

Unit 1: How I Taught My Grandmother to Read + Bharat Our Land

English Notes + Complete Solutions with Explanation / Notes by Abhishek Sir

PART A: Story - How I Taught My Grandmother to Read (Sudha Murty)

1. Lekhak aur Background

- **Writer:** Sudha Murty (Indian author & philanthropist; Infosys Foundation ki chairperson rahi hain).
- **Setting:** North Karnataka ka ek gaon; narrator 12 saal ki ladki; samay: purane zamane me jab transport kharab tha aur akhbaar dopahar ko aata tha.
- **Narrator:** Sudha (later Computer Science ki teacher). **Main character:** Dadi Krishtakka (Awa), umar 62 saal.
- **Kashi Yatre:** Triveni (Kannada ki lokpriya lekhika) ka upanyas, weekly magazine Karmaveera me serial roop me chhapta tha.

2. Story Summary (Part I & II)

Narrator apne dada-dadi ke saath gaon me rehti thi. Har Budhvaar magazine aata aur wo apni dadi ko **Kashi Yatre** ka naya episode padh kar sunati. Dadi ne kabhi school nahi dekha tha, isliye wo padh nahi sakti thi. Ek baar narrator shaadi me ek hafte ke liye chali gayi. Laut kar usne pehli baar dadi ko rote hue dekha. Raat ko chhat par dadi ne bataya ki bachpan me unki maa mar gayi, pita ne dobara shaadi ki, aur us zamane me ladkiyon ki padhai zaroori nahi maani jaati thi. Is baar magazine aaya to wo sirf tasveer dekh saki, kahani samajh nahi saki - aur sharm ke kaaran kisi aur se padhne ko bhi nahi keh saki. Unhe laga ki wo **dependent aur helpless** hain. Isliye unhone **Dassara (Saraswati Puja)** tak alphabet seekhne ka nishchay kiya. Narrator pehle hasi ("itni umar me?") par dadi ne kaha: "**For learning there is no age bar.**" Dadi ne bahut mehnat ki. Dassara par narrator ne chupke se **Kashi Yatre** upanyas khareed kar diya. Dadi ne use **pairon ko haath lagaya** aur kaha ki wo apni pote ko nahi, ek **teacher** ko pranam kar rahi hain. Dadi ne turant kitaab ka title aur publisher ka naam padh liya - narrator samajh gayi ki uski student "**passed with flying colours**".

Characters (पात्र) aur unke gun

- **Krishtakka (Awa):** determined, hardworking, self-respecting, strong-willed, humble (teacher ke pair chhute), loving.

- **Narrator:** caring, bachchi jaisi naadan (shuru me hasi), baad me dedicated teacher.
- **Triveni:** popular Kannada writer; unki kahaniyan manovigyanik samasyaon par hoti thi.

Theme / Message

- **Learning** ki koi umar nahi hoti (no age bar).
- **Education = Independence** (aazaadi aur aatmasamman).
- **Girls** ki education ki kami ka nuksan; **respect for a teacher** umar ya gender dekh kar nahi.
- **Determination** se har obstacle paar hota hai.

Word	Meaning (अर्थ)
ardent	keen, bahut tez ichha
savouring	poori tarah enjoy karna
immensely	behad, bahut zyada
taken aback	achanak hairan
protagonist	main character
episode	kahani ka ek hissa
determination	dridh nishchay
obstacle	rukawat

PART B: Poem - Bharat Our Land (Subramania Bharati)

Poet: Subramania Bharati (Tamil ke mahakavi, desh-bhakt). **Type:** Ode - kisi ki gehri prashansa me likhi kavita. **Mood:** garv aur shraddha. **Refrain:** "She's peerless, let's praise her!" Bharat ko "she" (maa) ke roop me dikhaya gaya hai.

Symbol	Suggests
Himavant (Himalaya)	strength and permanence
Ganga	purity and generosity
Upanishads	spiritual and philosophical legacy
Warriors and sages	courage and wisdom
Brahma-knowledge, Buddha's dhamma	knowledge and enlightenment
Sunny golden land	richness and glory

Poetic devices

- **Personification:** Ganga "generous", Bharat "she".
- **Rhetorical question:** "Which other river can match her grace?"

- **Hyperbole:** "no equal anywhere on earth".
- **Allusion:** Upanishads, Brahma-knowledge, Buddha's dhamma.
- **Refrain** (dohrav), **symbolism**, **imagery**, **hyphen** (pause + strong claim).

