



ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL
A JESUIT CHRISTIAN MINORITY INSTITUTION



CLASS - IX
ENGLISH TEXT STUDY MATERIAL

TOPICS: TALES OF BHOLA GRANDPA

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TALES OF BHOLA GRANDPA

AUTHOR

Born at Shankari, Balasore, Orissa, **Manoj Das** is perhaps the foremost bilingual Oriya writer and a master of dramatic expression both in his English and Oriya short stories and novels. He says that characters follow the theme of a story and the words are merely added by author to represent the thoughts of the character. That is the precise reason why Das's persons in fiction are from so many varied backgrounds and display many different dimensions of human nature. He is a philosopher, a thinker-writer whose works can be defined as quest for finding the eternal truth in everyday circumstances. He is settled as an ashramite of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry since 1963, and is an English professor at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, Pondicherry, and is presently concentrating on writing novels.

Among his other important positions are Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi 1998-2002 and Author-consultant, Ministry of Education, Govt. of Singapore, 1983-85. He received recognition in the form of the Sahitya Akademi Award, 1972, in English; Orissa Sahitya Akademi Award, 1965 and 1982; Sarala Award, 1981; Vishuba Award, 1986; and Sahitya Bharati Award, 1995; Saraswati Samman, 2000; Padma Shri, 2001

SUMMARY

The story centres round the funny, fanciful and forgetful man, Bhola Grandpa. He lives with his wife at the western end of the narrator's village. It was a moonlit night. Bhola Grandpa was returning from a festival with his grandson who suddenly slipped from his hand and was lost. But soon the boy was found sitting under the belly of a cow. The incident was quite amusing and it made a commotion among the villagers.

Another incident that made the narrator's father and his friends unnecessarily harassed, was a confusion between fancy and fact. It was an exciting tale of pirates burying a treasure in the nearby seashore. All the efforts of the narrator's father and his friends failed to find

out the large box after a nightlong search. At last Bhola Grandpa confessed his mistake that it was his daydream.

Equally interesting is Bhola Grandpa's encounter with the Royal Bengal Tiger. One evening he was returning from a weekly market, he confronted a tiger. It was gazing at him from a little distance. He hurriedly climbed up a banyan tree and saved himself by spending the night there. But at dawn he had altogether forgotten all about the tiger and came down in search of water. As he was reminded of the tiger, he was panic-stricken. He then made a headlong retreat to home.

Bhola Grandpa was a long-lived man. He died at the age of ninety five. His wife believed that he must have forgotten to breathe.

IMPORTANT WORD-MEANINGS

overshadowed – tower above and cast a shadow over

halted – bring or come to an abrupt stop

revealed - make unknown information known to others

confessed – admit that one has done something wrong

nap – a short period of sleep typically taken during daytime

roamed- move about aimlessly specially over a wide area

dense- closely compacted in substance

gaze – to look steadily or intently

cooing – make a soft murmuring sound

mound – a heap or a pile of material or objects

QUESTION – ANSWER

1. Why was no real treasure found under the sand dunes?

Ans: No real treasure was found at the bottom of the sand dune. Because Bhola Grandpa admitted that the story of the pirates was actually a dream come true.

2. What did the tiger do after Bhola Grandpa had climbed up the banyan tree?

Ans: Bhola Grandpa after climbing the tree, the tiger was roaring and circling around the tree about a hundred times. Then he sat in a bush without taking his eyes off his grandfather.

3. What was the reason of Bhola Grandpa's death according to his wife?

Ans: Bhola Grandpa was a distracted man. According to Bhola Grandpa's wife, Grandpa must have forgotten to breathe so he died.

4. Why did Bhola Grandpa let out a loud wail?

Ans: On his way back from the festival, Bhola Grandpa held his grandson's two fingers tightly. He did not understand when the two fingers slipped. When one asked him what he was holding, he realized that he had lost his grandson and lamented and cried.

5. How did they find Bhola Grandpa's grandson?

Ans: The narrator's father selected two sharp-sighted men from their group and sent them back to the festival with Bhola Grandpa. They soon found him in a safe shelter under the belly of a cow.

6. One rainy afternoon what did Bhola Grandpa tell the narrator's father and his friend's?

Ans: One rainy afternoon, Bhola Grandpa told the narrator's father and his friends that he had seen a group of pirates burying a large box on the beach near the village.

7. How did the narrator's father and his friends respond to the story about the pirates as narrated by Bhola Grandpa?

Ans: Upon hearing the story of the pirates and their burial, the narrator's father and his friends immediately began searching for the hidden treasure. They searched all afternoon, even after midnight.

8. Why did Bhola Grandpa almost lose his senses in fear?

Ans: When Bhola Grandpa realized that he had crossed a hungry Royal Bengal tiger on foot in the morning, he almost lost consciousness in fear. Due to his distraction, he almost did not notice that the tiger was lying in the bushes next to the banyan tree.

9. Briefly describe the character of Bhola Grandpa in your own words.

Ans: Bhola Grandpa was a simple man. He lived with his wife on the western edge of narrator village. He was a very oblivious kind of man. Sometimes he would lose his grandson, and sometimes he would run away without noticing the tiger sitting next to the tree. Sometimes he would get confused and confused between dreams and reality.