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STUDY COURSE MATERIAL

ENGLISH

SESSION-2020-21

CLASS- VIII

TOPIC: Patol Babu, Filmstar

DAY-1

❖ TEACHING MATERIAL

Patol Babu, Filmstar

- **Satyajit Ray**

Summary

Patol Babu, Filmstar by Satyajit Ray paints the picture of a commoner with big dreams of becoming a great actor. On his way to the market, Patol Babu met his neighbour, Nishikanto Babu. He informed Patol Babu that his brother-in-law happened to belong to the film industry and he was looking for an actor for a film. Patol Babu was taken by surprise when Nishikanto further informed him that he had suggested Patol Babu's name for the role. However, Nishikanto was confident that Patol Babu was the right person for this role. Patol Babu, a theatre enthusiast was so overwhelmed with this opportunity that he mixed up the shopping list his wife had given him. He couldn't stop

himself from recollecting the memories of the old days when people would crowd to see him act on stage. Back then he was a government employee working for the Indian Railway factory. But very soon he lost his job and his luck went for a spin. In the midst of this struggle, Patol Babu's love for acting and his theatrical skills took a backseat.

Nishikanto's brother-in-law Naresh Dutt, arrived at Patol Babu's place, the next morning. He offered Patol Babu a small role in the film. The role was that of a pedestrian who happened to be short tempered and absent-minded. Patol Babu was more than happy to accept the role, however, his only qualm was whether the role had a dialogue or not. He was assured that he would have lines for his part.

Patol Babu arrived at the studio promptly, the next day. After a long wait, Naresh Dutt finally arrived with Patol Babu's lines. At first, Patol Babu thought he was joking with him, for his script contained only a monosyllable- "oh!" Seeing him rather disappointed, Naresh told Patol Babu that he should consider himself very lucky to be a part of the film directed by the revered Baren Mallick while the hero of the film was the superstar Chanchal Kumar.

About the author

Satyajit Ray was a renowned Indian film maker, writer, Illustrator and music director.

First film 'Pather Panchali' (1955) won several International awards. He was also a publisher, writer, music composer and a film critic.

Words to learn

1. Amateur
2. Theatrical
3. Diffidence
4. Appraising
5. Pedestrian
6. Crucial
7. Short tempered
8. Anxiously
9. Scribbled

10. glanced

DAY-2

WORD MEANING

1. **Handbills** - small printed notices or, advertisement that are given to people
2. Taken Back- very surprised
3. Diffidence - lack of confidence (in his acting abilities)
4. Hoax- a trick played on someone to make fun of them
5. Audible- loud enough to be heard
6. Anticipation- excitement he is feeling because he is looking forward to saying his dialogue
7. Anguish- suffering caused by pain
8. Embezzlement- misuse or theft of money belonging to the employer

Understanding the Text

A. Answer these questions

1. What is the role in the film that is offered to Patol Babu?

The role offered to Patol Babu by Naresh Dutt, the director, was that of an absent-minded, short-tempered pedestrian.

2. "I really don't see why I should say no". Do these words reflect Patol Babu's excitement about the acting opportunity ? why is he hiding his real feelings?

The words do not reflect the exact excitement that Patol Babu felt upon receiving the offer to act in a film. At one time Patol Babu had a real passion for theatre and acting. In spite of having a job in the old railway factory, he was always in demand for amateur theatricals put up by his neighbourhood club. So getting an opportunity to work for a real film was like a dream come true for him. Deep down, Patol Babu felt jubilant.

Patol Babu is trying to hide his excitement to maintain his composure. Simply put, he does not want to look over enthusiastic like a child.

3. Why did Patol Babu have to give up acting? How did he feel about it? Which line in paragraph 11 tells you that?

Patol Babu gave up acting in 1943, when there were sudden dismissals in his office due to the Second World War. Ever since he lost his nine-year-old job, he struggled to make a living. He had tried every means of earning a livelihood without ever succeeding in improving his lot. Hence, acting had become a thing of the remote past.

Patol Babu regretted having to give up on acting. The line "Acting had become a thing of the remote past—something which he recalled at times with a sigh" shows this.

4. A member of shooting crew tells Patol Babu- "just think how crucial the shot is".

Is the role really crucial? Why does he say so to Patol Babu?

A member of the shooting crew, Jyoti, came up and explained to Patol Babu what his role in the film demanded. He described that Chanchal Kumar, a character in the film, was a rising young executive who had just been informed about an embezzlement that had taken place in his office. He got out of his car and ran across the pavement towards the entrance of the office, when he collided with a distracted pedestrian. The pedestrian was hurt in the head and said "Oh!". But Chanchal Kumar paid no attention to the pedestrian and went into the office. This absent-minded pedestrian was to be played by Patol Babu.

Patol Babu's role was insignificant to the entire film. Patol Babu would just be a supporting crew and the audience perhaps would not even notice him. Jyoti said so to convince Patol Babu that the part he would be playing was of importance to the film. This would perhaps make Patol Babu take his role seriously.