SOLUTIONS - STORY

Reflect and Respond

Q. III. Highlighted words ke matching meanings

Ans. (i) protagonist = main character (7); (ii) debate = discussion (4); (iii) episode = a part of a story (5); (iv) community = people living in one particular area (3); (v) concentration = focus (6); (vi) eagerly = excitedly (1); (vii) convincing = believable (2); (viii) guided = directed (8). Kyun? Passage me context dekho: "waited ___ for final presentation" = eagerly = excitedly.

Check Your Understanding (Part I) - Cause & Effect

Cause	Effect
1. Transport system achhi nahi thi	(i) Morning paper dopahar me aur weekly magazine ek din late aata tha
2. Grandmother never went to school	(ii) She could not read; narrator ko unhe magazine padh kar sunana padta tha
3. Narrator read Kashi Yatre ka episode, aur kahani dadi ki zindagi jaisi thi (wo protagonist se khud ko jodti thi)	(iii) Wo kahani me deeply interested thi aur dost ke saath discuss karti thi
4. Narrator went to a wedding for a week	(iv) Dadi next episode nahi padh saki aur dukhi hokar royi
5. Unki maa jaldi mar gayi, pita busy the aur us samay ladkiyon ki padhai zaroori nahi mani jaati thi	(v) The grandmother never went to school
6. Grandmother regretted not going to school	(vi) She made sure her children and grandchildren studied well

Q. II. Kya narrator ko dadi ko rote dekhne ki ummeed thi?

Ans. Nahi. Narrator ne kaha ki usne dadi ko "mushkil se mushkil halat me bhi kabhi rote nahi dekha tha" - wo hamesha muskurati rehti thi. Isliye use hairani aur chinta hui.

Q. III. Narrator dadi ki seekhne ki ichha kaise पूरी kar sakti hai?

Ans. Wo roz time nikal kar alphabet sikha sakti hai, likhna-padhna practice karwa sakti hai, easy Kannada books/magazine use kar sakti hai, aur Dassara jaisa target dekar

motivate kar sakti hai. Sabse badi madad: *patience aur encouragement*.

Check Your Understanding (Part II) - True / False

No.	Answer	Kyun?
1	True	"We are well-off, but what use is money when I cannot be independent?" - isliye seekhna chahti thi
2	False	Wo sharam ke kaaran kisi se nahi pooch saki ("too embarrassed")
3	True	"I was her only teacher and she was my first student"
4	True	"For learning there is no age bar."
5	True	Usne kaha: "I am touching the feet of a teacher"
6	False	Narrator proud thi: "my student had passed with flying colours"

Critical Reflection - Extract 1

Q. (i) "never seen her cry in the most difficult situations" - grandmother thi...

Ans. A. strong-willed. Jo kabhi mushkilon me bhi nahi roi, wo mazboot irade wali (resilient) hai.

Q. (ii) Grandmother did not reply because she might have been too ___

Ans. emotional - wo rone ke karan bol nahi pa rahi thi (tired ka sandarbh nahi).

Q. (iii) Rural setting aur traditional customs ka clue

Ans. "We were sleeping in the open terrace of our house" aur narrator ka dadi ko "Avva" (Kannada me maa) kehna - gaon ki sanskriti dikhata hai.

Q. (iv) Tender (komal) atmosphere kin lines se?

Ans. "Her affectionate hands touched my forehead"; "It was a summer night and there was a full moon. Avva came and sat next to me." - pyar aur shaanti ka mahaul.

Q. (v) Kaunsa aspect emphasised NAHI hai?

Ans. C. the grandmother's regret over her lack of education. Is extract me dadi ke aansu aur narrator-dadi ka pyar hai, par padhai ka pachhtava (regret) ab tak bataya nahi gaya.

Critical Reflection - Extract 2

Q. (i) "I want to be independent" kya batata hai?

Ans. B. She desires self-sufficiency. Wo dusron par nirbhar nahi rehna chahti.

Q. (ii) Her determination shows that learning has no ___

Ans. age limit.

Q. (iii) Narrator hasi kyunki...

Ans. wo sochti thi ki 62 saal ki, safed baalon, jhurriyon, chashme aur rasoi ke kaam wali dadi ab kaise alphabet seekhegi - uski nazar me itni umar me seekhna possible nahi tha.

