

3.2 A Lesson in Life from a Beggar

English Workshop:

Utterance	Who's To said?	To Whom
1. "Shwetha is a very beautiful girl, isn't she?"	The writer	Meena
2. "When a pony is young, he looks handsome?"	Meena	The writer
3. "It's a beautiful day."	The writer	Meena
4. "No, the sun is too hot."	Meena	The Writer
5. "I'm all excited, it's nice to meet old friends."	Meena	The writer
6. "Let's chat."	Meena	The writer
7. "We won't get a taxi in this rain"	The writer	Meena
8. "Then, what's the secret of your energy."	The writer	Meena
9. "A beggar changed my life."	Meena	The writer

2. State whether the following statements are right or wrong. Correct the wrong ones.

(a) The author and Meena were great enemies.

Ans: Wrong

The author and Meena were good friends

(b) Meena was a very cheerful person initially.

Ans: Wrong

Meena was forever unhappy.

(c) Meena stayed alone in an apartment in Delhi.

Ans: Wrong

Meena stayed alone in an apartment in Bangalore.

(d) Meena was the second child of her parents.

Ans: Wrong

Meena was an only child of her parents.

(e) The author spotted Meena at Bombay's Flora Fountain.

Ans: Correct.

(f) The beggar and the young girl were playing on the road because there was a lot of traffic.

Ans: Wrong

The beggar and the young girl were playing on the road because there was no traffic.

(g) The scene of the beggar and the girl made Meena peep into her own life.

Ans: Correct.

(h) The beggar became Meena's role model.

Ans: Correct.

(i) It took Meena almost two years to put the change into effect.

Ans: Correct.

(j) Meena was able to give Gurudakshina directly to her Guru, the beggar.

Ans: Wrong

Meena sponsored his granddaughter to a boarding school as a mark of respect to him

3 Choose the correct alternative to complete the sentences.

(a) Meena, who is an LIC officer, is **a pessimistic person.**

(b) The writer was standing near Akbarallys, a popular department store because **she was waiting for rain to stop.**

- (c) The only thought in the writer's mind till they reached the Grand Hotel was **what had brought about such change in Meena.**
- (d) Meena sponsored the granddaughter of the beggar because **it was at token of respect for the beggar.**

4. How did the beggar change Meena's attitude? Discuss with your partner and complete the following web.

<p>Beggar's activities that changed Meena's attitude</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. playing on the road 2. laughing 3. Screaming joyously 4. Clapping
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5. (A) Write in your own words:

How did Meena show her gratitude to her guru?

Ans: Meena showed her gratitude to her guru by sponsoring his granddaughter to a boarding school as a mark of respect to him.

(B) Why would Meena be sad initially? Give reason.

Pick out the sentences from the story which prove that Meena was a pessimist.

Ans:

Meena would be sad initially because she was a pessimist.

- (a) She was forever unhappy
- (b) There was always something bad about her.
- (c) Whenever I met her, I would start to feel depressed.
- (d) It was as though her gloom and cynicism had a way of spreading to others
- (e) She never had anything positive to say on any subject of about any person.
- (f) her had the habit of complaining about anything and everything
- (g) Naturally, she wasn't a very pleasant company and nobody wanted to visit her

(A) Find antonyms of the following words from the story.

- (1) **optimistic** x pessimistic
- (2) **new** x old
- (3) **drizzle** x pouring
- (4) **lie** x truth
- (5) **ugly** x beautiful
- (6) **frowned** x smiled
- (7) **hell** x heaven, paradise
- (8) **unhappy** x happy, cheerful
- (9) **disrespect** x respect
- (10) **unimportant** x important

(B) Go through the points below showing Meena's encounter with the beggar that transformed her completely. The sequence of events jumbled up below. Arrange the events according to the occurrence. Fill in the number as per sequence.

Ans:

- 1) saw from the window the beggar and the young girl playing on the Road.
- 2) They enjoyed playing in the rain as if they were in Paradise.
- 3) On seeing them very happy, I felt ashamed of myself.
- 4) I decided to change using the beggar as role model It take two years to put the change into effect.

7. How did the beggar change Meena's attitude towards life? Write it down in 5 to 6 lines. One is done for you.

Ans:

- 1.The incident made Meena to look at her own life.**
- 2.She compared her comforts with the comforts of beggar.
- 3.She understood the most important assets in beggar's life how to be happy.
- 4.She made a list of what she had and what she had not.
- 5.She decided to change her attitude using the towards life using beggar her role model.
- 6.It took her almost two years to put the change into effect.

8. Summarise the story with the help of the points given below.

Ans: Meena was working as an LIC officer. Meena was a friend of Sudha. Meena was a pessimistic person. She was always unhappy. She had gloom and cynicism towards others. She never had anything positive to say on any subject or about any person. Whenever her friend Sudha asked her different questions. She answered them in a negative manner. Then one day, Meena was transferred to Bombay. For some work Sudha went to Bombay. Sudha found herself caught in the rain at Bombay's flora fountain. Sudha was standing near Akbarallys waiting to stop the rain. She spotted her. At first Sudha wanted to avoid her. But because of her urge, Sudha decided to take tea with her in Grand hotel. Sudha noticed many changes in Meena. Sudha enquired about the reason of changes in her. Meena told about the beggar's incident. Meena told that the beggar's incident had changed her. At first, she compared her life with the beggar. Then she decided to change herself. It took her two years to change completely. She considered the beggar-her role model. Meena started to be happy forever. As beggar was dead, she sponsored the granddaughter of the beggar to a boarding school as a mark of respect to him.

9. Write the above summary making Meena the narrator. Begin with 'I worked in Bangalore in LIC. Sudha was my friend.....'

Ans: I was working as an LIC officer. I was a friend of Sudha. I was a pessimistic person. I was always unhappy. I had gloom and cynicism towards others. Thad never anything positive to say on any subject or about any person. Whenever my friend Sudha asked me different questions. I answered them in a negative manner.

Then one day, I was transferred to Bombay. My friend Sudha was in Bombay for some work. Sudha found herself caught in the rain al Bombay's Flora Fountain. Sudha was standing near Akbarallys waiting to stop the rain. She spotted me. At first Sudha wanted to avoid me. But because of my urge, Sudha decided to take tea with me in Grand hotel. She noticed many changes in me.

Sudha enquired about the reasons of changes in me. I told about beggar's incident. I told that the beggar's incident had changed me. At first, I Compared mv life with the beggar. Then I decided to change myself. It took me two years to change completely. I considered the beggar my role model. I started to be happy forever. As the beggar

was dead, I sponsored the granddaughter of the beggar to a boarding school as a mark of respect to him.

10. Project:

Divide the class in four groups. Collect four different stories written by Sudha Murthy. Select a story for every group and write it in the form of a play. Enact it in front of the class.

Ans: This is a practical activity. The students should complete it in their classes under the guidance of their teachers.