

## INDIGO

A poor sharecropper from Champaran was wishing to meet Gandhi. His name was Raj Kumar Shukla. He was illiterate but resolute, hence followed Gandhi ji. Gandhi ji went to Lucknow, Cawnpore, Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Patna then Muzzafarpur and finally to Champaran. The Servants at Rajendra Prasad's residence considered Gandhi ji as an untouchable because of simple living style and wearing and due to the company of Raj Kumar Shukla. He then decided to go to Muzzafarpur first to get detailed information about Champaran sharecropper. So, he sent telegram to J .B Kriplani & stayed in Prof Malkani's home who was a government servant. The Indians were afraid of showing sympathy to the supporters of home rule. The news of Gandhi ji's arrival spread among the sharecroppers who gathered in large number to meet their champion. Gandhi ji chided the Muzzafarpur lawyers for charging hefty fees from the poor farmers. That time, Champaran district was divided into estate owned by British Landlords who compelled Indian farmers to plant 15% of their land with indigo and surrender their entire harvest as rent. In the meantime Germany had developed synthetic indigo, Hence, British landlords freed the Indian farmers from the 15% arrangement but many signed and they were asked to pay compensation. Some resisted and engaged lawyers and so, the landlords hired thugs. Gandhi ji reached Champaran and visited the secretary of the British landlord association to get the reports. But he was not given. Then, Gandhi ji went to the British Official for getting the facts but was denied as he was an outsider. The Commissioner asked him to leave Tirhut immediately, Gandhi ji disobeyed and went to Motihari, the capital of Champaran, where a vast multitude of farmers greeted him. He continued his investigations. He came to know that a farmer was maltreated. He went to meet him but was stopped by the police superintendent and served a notice to return back but he disobeyed the order. He was asked to appear in the court the next day and Motihari was black with peasants and there was spontaneous demonstration and hence, Gandhi ji released without bail. For the first time Civil Disobedience triumphed in India. The lieutenant governor appointed a committee to look into the case and came to a conclusion that the Landlords were at fault and asked them to refund the money. Gandhiji agreed to 25% refund by the Landlords. Gandhiji ji knew that the owners would feel insulted as for the first time they realized that the law was also applicable for them also. Hence, refund of 25% was like surrendering of their prestige. Gandhi ji paid his attention towards social economic reforms, elevated their distress and in this noble work he was aided by his wife, Mahadev Desai, Narhari Parikh. Gandhi ji taught a lesson of self reliance by not seeking help of an English man Mr. Andrews.

### SOLVED QUESTIONS SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What strategy did Gandhi ji follow in removing the problems of sharecroppers?

Gandhi ji discussed the problems with lawyers. He disregarded British order of eviction. He insisted peasants to remove their fear.

2. Why did Gandhi ji feel that it was useless for the peasants to go to law courts?

The peasants are crushed and fear stricken. The lawyers charged high fee.

3. Why did the British landlords free the sharecropper from growing Indigo? What did they want instead?

The British came to know that synthetic indigo was developed in Germany and the 15% of land was released and in return, the peasants were asked to pay compensation for release from the agreement.

4. Why did Gandhi ji agree for the 25% refund by the British landlords?

Gandhi ji agreed for 25% refund because the amount was not important but the landlord's prestige was surrendered.

5. What was the important lesson taught by Gandhi ji to his disciples?

Gandhi ji taught rules of personal hygiene and cleanliness. He also taught the people of Champaran to win freedom independently without any support of British.

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. Why did Gandhi ji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran?

Value Points: British ruthless exploitation—farmers fight through lawyers—battles were inconclusive—terror-stricken—Gandhi ji's declaration—no need of law court—overcome terror—be bold and courageous.

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What made Gandhiji urge the departure of the British?

2. How was Gandhiji received in Motihari?

3. What made Mahatma Gandhi declare 'the battle of Champaran is won'?

4. How did the Champaran episode change the plight of the peasants?

5. Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25% refund to the farmers?

6. How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement?

7. What argument did Gandhiji give for not complying with the official orders to quit Champaran?

8. How were the Britishers shown that their dreaded and unquestioned authority could be challenged by the Indians?

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why did Gandhiji's casual visit to Champaran get extended to over a year?