Q. (iv) Dadi ke do gun

Ans. Determined (drish nishchay) aur hardworking (bahut homework karti thi). Aur: self-respecting, humble.

Q. (v) Narrator assumptions kaise kar rahi hai?

Ans. Wo dadi ki umar aur dikhawat (grey hair, wrinkles, spectacles) dekh kar maan leti hai ki dadi seekh nahi sakti - bina unki himmat jaane. Ye stereotype/assumption hai.

Critical Reflection - Answer the questions

Q. 1. Dadi ne kisi aur se padhne ko kyun nahi kaha?

Ans. Wo embarrassed thi ki gaon ko pata chal jaye ki wo padh nahi sakti. Use khud ko dependent aur helpless mehsoos hua, kyunki ghar me paise the par padhna nahi aata tha. Ye uske self-respect ko dikhata hai.

Q. 2. Narrator shuru me dadi par kyun hasi?

Ans. Wo chhoti aur naasamajh (childish) thi. Use laga ki 62 saal ki grey-haired, kitchen me thaki dadi ab seekh nahi sakti. Usne umar ko seekhne ki rukawat maan liya.

Q. 3. Kashi Yatre ka mahatva?

Ans. Kahani ki old lady ne Kashi na jaakar apni saari bachat anaath ladki ki shaadi par de di. Dadi bhi kabhi Kashi nahi gayi - wo khud ko kahani ki nayika se jod paati thi. Kahani ne dadi ko padhne ki ichha di, aur story me ye unke seekhne ka karan bani. Message: insaniyat pooja se badi hai.

Q. 4. Kannada alphabet seekhne ki ichha dadi ke baare me kya batati hai?

Ans. Wo determined, independent, self-respecting aur progressive thi. Ye batata hai ki seekhne ki bhookh kabhi nahi marti, aur wo hamesha apni kamiyon ko sudhaarna chahti thi.

Q. 5. Dadi ke narrator ke pair chhune se kya seekh milti hai?

Ans. Teacher ka samman umar aur rishte se upar hai. Seekhne wale ko vinamra rehna chahiye. Aur ye ki "gyaan" dene wala kisi bhi umar ka ho, adarneeeya hai.

Q. 6. "For a good cause if you are determined, you can overcome any obstacle" - broader theme?

Ans. Ye story ka central theme hai: strong will + hard work = safalta. Umar, gender ya halaat rukawat nahi - agar maksad achha ho to har mushkil paar ho sakti hai.

Q. 7. Story education ki value ko kaise dikhati hai?

Ans. Dadi ke paas paise the par wo padhna na aane ke karan dependent thi. Seekhne ke baad wo kitab ka title aur publisher ka naam padh saki - confidence aur independence

aaya. Isse story dikhati hai ki education sirf job nahi, aatmasamman aur aazaadi deti hai.

Vocabulary and Structures

Binomial	Meaning	Example sentence
1. sink or swim (vii)	succeed or fail without help	The new job was a case of sink or swim.
2. on and off (v)	sometimes, occasionally	It rained on and off all day.
3. mix and match (i)	different cheezon ko jodna	You can mix and match these shirts and pants.
4. all or nothing (viii)	poori tarah ya bilkul nahi	The match was an all or nothing game.
5. part and parcel (ii)	hissa / anivarya	Hard work is part and parcel of success.
6. pick and choose (iii)	sirf best chunna	You cannot pick and choose your relatives.
7. sooner or later (iv)	kabhi na kabhi	Sooner or later you will succeed.
8. leaps and bounds (vi)	tezi se badhna	His English is improving by leaps and bounds.

Word	Prefixed word
1. popular	unpopular
2. belief	disbelief
3. important	unimportant
4. respect	disrespect
5. correct	incorrect
6. continue	discontinue
7. understand	misunderstand
8. ordinary	extraordinary
9. interesting	uninteresting
10. possible	impossible

Q. III. Story ke 5 prefixed words + sentences

Ans. unhappy: She was unhappy about missing the story. **unusual:** Touching a youngster's feet is unusual. **unfortunately:** Unfortunately, Triveni died young. **irrespective:** Respect a

teacher irrespective of age. **independent:** Education makes us independent.

