

STUDY COURSE MATERIAL

ENGLISH

SESSION-2020-21

CLASS- VII

TOPIC: Homesickness

DAY-1

Homesickness

Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl was a British novelist, short-story writer, poet, screenwriter, and wartime fighter pilot.

He rose to prominence as a writer in the 1940s with works for children and for adults, and he became one of the world's best-selling authors. He has been referred to as "one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century". Dahl's short stories are known for their unexpected endings, and his children's books for their unsentimental, macabre, often darkly comic mood, featuring villainous adult enemies of the child characters.

Summary

This excerpt from Roald Dahl's autobiography 'Boy: Tales of Childhood' recounts an amusing episode from the author's childhood. When he was nine, Dahl was sent to a boarding school called St Peter's. He feels so homesick there that he thinks of a desperate plan to go back home. Some time ago, one of his sisters had an

appendicitis operation at their home; Dahl had the opportunity to observe her symptoms closely. He paints an entertaining picture of that event—how he and his other sisters lurked outside the nursery, where the operation was taking place. When they were allowed to see the appendix, the boy asked curious questions about it to his Nanny. Nanny said that loose toothbrush-bristles, when swallowed, could stick in the appendix and make it go bad, thus instilling in him a fear of loose toothbrush bristles.

In the school, the boy, confident of his plan, goes up to the Matron's room and complains of being unwell. He also groans and yells and lies about being sick. His act is so convincing that the Matron calls in the school doctor. Eventually, it is decided that the boy will be sent home. Needless to say, this news delights him, though he has to hide his happiness in order to pretend to be ill. Back home in Cardiff, however, when he is examined by Dr Dunbar, who knew him and his family, Dahl is less successful. Dr Dunbar sees through his act and also understands why he had pretended to be ill. However, like a good sport, he decides to help the boy stay at home for a few days by telling the school that he has a stomach infection. At the same time, he explains to the child why he had convinced his mother to send him to boarding school and why the boy needs to be braver and more patient. Relieved and grateful, the boy promises he will never try any similar trick again.

The way Roald Dahl tells this story of his childhood makes it very easy for the reader to picture the different scenes—the sister's operation at home, the boy's elaborate act of being ill in the Matron's room, and then the partly serious and partly amusing conversation at Dr Dunbar's chamber. The comic irony of the story is captured in the many amusing details the writer provides, such as his desperate plan, his conversation with his Nanny, his dramatic gestures while pretending to be unwell and his attempts to hide his happiness when told he can go home.

DAY-2

WORD MEANING

Gesture- movement or position of the hand, arm, body head, or face that is expressive of an idea, opinion, emotion etc

Pretend- true calls or attempt to cause (what is not so) to seem so

Amusing – pleasantly entertaining or diverting

Symptoms – any phenomenon or circumstance accompanying something and serving as evidence of it

Matron- a woman who works as a nurse in a school

Elaborate – very complicated, done are made very carefully

- 1. Why did Roald devise a plan to be sent back home?**
He was missing his home and wanted to go back home.
- 2. What do you think the word devise means?**
It means 'to invent a new way of doing something.'
- 3. What was Roald's plan?**
Roald's plan was to pretend as if he is having severe stomach pain and he is suffering from severe Stomach problem so that the doctor and the Matron have no option except sending him back home.
- 4. According to Nanny, how does an appendix go bad?**
Nanny said that loose toothbrush-bristles, when swallowed, could stick in the appendix and make it go bad.

DAY-3

- 5. Did Roald Dahl's plan work?**
Yes, his plan worked. Though Dr. Dunbar was knowing the truth.
- 6. How do think Roald felt when he knew he was going home?**
He was very happy.
- 7. How did Dr. Dunbar know that Roald was lying about his illness?**
Doctor Dunbar was their family doctor and after examining him he came to know the truth that he was not having any Stomach problem.
- 8. What advice did Dr. Dunbar give to Roald about life?**
Dr Dunbar advices Roald to be braver and more patient.