B. Read these lines from the text then answer these questions

Answers

1. a play involves.....

a. Who said these words to Patol Babu?

These were the words of advice given to Patol Babu by his mentor, Mr Pakrashi.

b. How was Patol Babu feeling when he remembered these lines? Why?

At first, Patol Babu was feeling deeply dejected. He had been given an insignificant role in a movie where his only dialogue was “Oh” . But when he remembered the words of advice given to him by his mentor, he felt a bit more hopeful. Mr Pakrashi had told him that a combination of small and big roles make up a play.

Patol Babu started rehearsing his mono-syllabic dialogue in different rhythms and tones.

c. How did these words help Patol Babu become a sincere team player?

Mr Pakrashi, Patol Babu’s mentor, had advised him to take every role seriously in a play. He had said that it is not one main role, but a combination of roles that made a play successful.

On remembering Mr Pakrashi’s words, Patol Babu stopped feeling miserable about his role.

He started rehearsing his mono-syllabic dialogue with firm commitment. This is how he became a sincere team-player.

DAY-3

2. The true actor.....

A. What syllable Patol Babu is referring to? What Discovery did he make about the syllable?

Patol Babu is referring to the syllable “Oh” , his only dialogue in a film he was offered to act in. He felt a keen excitement and anticipation to work in the film. This was the same feeling he would have when he was about to go up on stage. He tried saying “Oh” with despair once and again with sorrow. He realised that he could make a mark in the film with this single syllable.

b. How did Patol Babu use this Discovery and make a mark with his acting?

While rehearsing, Patol Babu came up with an idea to make his acting look more natural on screen. He asked for a newspaper. Baren Mullick, the director, provided him with one.

The shooting began and Patol Babu walked down the pavement only to bump into the hero.

His head banged sharply with Patol Babu’s and for a moment, Patol Babu saw stars in his eyes.

Then he slowly gathered himself and with a perfect blend of surprise and irritation, he said

“Oh” . He seemed so natural that the director complimented his acting skills and said that he was quite an actor.

c. Do you think this made him a true actor? Why do you think so?

This did make Patol Babu a true actor. Even though, it bothered him initially, he took the small and insignificant role in his stride and made it a point to give it his best shot. He rehearsed his dialogue and came up with ways to make his acting look natural. His performance was enthusiastic and natural, so much so that the director took note of it and complimented his acting skills. True to his mentor’s words, Patol Babu did prove that every role in a play or a film was important in making the whole thing complete.

C. Read the text again and answer these questions

Answers

1. The crew was encouraging and enthusiastic about every single actor present on the sets of the film, no matter how insignificant their roles were.

The crew showed immense patience while dealing with Patol Babu. Even when Patol Babu felt dejected about his role being a minor one, the rest of the crew members like Shoshanko and Jyoti cheered him up. They said that he might as well consider himself to be extremely fortunate to have bagged a regular, speaking part in the film.

The crew probably would have given him a few more dialogues if they knew of his acting background.

2. Patol Babu was not a typical film star. He was not a well-known face in the industry. But he was passionate about acting and had tried his hands in theatre. He had never been in a film so when he got the chance to play a part in a film, he was overjoyed.

Patol Babu took in his stride the small role that he was offered by the film crew. At first he felt dejected because his role was not as significant. He just had one dialogue to deliver but later he regained his enthusiasm when he remembered what his mentor had told him - no matter how small the role is, it is not beneath anyone’s dignity to accept it. In fact, smaller roles make the play

or the film, complete. Soon, Patol Babu was seen rehearsing his monosyllabic dialogue over and over again. To make himself look more natural, he asked for a prop before the shoot. When the shoot was over, Patol Babu was praised by the director for his effortless performance. The fact that Patol Babu did not shy away from delivering a single dialogue and gave his absolute best, makes him no less than a star.

The title is not mocking, but sincere. It hails Patol Babu as a film star and nothing less. Even though he was not a full-time actor or a celebrity actor, he had the spirit of one.

DAY-4

Appreciating the Text

Answers

1. Patol Babu was a talented actor. He was well recognised by people for this.
2. Patol Babu, in spite of being an experienced stage actor, was a humble man.
3. Patol Babu felt a child-like joy when he was offered a role in a real film. It was a dream come true for him.
4. Patol Babu was a sincere and hard-working man. No matter what the job was, Patol Babu made sure to give his best.
5. Patol Babu was not materialistic. He played the part in the film, not for money but because he had a sincere passion for acting.

DAY-5

Non- Finite verbs

A non-finite verb is a verb form that does not show **tense**. In other words, you cannot tell if a sentence is in the past tense, present tense, or future tense by looking at a non-finite verb. Therefore, a non-finite verb is never the main verb in a sentence. (That's a **finite verb**.) There are three types of non-finite verbs:

- ❖ **Gerunds** (e.g., "baking," "singing").
- ❖ **Infinitives** (e.g., "to bake," "to sing").

