Gandhi- Hind Swaraj: Passive Resistance (xvii), Education (xviii)-**

The reader asks if the soul-force of positive resistance (or *satyagraha*) has ever changed a society. The Editor cites the poet Tulsidas, who said that pity and love are the root of religion. And despite all these atrocities, humanity survives because of love-, truth-, or soul-force. Through this force, families naturally reconcile and nations naturally maintain peace.

The reader asks the editor about education, which has become a major political issue. The editor replies that modern English education is useless—it's just knowledge, which can be used for either good or evil. A farmer doesn't need literacy and arithmetic, just morality. The reader suggests that the editor is wise because of his education, but the editor disagrees: he learned nothing about morality in school, and he doesn't need his modern education to communicate with most Indians. He concludes that true education must emphasize morality and character.

• **Swami Vivekanand's Chicago Speech, 11 Sep, 27 Sept., 1893-**

Swami Vivekananda delivered a historic speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893, introducing Hinduism and Indian spirituality to the Western world. He emphasized the importance of religious tolerance, universal acceptance, and the idea that all religions lead to the same truth.

**Unit – 2 Poetry**

• **Lakshman by Toru Dutt-**

The poem takes this story from the *Ramayana* and opens up the discussion between Sita and Lashkman, expanding it beyond what is present in the epic. Still, much of the core elements of their dialogue are preserved from the epic. First, Sita warns Lakshman to take heed of what are allegedly Rama's cries. When Lakshman tries to counsel Sita otherwise, she accuses him of conspiring to bring Rama down and take her for his own wife. Lakshman is harmed by her words and finally bows to her wishes, drawing a circle with an arrow that she is not to cross while he goes out to assist Rama. Despite the fact that Sita is enraged and has hurt Lakshman's feelings,

**The Poet, Lover and Bird Watcher by Nissim Ezekiel-**

In this poem, the poet has tried to define the art of writing poetry by giving the analogy of a man's perseverance in wooing and courting a woman, and a birdwatcher waiting patiently on a hill or by the seashore to sight rare birds. The essence of success in these pursuits is patience and perseverance. Writing poetry is not a matter of the will but a matter of inspiration which may

take a long time to come. As Ezekiel says, “*The best poets wait for words.*” A poet has to wait patiently for the moment of inspiration just as a birdwatcher has to trudge long distances to sight some rare bird, and just as a lover must wait long enough for his beloved to respond to him and surrender herself to him despite her doubts and misapprehensions as well as the “risks” she is taking .

- **An Introduction by Kamala Das-**

*An Introduction*’ begins with the speaker, Das, stating that she knows all the male leaders of India. Their names are a part of her, a tribute to their overwhelming power. This contrasts significantly with the lack of power she felt growing up and getting married at sixteen. She struggles with her identity and is finally able to step away from the traditional role of wife.

The poetess explores her complex emotions regarding the system controlling her life and the lives of countless suffering women. She also has the experience to back up her assertions about freedom and oppression as she played a critical role in the establishment of the Indian feminist movement.

- **Song-1 from Geetanjali by Rabindra Nath Tagore-**

Tagore begins his 'song-offering' with a beautiful conceit of human life. The human soul is eternal whereas his body is perishable and mortal, but God wills it so that man is in reality immortal. God is the supreme creator who inspires eternally melodious music out of the frail instrument that is man. The limited and bound human heart expands into limitless joy and thus poetry is created out of divine inspiration. Man is a frail vessel, a breakable being, and he is a little being, but he is endowed with an endless, everlasting life as God continues to pour his blessings on man and God's gifts are in such bounty that it is never exhausted.

### **Unit – 3 Drama**

- **The Morning Rag by Mahesh Dattani-**

Indian English-language musical drama film written and directed by Mahesh Dattani. The film focuses on three main characters — all Telugu — whose lives have each been ruined by past tragedies and how they are united by circumstance. These three are all connected by a love of music, and through this the film explores elements of classical Indian Carnatic music, the raga, and contemporary Indian music. Abhinay wants to start a music group and while he has a singer, a guitarist, a drummer and lots of talent, he feels there is something missing—something that he finds only in Swarnalatha, a Carnatic singer, who was his mother’s best friend. But Swarnalatha has her own demons to fight—the fateful accident that killed her son and Abhinay’s mother.