Idiom	Meaning	Sentence
1. hit the books (iii)	study seriously	Exams are near, so I will hit the books.
2. draw a blank (v)	unable to remember	I drew a blank in the viva.
3. learn the ropes (vi)	understand how to do an activity	It took a week to learn the ropes of the job.
4. rack one's brain (ii)	think very hard	I racked my brain but could not solve it.
5. learn by heart (i)	memorise	Learn this poem by heart.
6. burn the midnight oil (iv)	study/work late	She burnt the midnight oil before the exam.

Past Perfect rule

- Do past kaam me jo pehle hua = had + V3; jo baad me hua = Simple Past.
- Trick: pehla kaam had + V3, doosra V2.

Q. (i) Fill in the blanks

Ans. A. arrived, had already begun. B. had learnt, started. C. started, had ensured. D. recognised, had exhausted. E. logged in, had already discussed. Kyun? Har sentence me "By the time/When/After/Before" se pata chalta hai kaunsa kaam pehle hua.

Q. (ii) Passage

Ans. A took; B reviewed; C had spent; D had discussed; E opened; F set; G had already introduced; H hurried; I had completed; J enjoyed.

Listen and Respond (Digital literacy)

Q. Blanks (1-5)

Ans. Transcript (page 259) is PDF me nahi hai, isliye ye likely answers hain - teacher ke transcript se check kar lena: 1. digital devices / technology; 2. personal information / data; 3. stay connected with family; 4. fake news and online scams; 5. digital skills / training.

Speaking Activity (Turncoat)

Q. Topic 1: Learning a new language

Ans. For: Naya language naye logon, naukri aur culture se jodta hai; dimaag tez hota hai. Against: Time lagta hai aur mother tongue par dhyan kam ho sakta hai; sabko zaroorat nahi. (Dono taraf ek-ek minute: "To begin with, I would like to speak for..." / "On the contrary...")

Q. Topic 2: Learning only when young

Ans. For: Bachchon ka dimaag jaldi seekhta hai. Against: Dadi Krishtakka ne 62 me padhna seekha - "no age bar".

Writing Task - Letter to the Editor

Sender: Rohan Sharma, Class 8, Delhi.

15 March 20XX

The Editor, The Daily Times, New Delhi.

Subject: Students' Role in Adult Literacy

Sir/Madam,

This is with reference to the article on adult literacy in your newspaper. As a concerned citizen, I would like to draw attention to the role students can play in it. Lakhs of adults in our country still cannot read, which leaves them dependent and unaware of their rights. If students volunteer in adult literacy camps, they learn responsibility, teaching skills and empathy, while adults gain confidence and independence.

The issue affects a large section of society. It is imperative that schools encourage students to take part. A possible solution is to organise weekend camps, give service-learning credits and use social media and school assemblies to spread awareness. Authorities could provide books and training. I trust this matter will be considered seriously. I hope this letter gets published in the columns of your esteemed daily.

Yours truly,

Rohan Sharma

Learning Beyond the Text

Word	Hindi	Tamil	Telugu	Bengali	Marathi
Grandmother	Dadi/Nani	Paati	Ammamma	Thakuma	Aaji
Grandfather	Dada/Nana	Thatha	Tatayya	Dadu	Ajoba
Father	Pitaji	Appa	Nanna	Baba	Baba
Mother	Maa	Amma	Amma	Maa	Aai
Sister	Behen	Akka	Akka	Didi	Tai
Brother	Bhai	Anna	Anna	Dada	Dada

SOLUTIONS - POEM

Q. II. Odd one out

Ans. 1. peerless: valuable (baaki do = benazir); 2. sanctified: applauded (baaki = blessed, purified); 3. auspicious: fantastic; 4. hoary antiquity: recent past.

Q. Check Your Understanding I: Summary blanks

Ans. 1. historical greatness; 2. Himavant; 3. Ganga; 4. Upanishads; 5. warriors; 6. sages; 7. Brahma-knowledge; 8. Buddha; 9. peerless; 10. praise.

Q. II. Features of the poem

Ans. 1. Mood: proud, uplifting, patriotic. 2. Tone: admiring and reverent. 3. Rhyme scheme: free verse (koi fixed rhyme nahi). 4. Personification: Ganga "generous"; Bharat as "she".

Q. III. Refrain ka impact

Ans. "She's peerless, let's praise her!" baar-baar aakar garv ka bhaav gehra karta hai, kavita ko geet jaisi lay deta hai, aur readers ko praise karne ke liye prerit karta hai.

