

STUDY COURSE MATERIAL

ENGLISH

SESSION-2020-21

CLASS- VIII

TOPIC: The Boy Who Broke The Bank

DAY-1

❖ TEACHING MATERIAL

The Boy Who Broke the Bank by Ruskin Bond

INTRODUCTION

"The Boy Who Broke the Bank" is a short story by Ruskin Bond. It is about a boy who was working at a bank by sweeping up. The bank manager was way overdue in paying him for the job. Soon that bank collapsed and rumor had it that it was because of the unpaid boy. Because word got around that the boy didn't get paid, people assumed that the bank had no money. The people who dealt with the bank were worried about their money. This story is basically about how rumors and lack of communication can cause many problems and be destructive.

Mrs. Bhushan told the news to her husband, Mr. Bhushan who was talking to Kamal Kishore. Kamal Kishore, who owned a photographic shop, passed on the news to his neighbour, a barber. At the time the barber was giving a haircut to an elderly gentleman. The fact was that the bank did not pay the sweeper till 20th of the current month. But as it travelled, the news coloured the facts in such a way that people thought that the bank was about to collapse.

SUMMARY

In The Boy Who Broke the Bank by Ruskin Bond we have the theme of discontent, gossip, appearance, reliance, control, anxiety, panic and trust. Taken from his Collected Short Stories collection the story is narrated in the third person by an unnamed narrator and from the beginning of the story the reader realises that Bond may be exploring the theme of discontent. Nathu is unhappy that he has not been paid by his employers. There is no reason for the delay however when he advised Sitaram that he has not been paid

things through gossip quickly begin to go out of control. Mrs Bhusan is also making assumptions that just because Nathu has not been paid other employees likewise have not been paid. This may be important as Bond may be highlighting the fact that people can exaggerate things. Which is very much the case in the story. It is also interesting that others after hearing that the bank cannot pay its employees believe that the bank is going bankrupt. Something which causes a state of panic in Pipalnagar. It might also be important to remember that though none of the rumours about the bank going bankrupt are true. People by word of mouth can cause a panic for a business. Where once there was control and order. This is no longer the case for the bank.

Bond may also be exploring the theme of appearance. Not only do people have the wrong idea about the bank but it is noticeable that Old Ganpat the beggar is suddenly able to walk when he learns of the perceived difficulties that the bank is going through. This could be important as it suggests that Old Ganpat has not only been lying to those who give him alms but he has taken on the appearance of someone he is not. Which may leave some readers to suspect that Old Ganpat is living his life deceitfully. For a beggar he has a lot of money (1000 rupees). It might also be important that no one who withdraws their money from the bank actually asks anyone in the bank if the bank is having difficulties. It is as though the gossip that began with Sitaram and which manifested itself into something greater is believed by all concerned. What is also interesting about what is occurring is the fact that the whole of Pipalnagar appears to be reliant on the bank. Which may be the point that Bond is attempting to make. He may be suggesting that an individual should not have such a heavy reliance on any one institute. If anything an individual should invest their money in different banks.

To make matters worse Seth Govind Ram is on holiday and unreachable. This only fuels the anxiety that people are feeling. From going to a man of great importance in people's eyes. Seth Govind Ram is demonised and held responsible for the collapse of the bank. Even though there is no proof that the bank is bankrupt people still believe it is. As to why nobody fact checks the information they have heard might also be important as it highlights the power of gossip and the pull it may have on an individual. Despite reassurances from the bank manager that everything is okay. Nobody in Pipalnagar believes him. They would rather believe the negative hearsay that they have heard in the market than trust the bank manager. Trust also seems to be the driving fact for the people when it comes to taking their money out of the bank. They don't trust that their savings are safe. Something which is detrimental to any bank. If people don't believe in the trustworthiness of a bank they will not leave their money in the bank or deposit money.

The end of the story is also interesting as Nathu's innocent remark to Sitaram about not getting paid is twisted by Sitaram when he meets Nathu the following day. Rather than ignore Sitaram as others too should have done. Nathu is determined to get his money just like the other people in Pipalnagar. Though again Nathu has no proof that the bank is going out of business. He has Sitaram's word and that is all. In what is most likely an innocent mistake by Nathu's employers (not paying him) has manifested itself into the inevitable collapse of the bank. All fuelled by the gossip of others. It is also interesting that Sitaram is happy when he cycles away from Nathu. The reader aware that he does not have any savings in the bank. Something that some readers might find ironic. The demise of the bank began with Sitaram's remark to Mrs

Srivastava yet he had no savings in the bank to worry about. If anything those in Pipalnagar appear to thrive on gossip or false information. Information that lacks credibility and which is not fact checked. The results being total panic in Pipalnagar despite reassurances from the bank manager. In reality Bond has highlighted to the reader the importance of trust. The very man who could be trusted, the bank manager, wasn't trusted. Yet those who couldn't be trusted were trusted by those in Pipalnagar.