- **The Doldrummers by Asif Currimbhoy-**

The Doldrummers (1960) is a play by Asif Currimbhoy in two acts subdivided into a total of four scenes that deals with the lives of four Anglo-Indians caught in the meaningless struggle for survival which leads to their disillusionment with the society they live in. Colonial hangover persists which has its hold on the lives of these characters due to which they are unable to create their identities. Their inability to succeed in professional and personal life leads them to a feeling of frustration and despair. The degeneration that follows is the result of immoral life which they

lead due to a lack of purpose in life. Currimbhoy has earnestly portrayed the life of shack dwellers living in the suburbs of Bombay with all its poverty and disagreements, its loves and small joys and has successfully portrayed their basic humanity.

### Unit – 4 Fiction

- **Nector in a Sieve by Kamala Markandya-**

The novel's plot follows **Rukmani**, a poor farmer's wife, as she learns what it means to survive and find happiness in postcolonial and post-partition India. In the first part of the novel, the story of Rukmani's marriage with Nathan and their efforts to survive against the vagaries of nature and also disturbances caused by the setting up of a tannery is narrated. The second part presents the plight of the couple trying to search for their son, Murugan, in a large city. Later, the city also rejected them, as they are not smart enough to fit into its hectic atmosphere.

- **A Guest of Honor by Nadine Gordimer-**

In the story, the President Mweta believes that these legitimate expectations are being fulfilled in an orderly way and at a satisfactory rate. Edward Shinza, without whom independence might not yet have come, is dissatisfied. He believes that the country is no better off than it would have been under colonial rule. He is seeking a way to have an impact on the course of events. He may even be conspiring with the nation across the border. To Mweta, his former comrade Shinza is "a cobra in the house." The novel's protagonist is Colonel James Bray, an Englishman who has been a district officer in the colonial administration. Bray is likable and loyal, a wholly sympathetic character. During the struggle for independence, he was of significant assistance to Mweta and Shinza. Now Mweta has invited Bray back to be an honored guest at Independence Day celebrations.

### Unit – 5 Prose

- **Black Skin, White Masks Chapter-4 by Frantz Fanon-**

*It* applies a historical critique on the complex ways in which identity, particularly Blackness, is constructed and produced. Fanon confronts complex formations of colonized psychic constructions of Blackness. He applies psychoanalysis to explain the feelings of dependency and inadequacy that black people experience. Fanon portrays white people as having a deep-seated fear of educated blacks. He argues that, no matter how assimilated to white norms a black person may become, whites will always exercise a sense of 'inferiority.' Such behavior is more readily evident in upwardly mobile and educated Black people who can afford to acquire status symbols within the world of the colonial acumen, such as an education abroad and mastery of the language of the colonizer.

- **Seeing Like a Feminist Chapter-2 by Nivedita Menon-**

Women's movements and their representation have been growing since the end of the 20th century. With women crossing over from private to the public sphere and questioning the existence of this very divide, it becomes important to understand how exactly the feminist movement operates in India. Nivedita Menon's *Seeing Like a Feminist* serves this purpose.

Divided into six sections, this book acts as an introduction to intersectional feminism as it is prevalent in contemporary India. Seen in view of growing feminist scholarship and feminist

movements in India, *Seeing Like a Feminist* captures beautifully the contemporary Indian conception of all its varieties of feminisms.

### Unit – 6 Poetry

- **If You Forget Me by Pablo Neruda-**

The central theme of the poem 'If You Forget Me' by Pablo Neruda is that of love and loss. Love inspires within the speaker an emotional response to his lover that is both loving yet slightly threatening. The speaker refers to the lover as "ah my love, ah my own" (line 42) and as his "beloved" (line 45). The tone in the last stanza of the poem reverts back to the positive, romantic tone in the first section of the poem, and the speaker tells his lover that if she does not forget him, if she keeps on loving him, he will forever love her in return. The poem highlights how intense, yet fickle, a love between a man and a woman can be.

