

1. THE MODEL MILLIONAIRE

- Oscar Wilde.

About the author and his lesson:

"The model millionaire" was a short story written by Oscar Wilde. He was a gifted poet, a play write, and a wit. He had written number of stories with charm which never fade. This story picturises a kind hearted millionaire and gives a surprising end.

Summary of the lesson:

Hughie was a good looking young man. He was friendly with everyone. He had every accomplishment except that of making money. He was in love with Laura Merton the daughter of retired colonel. The colonel said that he had to bring ten thousand pounds as his own and the engagement would be considered after that. He was not able to bring so much money so he was upset.

Problem is absence of idea and not absence of solution

One day Hughie visited Trevor's studio. Trevor was painting a beggar as the model. The beggar was a wizened old man with a face liked wrinkled parchment. His clothes were torn. With his one hand he leant of a rough stick and with another he held out his battered hat for alms. Hughie took pity on him and offered him a sovereign and left the place.

Kindness is repaid with kindness

On the very next day, he visited Trevor again. Hughie told about his present to the model. On hearing this, Trevor grew a strange tension and then he burst into laughter. Trevor told Hughie that he was Baron Hausberg one of the richest men in Europe. Hughie feared an adverse reaction from Baron.

Misunderstanding is human nature

On the very next day an old gentleman came to visit Hughie. Baron sent him to meet Hughie. Hughie wished to apologies to Baron. The old man gave a sealed envelope. On that it was written "A wedding present to Hugh Erskine and Laura Merton by an old beggar". Inside the cover, there was a cheque for ten thousand pounds.

Good deeds never fade

Though Hughie was poor he offered the model a sovereign. This good deed resulted in getting 10,000 pounds. So help others surely it will help you later.

Moral:

Help the poor, the God will help you.

2. MUSIC- THE HOPE RAISER

- Karl Paulnack.

About the author and his lesson:

Karl Paulnack was a pianist and the director of music division in the Boston conservatory. This speech was delivered by him to the parents of incoming students in the Boston conservatory, on Sep - 1, 2004.

Summary of the lesson:

Paulnack's parents feared that if he chose music as his career; he would not be appreciated by the society. As he was good in math and science during his school days, his parents wanted him to become a doctor, an engineer or a research chemist. Though they loved music, they didn't want him to be a musician.

You are what you do

The Greeks expressed the function of music clearly in words. They said that music was a study of invisible, internal and hidden objects. They also said that the music and astrology are the two sides of a same coin.

Music is a part of Human survival

Oliver Messaien, a 31 years old French man joined in the war against the rule by Germans. He was fortunate to have a sympathetic prisoner to compose music.

The camps were without hope, without basic needs, without recreation, without commerce, without basic respect but not without music. This shows that music is essential for life on the earth.

Music is one of the ways we say we are alive

The Twin tower, world Trade centre in New York, was attacked by the terrorists. The planes were hijacked by them and drove them towards the twin tower. It collapsed the building on Sep 11, 2001 many people died in this incident.

But people around the fire houses and sang "we shall overcome" "America the beautiful". This shows that music is one of the ways to express the feelings when there is no word.

Music plays great role in everywhere

Karl Paulnack wanted his students not only to learn music but also to save the earth with the help of music because all the military forces, organizations, government and so on had failed to bring peace and to save the world.

Moral:

World lies in the hands of Artists

3. A GOLDEN PATH

- Gopala Krishna Gokhale

About the author and his lesson:

Gopala Krishna Gokhale was a great freedom fighter and he was guru to Mahatma Gandhi. He welcomed western education. He delivered a speech in response to the address to him by the students of Chennai, at a public open air meeting at Victoria hall, Mumbai on 25th July, 1911.

Summary of the lesson:

The first duty is to perform himself. The primary duty of the students is to take the almost advantage of his/her present position, amidst, whom one moves or whom one is expected to work. Acquiring knowledge, not only for exams but also for life. It needs whole devotion.

“Knowledge is the key to Success”

The second requisite is to mould one strong character. A student should acquire a character which will raise the whole life of the people. It helps in later life.

“Character makes the man perfect”

The student's duty towards the fellow students will teach him co-operation. This also includes adjustments, giving in at times standing up for one's view without hurting others feelings and consideration for others.