❖ VIDEO-LINKS

LINK-1

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=hnOK2FQeOYk>

DAY-2

❖ TEACING MATERIAL

FROM THE MAIN CHAPTER PAGES:

1. Name the characters of the story.

Ans: Seth Govind Ram, Nathu, Sitaram, Mrs. Srivastava, Mrs. Bhushan, Mr. Bhushan, Kamal Kishore, Deep Chand, Old Ganpat, Bank Manager, Town Folks.

2. Which action of Nathu shows his annoyance?

Ans: Nathu banging his pan against a dustbin and sweeping hurriedly and carelessly shows his annoyance.

3. How do you show your annoyance?

Ans: I show my annoyance by not talking to anyone.

4. To whom did Sitaram talk about Nathu?

Ans: Sitaram spoke to Mrs. Srivastava about Nathu.

5. Why was Mrs. Bhushan uncomfortable?

Ans: Mrs. Bhushan was uncomfortable due to the summer heat.

6. Which shop was just next to the photography shop?

Ans: The barber shop was next to the photography shop.

7. Who did Deep Chand call a bird?

Ans: Deep Chand called Seth Govind Ram a bird.

8. Who was Mr. Srivastava talking to?

There is no mention of Mr. Srivastava in the story.

9. Who surprised everyone and how?

Ans: Old Ganpat the beggar, who had a crooked leg and had been squatting on the pavement for years calling for alms surprised everyone by leaping to his feet and running at top speed towards the direction of the bank.

10. What were the four rumours about Seth Govind Ram?

Ans: The four rumours about Seth Govind Ram were 1) he had indulged in excesses, 2) He had fled the state, 3) He had fled the country, 4) He had hanged himself from the tamarind tree.

11. Who was the last to know about the Pipalnagar Bank going bankrupt?

Nathu was the last to know about the Pipalnagar Bank going bankrupt.

12. Discuss and share – How are rumours spread? Are the rumours harmful? Why / Why not?

Ans: Rumours are spread by people exaggerating something they have heard and telling someone else. They are spread due to people's nature of gossiping. Rumours are harmful because they can cause panic amongst people which can lead to other problems.

ENGLISH WORKSHOP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who am I? (Identify the character from the extract)

a) I am the washerman's son. Who am I? – Sitaram

b) I am the owner of the bank, who am I? – Seth Govind Ram

c) I am the sweeper, who am I? – Nathu

d) I am the friend of Mrs. Srivastava, who am I? – Mrs. Bhushan

e) I am the hair dresser. Who am I? – Deep Chand

f) I have a crooked leg, who am I? Old Ganpat

DAY-3

Write who said to whom.

a) “Don’t raise such dust!”

Sitaram said to Nathu

b) “Who would have thought the bank would collapse!”

Nathu said to himself.

c) “Where did you disappear?”

Mrs. Bhushan said to Mr. Bhushan

d) “The bird has flown!”

The elderly gentleman said to Deep Chand.

Why was the manager of the bank in a dilemma? Write down in 5 or 6 lines in your notebook.

The manager of the bank was in a dilemma because by noon, the small bank had gone through all its ready cash. Emergency funds could only be obtained from another bank some thirty miles distant and the manager was not sure whether he could persuade the angry crowd to wait until then. On top of that, there was no way of contact Seth Govind Ram on his houseboat in Kashmir.

Write in your own words a few sentences about each of the following:

a) Nathu

Nathu was the sweeper working in Pipalnagar Bank. He was annoyed as he had not been paid his salary even on the twentieth of the month and was denied a raise of Rs. 2 per month as well.

b) Mrs. Srivastava

Mrs. Srivastava lived in Pipalnagar. She was the one Sitaram spoke to about a job for Nathu. Mrs. Srivastava had a friend named Mrs. Bhushan.

c) Seth Govind Ram

Seth Govind Ram was the owner of the Pipalnagar Bank. He was holidaying in Kashmir and completely unaware of the events back in Pipalnagar.

d) Sitaram

Sitaram was the washerman’s son. He was also Nathu’s friend and was looking out for a suitable job for Nathu. He was delivering the freshly pressed clothes to the customers.