Q. IV. "sunny golden land" metaphor

Ans. India rich, prosperous, bright aur glorious hai.

Q. V. Symbols matching

Ans. 1 Himavant - (v); 2 Ganga - (iii); 3 Upanishads - (ii); 4 Warriors & sages - (vi); 5 Brahma-knowledge & Dhamma - (i); 6 Sunny golden land - (iv).

Q. VI. Imagery (2 examples)

Ans. "The mighty Himavant" (oonchi himalaya ki chhavi) aur "the generous Ganga" / "sunny golden land".

Q. VII. Hyphens ka impact

Ans. Sahi: 1 (pause se admiration), 3 (chant jaisi lay), 5 (hyphen se pehle khoobi, baad me uniqueness ka daawa). Galat: 2 aur 4.

Q. VIII. Hyperbole

Ans. "There's no equal anywhere on earth" aur "Which other river can match her grace?" - badha-chadha kar kehna, shabdik arth me nahi.

Q. IX. Ode ke examples

Ans. Seedhi prashansa ("let's praise her"), shreshth bhasha, refrain, rhetorical questions, aur desh ke gun gaana.

Q. X. Allusions

Ans. 1. Ancient scriptures = "The sacred Upanishads"; 2. Spiritual knowledge = "Brahma-knowledge"; 3. Buddha ki shikshayen = "the Buddha preached his dhamma here".

Critical Reflection (Poem)

Q. 1. "mighty" kis ko refer karta hai?

Ans. Himavant ki vishalta, shakti aur bhavyata (size and strength).

Q. 2. Question mark ka kaam

Ans. (ii) emphasise a point - ye rhetorical question hai, jawab sabko pata hai ki koi nahi.

Q. 3. Ganga ko "generous" kyun?

Ans. Ganga paani, upjau mitti aur jeevan bina kuch maange sabko deti hai; kheti, peene aur pooja sab me kaam aati hai.

Q. 4. Nadi ki gati "graceful" kyun?

Ans. Wo shaant, sundar aur lagataar behti hai - bina shor ke majestic dhang se.

Q. 5. Upanishads...

Ans. unmatched.

Q. II-1. Cultural identity

Ans. Poet Himalaya, Ganga, Upanishads, Buddha ka naam lekar Bharat ki pehchan ko dharohar se jodta hai - reader ko apni jaden yaad aati hain.

Q. II-2. Refrain se poet ka attitude

Ans. Garv, prem aur shraddha - wo Bharat ko maa jaisa maanta hai aur sabko praise karne ko kehata hai.

Q. II-3. "many a sage has sanctified this land"

Ans. Bharat sadiyon se rishi-muniyon ki tapobhoomi raha hai; yahan ki mitti hi pavitra maani jaati hai.

Q. II-4. Warriors aur music

Ans. Warriors shakti aur bahaduri, music kala aur adhyatm dikhata hai. Dono milkar Bharat ko sirf takatwar nahi, sundar aur sanskriti-sampann banate hain.

Q. II-5. National pride kaise?

Ans. Prakriti, itihaas, gyaan aur sanskriti ki khoobiyan ginakar, refrain se baar-baar "peerless" keh kar reader me garv jagata hai.

Vocabulary in Context (Poem)

Suffix	Example from poem
-ous	auspicious (shubh)
-ity	antiquity (praacheenta)
-est	divinest
-less	peerless

Suffix	New word	Sentence
-tion (example)	indication	The dark clouds were an indication of rain.
-ive	creative	She is a very creative painter.
-ment	achievement	Winning the medal was a great achievement.
-ed	walked	We walked to the temple.

Q. Listening (Four speakers) - transcript page 260

Ans. Transcript PDF me nahi hai, isliye is activity ke answers main nahi de sakta. Teacher ke transcript ya audio se match karna padega.

Q. Speaking / Writing (Place)

Ans. Speaking cues ke liye sample: "One thing that I find truly wonderful about my city is its old monuments..." Writing: Paragraph me 5 points - why, with whom, preparation, stay, activities - likho (e.g., Jaipur trip: family ke saath, summer vacation me, train ticket book kiya, hotel me ruka, Amer Fort dekha).

- Teacher: Abhishek Sir / Practice: is topic ke 100 MCQs ka CSV zaroor solve karo.