- **Spellings by Margaret Atwood-**

As with many of Atwood's poems, 'Spelling' begins with an innocent act—a child playing with the plastic letters of the alphabet. This image is later transmuted to the woman oppressed who must be made to realize that she is the most important person in her life. This poem appears in "True Stories", where the form and content of the writing make the very title a metaphor. The narrator focuses on her motherhood as she gazes at the childish game of "my daughter". Yet, before the verse ends, a different dimension is placed on the child.

- **Voss by Patrick White-**

The novel Voss continues the theme of personal quest for life meaning, first explored by White in *The Tree of Man*. Although its setting in the Australian landscape is similar to the earlier novel, Voss is on a much greater scale and a larger dimension.

- **The Company of Lovers by Judith Wright-**

This poem explores the fleeting nature of human connection during a time of great uncertainty. It conveys a sense of both longing for companionship and acceptance of the inevitability of death. The speakers, a "lost company," seek solace in brief moments of happiness, aware that their time together is limited. The imagery of a "grave" and "armies" marching upon them highlights the constant presence of death. The use of repetition and short, fragmented lines creates a sense of urgency and conveys the poignancy of the situation.

### Unit – 7 Fiction

- **A Guest of Honor by Nadine Gordimer-**

(As above mentioned in Unit-4)

- **A House for Mr. Biswas by V.S. Naipaul-**

The story takes a postcolonial **perspective** of the life of a Hindu Indian man in British-owned and occupied Trinidad. Now regarded as one of Naipaul's most significant novels, *A House for Mr. Biswas* has won numerous awards and has been adapted as a musical, a radio drama, and a television show. The novel follows the life of the titular Mr. Biswas as he struggles to claim self-

determination and modern success by securing and maintaining a house of his own. From birth, Biswas is marked with hardships: a pundit claims that Mr. Biswas' extra finger portends that he will be unlucky to his parents and those around him. Indeed, Biswas inadvertently effects his father's death when he wanders off with a neighbor's calf, causing his father to fear he has drowned and go searching for him in the nearby stream.

### **Love is not Time' Fool by Vikas Sharma**

The author has attached due importance to the rights of women and attracts the attention of the rich people towards the problems of widows, orphans and helpless old people. The theme of love has been painted with the colours of false love. extra-marital affairs and flirtations for merely sexual satisfaction but then the depth of pure love for marriage has been proved victorious towards the end. Richa is bold enough to accept her club-footed son Amitabh and pays money regularly to Nora to take care of this child. Richa, a young widow, gets married with her loving employee Abhilash. The positive side of life has aptly been elaborated in this novel so as to encourage readers to have patience in adverse circumstances. The terrible effects of the pandemic have been described in details and hence the novel is a criticism of life.

- **The Moth-Eaten Howdah of the Tusker by Indra Goswami-**

At the dawn of independence in India, in a small sattrra in South Kamrup in Assam, the Gossains, its religious and spiritual heads, grapple with a palpable threat to their traditional authority. The sattrra soaks in opium fumes, taxes challenge their ownership of land, the emerging forces of communism strike at the debilitated roots of feudal power. In The Moth - Eaten Howdah of the Tusker, Indira Goswami holds up a powerful picture of change and transition, of degeneration and decay, which finds suitable expression in the central metaphor.

## **Unit – 8 Drama**

- **The Lion and The Jewel by Wole Soyinka-**

The play chronicles how Baroka, the lion, fights with the modern Lakunle over the right to marry Sidi, the titular Jewel. Lakunle is portrayed as the civilized antithesis of Baroka and unilaterally attempts to modernize his community and change its social conventions for no reason other than the fact that he can. It is set in the Yoruba village of Ilunjinle. The main characters are Sidi (the Jewel), 'a true village belle' and Baroka (the Lion), the crafty and powerful Bale of the village, Lakunle, the young teacher, influenced by western ways, and Sadiku, the eldest of Baroka's wives.

- **Da Kink in my Hair by Trey Anthony-**

Set in a West Indian hair salon in Toronto, 'da Kink in My Hair introduces us to a group of women who tell us their unforgettable, moving, and often hilarious stories. Mixing laughter and tears—and told in words, music, and dance—the stories explore the hardship, struggles, and joys of their lives. 'da Kink has been staged in Toronto and New York and served as the basis for a recent drama special on Vision TV.