Expand the theme in a write-up of about 20 lines.

a) ‘Rumours are spread by fools and accepted by greater fools.’

Rumours are a huge problem in our society. Foolish people who simply want to create problems or sensationalize a matter for their own pleasure spread rumours whenever they can. Unfortunately these rumours end up hurting so many people in various different ways. What is even more unfortunate is that people who read these rumours end up believing in them without verifying the facts. Some would argue the ones accepting the rumours are greater fools when compared to the ones spreading the rumours. This is because we are allowing a few sadistic people with vested interests to ruin our society, the unity and wellbeing of the people. No one should get upset or accept something if they are simply told about it without first trying to see if the rumour is true or not. Currently our society is going through so many problems where people attack one another or stop interacting with others simply because they heard a rumour. In many cases, rumours spread panic amongst people and the one believing in these rumours end up spoiling their own health. It is unfortunate that today so many people keep forwarding things via text messages, chat applications and through other means without knowing whether what they are forwarding is real or simply misinformation being spread through digital means. Therefore it is rightly said that rumours are spread by fools but are accepted by even greater fools.

DAY-4

Sentence;

a set of words that is complete in itself, typically containing a subject and predicate, conveying a statement, question, exclamation, or command, and consisting of a main clause and sometimes one or more subordinate clauses.

The Four Types of Sentence:-

The Four Sentence Types

declarative sentence

(makes a statement)



A lie told often enough becomes the truth.

interrogative sentence

(asks a question)

What is history but a fable agreed upon?



imperative sentence

(gives a command)

Get in your tanks.



exclamatory sentence

(expresses emotion)

Ouch! That hurts!



A sentence can convey a statement, a question, an exclamation, or a command.

The Four Sentence Structures:-

A sentence can consist of a single clause or several clauses. When a sentence is a single clause, it is called a simple sentence (and the clause is called an independent clause). A sentence must contain at least one independent clause. Below are the four types of sentence structure (with their independent clauses shaded):

- **A Complex Sentence.**

A complex sentence has an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. For example:

- Diplomacy is the art of saying "nice doggie" until you can find a rock.
- When you're on the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog.

- **A Compound Sentence.**

A compound sentence has at least two independent clauses. For example:

- Cry "Havoc," and let slip the dogs of war.

- **A Simple Sentence.**

A simple sentence has just one independent clause. For example:

- You can't surprise a man with a dog.

- **A Compound-Complex Sentence.**

A compound-complex sentence has at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. For example:

- When a dog bites a man, **that is not news** because it happens so often, but if a man bites a dog, **that is news**.

Read examples below and identify what are the four types of sentences

1. Will the teacher be late?
2. He scored a goal.
3. I completed my college application essay.
4. Read this book now.
5. The trip was exciting!
6. Who graduated at the top of a class?
7. Shut the door.
8. What a cute dog!
9. Peanut is better than jam.
10. Brush your teeth.

State which of the following sentences are compound and which are complex?

1. The house was destroyed in the fire, but the whole family was saved.
2. Walking through the wood, he saw a fox that was following him.
3. If I do not get this job, I will start a business.
4. He said that he was so disappointed that he would not try again.
5. The men who rule the world with their pens are mightier than those who rule the world with their swords.
6. The evil that men do lives after them.
7. All that glitters is not gold.
8. Neither the color nor the design of this cloth appeals to me.

Answers

1. Compound sentence (Main clause 1 – The house was destroyed in the fire; main clause 2 – but the whole family was saved)
2. Complex sentence (main clause – he saw a fox; subordinate clause – that was following him)
3. Complex sentence (main clause – I will start a business; subordinate clause – if I do not get this job)

4. Complex sentence (main clause – he said; subordinate clause 1 – that he was so disappointed; subordinate clause 2 – that he would not try again)
5. Complex sentence (main clause – the men are mightier; subordinate clause 1 – who rule the world with their pens; subordinate clause 2 – who rule the world with their swords)
6. Complex sentence (main clause – the evil lives after them; subordinate clause – that men do)
7. Complex sentence (main clause – all is not gold; subordinate clause – that glitters)
8. Compound sentence (main clause 1 – neither the design appeals to me; main clause 2 – nor the colour of the cloth appeals to me)

DAY-5

Subject and Predicate

Simple Subject and Simple Predicate

The subject of a sentence includes the noun or pronoun along with all the words that modify, or describe it. The simple subject is the noun or pronoun all by itself.