- ❖ **Participles.** There are two types:
 - **Present Participles** (e.g., "baking," "singing").
 - **Past Participles** (e.g., "baked," "sung").

Non-finite verbs function as **nouns**, **adjectives**, or **adverbs** or combine with a finite verb for verb tense.

Examples of Non-finite Verbs

In each example, the non-finite verb is shaded and the finite verb (the main verb) is in bold. Note that you can tell whether the sentence is in the past tense, present tense, or future tense only by looking at the finite verbs (bold text). You cannot determine the tense by looking at the non-finite verbs (highlighted text).

Type	Telltale Sign	Example (Function)
Gerund	The "-ing" ending	Lee likes playing rugby. (noun)
Infinitive	Usually preceded by "to"	He wants to play rugby. (noun) He wants a game to play. (adjective) He begged to play. (adverb)
Participle	<p>Present Participle: The "-ing" ending</p> <p>Past Participle: Usually ends "-ed," "-d," "-t," "-en," or "-n"</p>	<p>Lee was the playing reserve. (adjective) We watched Lee playing rugby. (adjective) He is playing badly. (verb tense)</p> <p>The set-piece played failed. (adjective) He has played two games. (verb tense) The set-piece was played by Lee. (verb tense)</p>

Gerunds

A gerund is a noun formed from a verb. All gerunds end "-ing."

- ❖ Discovery **consists** of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.
- ❖ I **have** never taken any exercise except sleeping and resting.

Gerunds maintain some verb-like properties (e.g., they can take **objects** and be modified by **adverbs**). Therefore, a gerund will often appear in a **gerund phrase**, which consists of the gerund and any objects and modifiers. (In these examples, the gerund phrases are underlined, the gerunds are highlighted, and the main verb (the finite verb) is in bold.)

10. Art **is** making something out of nothing and selling it. (Musician Frank Zappa)

11. I **started** by photographing birds in my garden.

Infinitives

An **infinitive** is a verb form (often preceded by "to") that can function as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

9. **To win** **was** everything.

(Here, the infinitive is functioning as a noun. Compare this with "The victory was everything.")

10. It **is** the competition **to win**.

(Here, the infinitive is functioning as an adjective. Compare this with "It is the top competition.")

11. The man **paid** **to win**.

(Here, the infinitive is functioning as an adverb. It is modifying the verb "paid." Compare this with "The man paid so he could win." The clause "so he could win" is an **adverbial clause** of reason.)

An infinitive often appears in an **infinitive phrase**. An infinitive phrase consists of the infinitive and any objects and modifiers. (In these examples, the infinitive phrases are underlined, the infinitives are shaded, and the finite verbs (the main verbs) are in bold.)

2. She **needed** to find a lot of money quickly.

(The infinitive phrase is being used as a noun.)

3. I **showed** her the best way to make a Yorkshire pudding.

(The infinitive phrase is being used as an adjective.)

4. He **set** the camera to film whatever was eating his chickens.

(The infinitive phrase is being used as an adverb.)

Not all infinitives are preceded by "to." Infinitives also feature in verb chains after verbs like "could," "may," "should," and "would" (i.e., **auxiliary verbs**) and verbs like "to make" and "to let."

3. If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he **would** **keep** it in port forever. (Saint Thomas Aquinas)

4. **Let** them **eat** cake. (Queen of France Marie Antoinette)

Participles

A participle is a verb form that can function as an adjective. There are two types of participles: the present participle (ending "-ing") and the past participle (usually ending "-ed," "-d," "-t," "-en," or "-n").

Here are some participles being used as adjectives:

The Verb	The Present Participle	The Past Participle
To bake	the baking bread	the baked bread
To print	the printing document	the printed document
To lower	the lowering prices	the lowered prices

Here are some real-life examples:

1. A **stirring** dwarf we **do** allowance give before a **sleeping** giant. (Playwright William Shakespeare)
(Here, there are two **present participles** functioning as adjectives.)
2. Food **is** an important part of a **balanced** diet. (Author Fran Lebowitz)
(Here, the **past participle** is functioning as an adjective.)

Often, a participle heads up a **participle phrase** functioning as an adjective. (In the examples, the participle phrases are underlined, the participles are shaded, and the finite verbs (the main verbs) are in bold.)

1. **Drawing** on my fine command of the English language, I **said** nothing. (Writer Robert Benchley)
2. **Connected**" entirely by canals and footbridges, the Dutch village of Giethoorn **has** no roads.

Participles are also used to form verb tenses.

1. I **was** **eating** beans by candle light for a decade. (Actor Eric Andre)

(Here, a present participle helps to form the **past progressive tense**. Note that "eating" does not give away whether the verb is past, present, or future. Only "was" (the finite verb) does. "Was" tells us this is the past tense.)