

BRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT

CLASS XII

OCTOBER:2024

GOING PLACES

THEME: This chapter highlights the fact that in adolescence how people indulge in hero-worship and at times deviate from their goals and aspirations which proves detrimental for them. At times people like Sophie dwell in their own illusionary and delusional world unaware of its adverse consequences and even want the people to believe in it.

QUESTIONS:

1. Sophie lives in a world of dreams which she does not know she cannot realize. Comment.
2. What were Sophie's plan for the future? Why would you call her dreams unrealistic?
3. What did Sophie imagine about her brother Geoff?
4. How is the title 'Going Places' most appropriate?
5. It is normal for adolescents to fantasise and indulge in hero-worship. How far is it true in the case of Sophie?

THE INTERVIEW

THEME: This chapter highlights the attributes of an interview, its function, merits, demerits and methods. It emphasises the importance of interview as a medium of conversation.

QUESTIONS:

1. How did Umberto Eco become spectacularly famous?
2. The Interview as a communication genre is here to stay. Discuss this with reference to the interview of Umberto Eco.
3. What makes Eco's 'The Name of the Rose' a very serious novel?
4. How are the interviews despite their drawbacks, useful?
5. What are the opinions of some of the celebrities on interviews?

AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS

THEME: 1. The condition of women in a patriarchal society, where they are suppressed and oppressed and are treated as a subservient and a subordinate. They are denied the right of expression, hence denying them their identity and individuality.

2. Inequality in Marriage: Marriage which should be based on love, respect, compatibility and mutual understanding but in a patriarchal society, women are not treated as equals and are oppressed. They are subjected to humiliation and violence and are confined within the four walls of the house.

3. Art is superior to life: Aunt Jennifer tries to weave the tigers opposed to her nature who unlike her are brave, courageous, confident and dominating. On the contrary she is submissive, timid, docile, vulnerable and gullible. Art serves as a medium of expression that how she aspires to become like the tigers someday.

Following literary devices/figures of speech have been used in the poem Aunt Jennifer's Tigers:

1. **Metaphor:** It is a literary device which is used to make a comparison between two things that aren't alike but do have something in common. e.g. "Bright topaz denizens" (tigers are compared with Bright topaz because of their elegant colour).
2. **Alliteration:** It is the occurrence of the same sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. e.g. "finger fluttering", "prancing, proud".
3. **Symbolism:** It is the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities. e.g. "Bright topaz denizens" represents tigers' elegant colours, "massive weight of Uncle's wedding band" represent male domination, "tigers" represent her hidden desires.
4. **Personification:** It is the attribution of human characteristics to animals and non-human things. e.g. "chivalric" is a word which was used for knights in medieval times. But here, it is used for the tigers.
5. **Hyperbole:** It is an exaggerated statement. e.g. "massive weight of Uncle's wedding band sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand." The weight of wedding band cannot be heavy. But it symbolises mental trauma of marriage.
6. **Transferred Epithet:** It is a poetic device in which adjective is transferred from the noun it is meant to describe to another noun in the sentence. e.g. "terrified hands" refer to Aunt Jennifer who herself is terrified.
7. **Enjambment:** It is the continuation of a sentence or clause across a line break. e.g. "The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand."

QUESTIONS:

1. How does the poet show the futility of Aunt Jennifer's efforts?
2. How is Aunt Jennifer different from the tigers?
3. Why does Aunt Jennifer seek refuge in art?
4. Explain the irony at the end of the poem?
5. What is the central idea of the poem?