The light blue shirt with the colorful pattern was her favorite top.

In this sentence “shirt” is the simple subject, and all the descriptive words tell us more about that shirt. The subject is “shirt” and all its modifiers (the light blue shirt with the colorful pattern), but the simple subject is simply “shirt.”

The predicate of a sentence is based on the simple predicate, which is the verb. All the other words in the predicate tell more about the subject, and some of the words can modify the verb. In the example above, the word “was” is the verb, and therefore it is the simple predicate.

Compound Subjects and Compound Predicates

A **Compound Subject** is a subject with two or more nouns or pronouns joined by the word **and** or another conjunction. Compound subjects share the same predicate.

Example:

Her shoes were covered with mud. Her ankles were covered with mud, too.

Her shoes and ankles were covered with mud.

'Her shoes and ankles' is the compound subject.

The predicate in both the sentences is 'were covered with mud.'

A **Compound Predicate** is a predicate with two or more verbs joined by the word **and** or another

conjunction. Compound predicates share the same subject.

Example:

Jan jumped on her bike. Jan rode around the block.

Jan jumped on her bike and rode around the block.

The compound predicate is 'jumped on her bike and rode around the block.' The subject in both the sentences is **Jan**.

Compound Subject and Compound Predicate: A sentence can have a compound subject and a compound predicate.

Example:

Sue and Maria went to the mall **and shopped** for an hour.

Directions: Combine each pair of sentences into one sentence using a compound subject or compound predicate.

Q 1: Cathy and Lisa did their homework and checked it twice.

Choose the compound subject of the sentence.

none

did their homework and checked it twice

Cathy and Lisa

Q 2: Dan and Mike went to the store and bought some gum.

Choose the compound subject of the sentence.

Dan and Mike

went to the store

and bought some gum

Q 3: Cathy and Lisa did their homework and checked it twice.

Choose the compound predicate of the sentence.

did their homework and checked it twice

Cathy and Lisa

Q 4: Ken went to school. Fred went to school.

Ken, Fred went to school.

Ken and Fred went to school.

Ken went to school and Fred went to school.

Q 5: Cars ride on the street. Buses ride on the street.

Trucks ride on the street.

Cars, buses, and trucks ride on the street.

Cars ride on the street and buses ride on the street and

trucks ride on the street.

Q 6: In preschool, boys and girls drew pictures and colored them.

Choose the compound subject of the sentence.

colored them

drew pictures

boys and girls

In preschool

Q 7: Harry went to the bathroom. Harry washed his hands.

Harry went to the bathroom, washed his hands.

Harry went to the bathroom and washed his hands.

Harry went to the bathroom and Harry washed his hands.

Q 8: He came. He saw. He conquered.

He came, saw, conquered.

He came, saw, and conquered.

He came and saw and conquered.

EXERCISE:

Identify the subject and the predicate in the following sentences.

1. The sun was shining brightly.
2. The dogs were barking loudly.
3. The pretty girl was wearing a blue frock.
4. My younger brother serves in the army.
5. The man and his wife were working in their garden.

Answers

1. The sun (subject) / was shining brightly (predicate).
2. The dogs (subject) / were barking loudly (predicate).
3. The pretty girl (subject) / was wearing a blue frock (predicate).
4. My younger brother (subject) / serves in the army (predicate).
5. The man and his wife (subject) / were working in their garden (predicate).

Compound Subject and Predicate

Directions: Indicate whether the sentence has a compound subject or a compound predicate.

1. Jim and Ruth climb rock walls.
 - a. compound subject
 - b. compound predicate
2. Mr. Scott writes and draws on the computer program.
 - a. compound subject
 - b. compound predicate
3. Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse were the creation of Walt Disney.
 - a. compound subject
 - b. compound predicate
4. Our planet revolves around the sun and rotates on its axis.
 - a. compound subject
 - b. compound predicate
5. The A minor chord and the C minor chord sound different.
 - a. compound subject
 - b. compound predicate
6. Dolphins and porpoises have highly developed reasoning abilities.
 - a. compound subject
 - b. compound predicate
7. John Lennon wrote and performed the song "Imagine".
 - a. compound subject
 - b. compound predicate
8. Asians and Hispanics are minorities in the United States.
 - a. compound subject
 - b. compound predicate