“Behaviors & co-operation give

The Man friend & foes”

Obedience to parents is essential for acquiring knowledge. Parents take care of their children; enable them to pursue their studies. Reverence, to teachers is also important. The students learn the value of discipline, and co-operation with fellow students. So every student must show their obedience and reverence to their parents and teachers respectively.

“Obey the Elders”

The students' duty towards the government is the highest authority over us. In these instances, we can't take any independent judgment

“The path of duty is a way to glory”

Gokhale's speech to the students is the one that suits students of all times. It gives clear insight of the life. Gohale himself had led and reverence to teachers, parents and the surroundings around him.

“Character decides the Man's future”

Moral

**“If one had a strong character,
He would not be defeated by anyone”.**

- Chatrapathi Sivaji

4. WILL THIRST BECOME UNQUENCHABLE?

-Brook Larmer.

About the author and his lesson:

This article is taken from "The Big Melt" by Brook Larmer. This article was published in the National geographic on the special edition of "water" on April, 2000. All the metros facing the same problem that is water scarcity.

Summary of the lesson:

The Yamuna and the Ganges are the rivers fed by the Himalayan ice. Two-Third of Delhi's population quenches their thirst from these two rivers. But, due to climatic changes and global warming, the Himalayan glaciers are melting. How will the people quench their thirst? This lesson explains the daily life of Chaya, a 25-year old-wife of a fortune teller, a resident at Nehru Camp, a slum area in Delhi.

"Water is the basis of World"

Even before sunrise, Chaya and her five children armed with plastic containers and started their pursue for water. There was a panic through the narrow street of Nehru Camp whenever there was rumor of water in the air. They grab a moment rest at home. But Chaya hadn't yet any tea.

Cries of a water truck were heard. Chaya joined the human torrent. In six minutes the tank was empty. She met with disappointment. She must move on to chase, another is a rumor of water.

"A Small spark makes a great fire"

Climatic changes and diminishing water supplies could reduce the cereal yield in South Asia by 5 percent within 3 decades; we are going to see a rising tension over shared water resources including political disputes between farmer and the cities, between human and ecological demands of water. This tension will lead the world to violence.

"Let us save water for prosperity"

In the afternoon, a tap outside the slum was suddenly turned on, and Chaya, smiling triumphantly, hauls back a full, ten gallons of jug on the top of her head. The water was dirty and bitter and Chaya had no means to boil it. She could cook lentil stew with a piece of bread, a first meal of the day. She knew that she was depriving her children's education. But she had no choice. So she forced them to collect water

"Let us learn to profit from the present to live for the Future"

Quenching one's thirst for water is more important than quenching one's thirst for knowledge in Nehru Street.

Moral:

"Save water. Save future life"

5. MAKING VISIBLE THE INVISIBLE

- Kalpana Sharma

About the author and his lesson:

“Making visible the invisible” was written by Kalpana Sharma. She speaks about the sufferings of the domestic workers. Most of the domestic workers are women and children. They suffer a lot. They are behind the closed doors. They take care of all our things.

Summary of the lesson:

The domestic workers take care of our children, our elderly, our pets, they clean our house, wash our dishes and clothes and so on but they suffer a lot. They are undervalued and denied of their rights

All are same before God

The sufferings of the domestic workers are not noticed by the society so they remain invisible. The invisible world of the domestic workers came to light after the incident which happened in Mumbai. In Mumbai on June 2005 a ten year old girl by the name Sonu was sadistically tortured and killed by her employers in Mumbai. In response to this incident the Maharashtra Government passed the “Maharashtra Domestic Workers Welfare Board Bill”. Many states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Bihar had also shown concern to the domestic workers.

Think everyone alike

In India there are many domestic workers who work full time. They are not often better than slaves. They work a lot in order to pay off the debt. They are in contact with the employers every 24 hours in a day and 365 days in a year. The real fact is that debt is never paid off.

Slavery is considered as inhumane

The laws alone cannot help the workers to have a better life besides this the change in the attitude of the employers is needed. The employers with change in attitude must treat the domestic workers as “workers” and not as “servants”. They have individual rights of their own. They have families to care for. They must not lose wages during illness. They must be given occasional holidays. They must be given fair wages. They must treat them as human. These are the changes which must be accepted by the employers.

Don't expect some other to perform your duties.

From this we came to know about the sufferings faced by the domestic workers. Let us avoid employing domestic workers and try to have a better life without the help of them.

Moral:

Domestic workers are not the machines of the employers.

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