



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

# ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL

A JESUIT CHRISTIAN MINORITY INSTITUTION



## STUDY MATERIAL 1

**Sub: ENGLISH 'B'**

**Class: XI**

**Topic: LEELA'S FRIEND**

**Date: 18.06.2020**

**About The Author :** R.K.Narayan (1906-2001) is regarded as one of the important author in Indian English literature. He was born on October 10, 1906 in Madras .His father was a school teacher and he received his early education in his father's school. After obtaining his bachelor's degree from the University of Mysore, he briefly held a job as a school teacher. R.K.Narayan began his writing career with *Swami and Friends* in 1935. This novel was recommended by the famous novelist Graham Green. Most of his work is set in the fictional town of Malgudi . His stories are of ordinary people trying to live their simple lives in a changing world. R.K.Narayan's famous works include *The Bachelor of Arts*(1937), *The Dark Room*(1938), *The English Teacher*(1945), *Mr.Sampath* (1948), *The Financial Expert*(1952), *Waiting for the Mahatma*(1955), *The Guide*(1958), *The Man-Eater of Malgudi*(1961), *The Vendor of Sweets*(1967), *Malgudi Days*(1942) etc. He won numerous awards and honours for his works These include : Sahitya Academy Award(1958) , Padma Bhushan (1964), Padma Bibhushan(2001)etc.He died on May 13,2001,at the age of 94.

**Synopsis Of The Story :** Sidda approached Mr.Sivasanker for a servant's job. He was employed to do household work and look after Leela in return of two meals a day and four rupees a month. Sidda's company made Leela extremely happy. Sidda played with Leela with a ball in the garden, told her various types of stories .Leela found great joy to play teacher to Sidda.As time went by the bond between Sidda and Leela intensified. One day Sidda went to the market to buy some sugar and Leela went along.On their return Leela's mother noticed that Leela's gold chain was missing. On questioning Sidda, he said that he knew nothing about the lost gold chain and left the house without informing anybody. Mr.Sivasanker reported the incident to the police. The police located Sidda ,took him in custody and brought him to Leela's house where her parents confronted him. Sidda maintained his innocence but was taken away by the police for questioning. Mr.Sivasanker was informed by the police that Sidda was an old criminal and had been in jail half a dozen times for stealing jewellery from children. To Leela , her lost gold chain mattered little. She wanted to play with Sidda and appealed to the policemen to leave him alone.Leela repeatedly told the inspector that Sidda had not taken her chain. In fact nobody believed Sidda except Leela. A few days later Leela's mother found the missing gold chain from a tamarind pot in the kitchen. Leela admitted that she had put it there but she couldn't remember when she had done it. Even then, Mr. Sivasanker decided not to re-employ Sidda.

### Textual Words & Meanings :

WORDS	MEANINGS
1. Brooding	1.Thinking anxiously.
2. Scrutiny	2.Careful and thorough look.

3. Tended	3. Took care of.
4. Clutched	4. Grasped suddenly.
5. Catalogues	5. Lists of objects , names etc .arranged in order.
6. Stumps	6. Stubs , end part.
7. Squat	7. Sit on heels.
8. Remotely	8. Distantly.
9. Conjure	9. Cast spells.
10. Queer	10. Strange.
11. Whining	11. Wailing thinly.
12. Abusing	12. Insulting.
13. Shuddered	13. Shook/ trembled in fear.
14. Cajoled	14. Flattered , comforted.
15. Haunts	15. Places of frequent visit.
16. Treachery	16. Betrayal .
17. Haughtily	17. Arrogantly.
18. Prosecution	18. Legal proceeding.
19. Stubborn	19. Obstinate.
20. Confess	20. Admit.

### **SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :**

1. Why did Sidda come to Mr. Sivasanker?

Ans: Sidda came to Mr. Sivasanker for the job of a servant.

2. Whom did Sidda serve before joining the Sivasanker household ?

Ans: Sidda had previously worked as a servant in a doctor's house before joining the Sivasanker household.

3. What things did Leela have in her box?

Ans: Leela had in her box catalogues, illustrated books and stumps of pencils.

4. What did Sidda do after Leela had her dinner?

Ans: After Leela had her dinner, Sidda sat on the floor near Leela's bed and told her stories.