2. How did civil disobedience triumph?

3. What idea do you form about the Britishers from the chapter "Indigo"?

4. How did the peasants learn courage?

5. Are Gandhiji's socio, economic and political ideals relevant today? Discuss with reference to the Champaran episode.

6. Value Based Question:

Answer the following in about 100 words.

'Champaran episode' was a turning point not only in Gandhiji's life, but also in the history of Indian freedom struggle. Don't you agree that Gandhiji's practically proven ideals of truth, non violence, and empathy for the deprived are still relevant?

Write your ideas on "Relevance of Gandhian ideals today" in the form of an article.

### The Rat Trap

The peddler was a vagabond who sold rattraps with a little thievery on the side to make both ends meet. He had no worldly possession to call his own, not even a name.

It amused him to think of the world as a rattrap and all the material possessions as bait as the world, he felt was never kind to him. Moreover, he prided himself in the fact that he was out of it.

He takes shelter at a crofter's cottage. The crofter welcomed him, gave him dinner, shared his pipe, played mjolis with him also and confided in him about his income and showed him where he puts it.

Next morning, the Peddler steals the money and takes the back roads to keep away from people and gets lost in the jungle at night. While he wanders in the forest he realizes that he has also been caught in the rattrap and that the money was the bait.

Finally reaches Ramsjo ironworks, where he takes shelter for the night. The blacksmith and his assistant ignore him but the master mistakes him to be an old acquaintance and invites him home. Though the Peddler does not correct the ironmaster, hoping to get some money out of him, he declines his invitation.

The ironmaster then sends his daughter who persuades him to go home with her. She notices his uncouth appearance and thinks that either he has stolen something or he has escaped from jail.

The Peddler is scrubbed, bathed, given a haircut, a shave and a suit of old clothes of the ironmaster. In the morning light, the iron master realizes he is mistaken and that he is not the Captain. He wants to call the Sheriff. The peddler is agitated and breaks out that the world is rattrap and he too is sure to be caught in it. The ironmaster is amused but orders him out. The compassionate Edla convinces her father that he should spend the Christmas day with him.

The Peddler spends the whole of Christmas Eve eating and sleeping. The next day at church, Edla and her father come to know that the Peddler is a thief who stole thirty kroners from the poor crofter. When they came back home, they found a letter addressed to Edla, signed as Captain Von Stahle and a rattrap as a gift from the crofter. In the rattrap were the three ten kroner notes of the crofter.

#### SOLVED SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Peddler choose to go through the forest?

After stealing the thirty kroners from the crofter, the Peddler knew that he would be caught and put in prison if he continued to walk by the man road. So he chose the back roads that went through the forest.

2. Why did not the Peddler reveal his true identity when the ironmaster mistakes him to be the Captain?

The Peddler thought that the ironmaster might take pity on him give him some money if he thought he was an old acquaintance. So he keeps quiet and allows the iron master to presume he was the captain.

3. Why did it please the tramp to compare the world to a rattrap?

The world was not very kind to the tramp and so it gave him great pleasure to think of it as a rattrap.

4. Why did the tramp sign the letter as Captain Von Stahle?

The tramp, though illiterate and a thief, found himself raised to a captain through Edla's kindness and compassion. He got a chance to redeem himself and hence he signs the letter as Captain Von Stahle.

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Both the Crofter and Edla Willmanson were kind and hospitable to the Tramp. But he repays crofters kindness by stealing his money while Edla is able to transform him to a better human being. Why?

Value Points: Crofter very hospitable. Welcomes him with a smile - gives him supper and shares his tobacco. Tells him about income-shows him the money - very trusting and friendly. Stealing a way of life for the tramp-no twinge of conscience while stealing-But later he realizes that he who prided himself in not being caught in the rattrap was caught in it by stealing – feels depressed. Edla's kindness and hospitality awakens his conscience-Realises that there is a way out of the trap- Returns the money through Edla- His redemption –gift to Edla.

#### QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE:

1. "The world was a rattrap and the peddler himself became a victim of it". Elucidate.