DAY-4

Articles

Articles are words that define a noun as specific or unspecific. Consider the following examples:

After the long day, the cup of tea tasted particularly good.

By using the article *the*, we've shown that it was one specific day that was long and one specific cup of tea that tasted good.

After a long day, a cup of tea tastes particularly good.

By using the article *a*, we've created a general statement, implying that any cup of tea would taste good after any long day.

English has two types of articles: **definite** and *indefinite*. Let's discuss them now in more detail.

The Definite Article

*The definite article is the word **the**.* It limits the meaning of a noun to one particular thing. For example, your friend might ask, "Are you going to **the** party this weekend?" The definite article tells you that your friend is referring to a specific party that both of you know about. The definite article can be used with singular, *plural*, or uncountable nouns. Below are *some examples* of the definite article *the* used in context:

Please give me the hammer.

Please give me the red hammer; the blue one is too small.

Please give me the nail.

Please give me the large nail; it's the only one strong enough to hold this painting.

Please give me the hammer and the nail.

The Indefinite Article

The indefinite article takes two forms. It's the word *a* when it precedes a word that begins with a consonant. It's the word *an* when it precedes a word that begins with a vowel. *The indefinite article* indicates that a noun refers to a general idea rather than a particular thing. For example, you might ask your friend, "Should I bring a gift to the party?" Your friend will understand that you are not asking about a specific type of gift or a specific item. "I am going to bring an apple pie," your friend tells you. Again, the indefinite article indicates that she is not talking about a specific apple pie. Your friend probably doesn't even have any pie yet. The indefinite article only appears with singular nouns. Consider the following examples of indefinite articles used in context:

Please hand me a book; any book will do.

Please hand me an autobiography; any autobiography will do.

Exceptions: Choosing A or An

There are a few exceptions to the general rule of using *a* before words that start with consonants and *an* before words that begin with vowels. The first letter of the word *honor*, for example, is a consonant, but it's unpronounced. In spite of its spelling, the word *honor* begins with a

vowel sound. Therefore, we use an. Consider the example sentence below for an illustration of this concept.

Incorrect - My mother is a honest woman.

correct -My mother is an honest woman.

Similarly, when the first letter of a word is a vowel but is pronounced with a consonant sound, use a, as in the sample sentence below:

Incorrect- She is an United States senator.

correct - She is a United States senator.

This holds true with acronyms and initialisms, too: **an** LCD display, **a** UK-based company, **an** HR department, **a** URL.

Article Before an Adjective

Sometimes an article modifies a noun that is also modified by an adjective. The usual word order is article + adjective + noun. If the article is indefinite, choose a or an based on the word that immediately follows it. Consider the following examples for reference:

Eliza will bring a small gift to Sophie's party.

I heard an interesting story yesterday.

Indefinite Articles with Uncountable Nouns

Uncountable nouns are nouns that are either difficult or impossible to count. Uncountable nouns include intangible things (e.g., information, air), liquids (e.g., milk, wine), and things that are too large or numerous to count (e.g., equipment, sand, wood). Because these things can't be counted, you should never use **a** or **an** with them—remember, the indefinite article is only for singular nouns. Uncountable nouns can be modified by words like *some*, *however*. Consider the examples below for reference:

Incorrect - Please give me a water.

Water is an uncountable noun and should not be used with the indefinite article.

Correct- Please give me some water.

DAY-5

Complete the following sentences using appropriate articles. In some cases, no articles are needed.

1. *man is mortal.*

A

The

No article

2. *I am university student.*

a

an

the

3. *She goes to the temple in mornings.*

a

the

No article

4. *Kiran is best student in the class.*

a

the

No article

5. *..... camel is the ship of the desert.*

A

The

No article

6. *This book has won Booker prize.*

a

the

No article

7. Harishchandra was honest king.

a

an

the

8. I am fond of classical music.

a

the

No article

9. I met boy in the store.

a

an

the

10. Gold is precious metal.

a

an

the