5. What made Leela's mother panicky?

Ans: Leela's mother felt panicky thinking that Sidda, with his knowledge of the house-hold might come in at night and loot.

6. What did Leela say about the theft of her gold chain?

Ans: Leela was not at all bothered about the theft of her chain and she expressed her view that she didn't mind Sidda taking her gold chain as she would get a new one.

7. What kinds of work did Sidda do in the Sivasanker household?

Ans: Sidda washed clothes, tended the garden, ran errands, chopped wood and looked after Leela.

8. How do you know that Leela was very fond of Sidda's company?

Ans: Leela's fondness for Sidda's company was evident from her willingness for staying at his side all the time even when he was doing household works.

9. Why was the inspector angry with Mr. Sivasanker?

Ans: The inspector was angry with Mr. Sivasanker because Mr. Sivasanker had not consulted him before employing a criminal like Sidda.

10. How was the gold chain recovered?

Ans: The gold chain was recovered from a tamarind pot kept in the kitchen by Leela's mother.

#### **DESCRIPTIVE & ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS :**

1. What message is conveyed through Mr. Sivasanker's final statement in the story, 'In any case, we couldn't have kept a criminal like him in the house'?

Ans: R.K. Narayan in his short story Leela's Friend has highlighted the question about the master-servant relationship in a common Indian household. It is generally observed that whenever an expensive item belonging to any of the inmates of the master's family is found missing, the servant in the house is held responsible. It is the outlook of our society and its refusal to accept the fact that no one is born a criminal and even a criminal can transform himself and change for the better. Thus lack of trust exists in the master-servant relationship. Mr. Sivasanker even after realizing that Sidda was wrongly accused of theft, he refuses to bring back Sidda to their household. The ugly face of the society is revealed where the servants who represent the lower class of society are subjected to exploitation, cruelty and rude behavior. The masters are often unjust and unfair. Mr. Sivasanker did not even bother to apologize for his mistake in judgement. R.K. Narayan feels that transformed people like Sidda should be accepted back to the mainstream society.

2. Analyse the relationship between Sidda and Leela.

Ans: Leela, the five year old daughter of Mr & Mrs.Sivasanker approved the appointment of Sidda as a servant in their house. Gradually Leela became very fond of Sidda. Leela insisted on having Sidda's company all her waking hours .They played together and Sidda told interesting stories on various subjects to Leela. When Sidda was accused of stealing Leela's gold chain, she defended him but the police inspector did not consider her as a reliable witness. To Leela, Sidda was not just a servant but a true friend. Their relationship was of trust, love and firm friendship.

3. What stories were told to Leela by Sidda? What effect did these stories have on Leela?

Ans: Sidda told Leela different types of stories about animals in jungles, of gods in heaven, magicians who could make gold castles, princesses who lived in those castles and their pets. Leela listened to these stories with rapt attention. She became extremely fond of listening to the stories narrated by Sidda. When Sidda left, she refused to sleep and insisted that her mother should tell her bedtime stories.

4. 'Sidda, come and play!'— Who said this? What kind of games did the speaker play?

Ans: Leela, the five year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sivasanker said the above line. Leela and Sidda played with the red ball. Leela flung the ball at him and Sidda flung it back. Leela was taken aback when Sidda had informed her that the flung ball had touched the moon. Sidda showed Leela how the moon followed him and she believed him. At dusk, Leela played the teacher to Sidda. No matter what game they played but they both enjoyed each other's company.

5. Sketch the character of Sidda very briefly.

Ans: Sidda is seen as a reliable and responsible servant of the Sivasanker household. He performed all his duties faithfully and took good care of Leela. He had great imagination which helped him to weave interesting stories which enthralled Leela. He was Leela's constant companion. He made Leela believe that he could control the moon. Sidda finds it extremely difficult to manoeuvre the pencil . He was accused of stealing Leela's gold chain. Due to some of his previous jewellery stealing records with the police all suspicion fell on him. His transformation to a good and honest human being was negated by society. Sidda finds a place in the heart of the readers. The readers have pity and sympathy for him. He puts the society to shame and emerges as an extraordinary character.

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