2. The rattrap exemplifies the truth that essential goodness of human can be awakened through understanding and love.

Discuss

3. The story focuses on human loneliness and the need to bond with others. Explain.

4. Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with peddler?

5. Why did the rattrap seller develop negative view of the world?

6. Why did the peddler decline the iron master's invitation?

7. Edla is a better judge than her father. Do you think so? Why/why not?
8. Why did the peddler defend himself against not having revealed his true identity?

LONG ANSWER QUESTION:

1. 'The essential virtue of human heart can be aroused through compassion and empathy.' How far has the meaning of this statement been exemplified in the story 'The Rattrap'?
2. Value Based Question: Answer the following in about 100 words.

It has been understood from the story 'The Rattrap' that the compassion, empathy and unconditional love and trust of Edla Wilimanson only could win the heart of the rattrap seller to reclaim him to be an honest and upright individual at last. 'An Eye for an Eye will make the whole world blind.'—It is through fellow-feeling, love, compassion and trust in others that we can change the society.

Write your argument for the statement to participate in a debate competition.

GOING PLACES

The lesson explores the theme of adolescent fantasies and heroism. Sophie and Jansie are both in the last year of high school and both knew that they were destined to work in the biscuit factory as they belong to a working class family. Yet, Sophie, always dreams of big and beautiful things, glamour and glory. Her ambitions are not rooted in reality i.e., have no relation with the harsh realities of life. In contrast is Jansie, Sophie's friend, a realistic and practical girl. Sophie lives in male-dominated family where her mother was only a shadow. The men were football fans and the conversations around the dinner table were about Danny Casey, their Hero. Sophie wants some drawing their attention towards her. But she carries her fantasies too far when she starts to live them.

SOLVED SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What does Sophie dream of doing after she passes out of school? Why do you call it a dream, and not a plan? Sophie dreams of big and beautiful things, glamour and glory. She is not practical in her thinking and has no concrete plans to make her dreams real.

1. Do you think Sophie and Jansie are pole apart in their attitude to life?

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Sophie was a dreamer unable to come in terms with the fact that she is year marked for the biscuit factory after her high school. But the tragedy was that she carries her fantasies too far when she started living in them, whereas her friend Jansie is practical and down-to-earth. She tries her level best to bring her friend down to the realities. 2. Sophie is a typical adolescent hero-worshipper who carries her fantasizing too far. Do you agree?. Yes, Sophie is a typical adolescent who worships Danny

Casey, the football star. She fantasizes about meeting him and taking his autograph which is quite normal for an adolescent. But she crosses the border of normalcy when she tells her family that she actually met him and that he wants to take her on a date. And then she actually goes to the place and literally waits for him to appear which is abnormal.

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. Sophie has no touch with reality; Janise's feet are, however, firmly planted on the ground. Discuss. Value Points: Both school going girls and intimate friends – both belong to lower middle class family – but different from each other. Different approach to life - one a romantic, habitual dreamer and an escapist. Sophie dreams of things beyond her reach – Janise has a practical approach to life - discourages her friend's wild dreams – gossipy.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS 1. "Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind". Justify this statement. 2. Do you think that Sophie met Danny Casey? Give reasons. 3. What was Sophie's father's reaction when Geoff told him about Sophie meeting Casey? 4. When did Sophie actually see Danny Casey? 5. Why was Sophie jealous of Geoff's silence? 6. What are the adolescent issues discussed in the lesson 'Going places'?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS 1. Why did Sophie like her brother Geoff more than any other person? What did he symbolize for her? 2. Give a brief character sketch of Sophie's father. What kind of a relationship did they share? 3. The story "Going Places" draws a beautiful contrast between 'fact' and 'fiction'. Comment. 4. Do you think that Sophie is a representative of unguided adolescent? Discuss.

5. Value Based Question: Answer the following in about 100 words. Sophie, in the story, 'Going Places' is a victim of adolescent fantasizing and hero worship and does not have any touch realistic and practical outlook. But her friend Janise is very opposite to her and tries hard to bring her to the reality. One of your friends studying in the city is also such a victim of adolescent fantasizing and hero worship. Write a letter to her making her realise the wrong path she is treading and guiding her through the right way, being true friend..