

31

Truth

31.1 Objectives

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- read a short poem on your own
- notice how words and ideas are used creatively in it
- distinguish between the use of words and ideas in a poem and a prose piece.
- Appreciate the message of the poem

Have you ever been hurt by what someone said to you? Did the pain last for a long time? How did you feel? Think about your feelings at that time.

Look at the title of the poem.

It's 'Truth'.

Can truth sometimes cause pain or hurt someone?

Let us find out what the poet says about it.

Read through the whole poem once.

Stanza 1

Sticks and stones may break my bones

But words can also hurt me.

Stones and sticks break only skin

While words are ghosts that haunt me.

Stanza 2

Slant and curved the word swords fall

To pierce and stick inside me.

Bats and bricks may ache through bones

But words can mortify me

Stanza 3

Pain from words has left its scar

On mind and heart that's tender.

Cuts and bruises now have healed;

It's words that I remember.

By Barrie Wade

Discussion

Shall we now read the poem in detail? You must have noticed that it is in three parts. We call these parts stanzas. We find stanzas in poems. In stanza 1 the poet introduces the idea. In stanza 2 he develops it, and in stanza 3 he concludes it. What is this idea?

There is a saying in English:

Sticks and stones may break my bones

But words cannot hurt me.

The poet uses this saying with a change

The saying goes, "words cannot hurt me."

The poet says, “words can also hurt me.”

So, the poet writes about words and the pain they have caused him. This is the main idea of the poem.

Now, try to answer the following:

1. List at least five things that he compares words with.

2. Can you guess what all these things have in common in this poem?

Stanza – 1

Read the first stanza and answer the questions.

1. What two things, mentioned in the first stanza, can cause only physical injury?

2. ✓ Mark the correct answer.

Words are called ghosts because _____.

- (i) Words continue to trouble the mind for a long time.

- (ii) Words are invisible

- (iii) Words do not have bodies

- (iv) Words can reach inside.

Stanza – 2

Now, read the second stanza again. In these lines words are compared to swords. Notice the similarity in the spellings of the two words.

W. O. R. D. S. and S. W. O. R. D. S.

Try repeating the words ‘words fast. It will seem as if you are saying ‘swords’.

Answer the following questions:

1. Look for an expression in the first line which gives you a picture about words as swords.
-

2. Which word describes the effect of harsh words on the poet?
-

Stanza – 3

Read the third stanza again and answer the following questions:

1. What has left its scar on the mind and heart of the poet.
-

31.2 Overall Questions

1. Which word is used six times in the poem? Why is it repeated so many times?
 2. Why do words hurt much more than physical wounds?
-

31.3 Check Your Answers

1. Sticks, stones, swords, bats and bricks.
2. All these things can be used as weapons to hurt people.

Stanza – 1

1. Sticks and stones
2. Words continue to trouble the mind for a long time.

Stanza – 2

1. Slant and curved
2. Mortify

Stanza – 3

1. The pain of words has left its mark on the heart and mind of the poet.

Overall Questions

1. 'Words'. It has been repeated so many times because it is the theme word. The poet is telling us about the pain the words can cause.
2. Words hurt much more than physical wounds because they stay in our minds for a long time.

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The Return of the Lion

32.1 Objectives

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- read and enjoy a play
- use adverbs
- use different prefixes
- describe a situation

32.2 Let's Read

Shivaji was a brave Maratha King. Once, Aurangzeb, the Moghul King captured and imprisoned him. Did Shivaji escape? How did he do so?

[Read the play once. Then try reading it again, imagining that you are the characters in the play. You'll enjoy reading the play, this way]

SHIVAJI : The ruler of nearly all of Maharashtra

JIJABAI : Shivaji's mother

MANTRI¹ : The *Chronicler*² of Shivaji

SACHIV² : The *Superintendent*⁴ of Letters

RAM DAS : Shivaji's teacher and companion, and a poet

SOYABAI : Shivaji's wife and Sambhaji's mother

PANDIT RAO :

FOSTER- MOTHER⁵ of Sambhaji

Glossary

1. *Mantri (in Hindi) : a minister*
2. *Chronicler : one who keeps records or chronicle*
3. *Sachiv (in Hindi) : a secretary*
4. *Superintendent : the Head of a Department, advisor*
5. *Foster- Mother: One who looks after a child, like a mother.*

Section I

Officers of Shivaji's Court

An attendant in Maratha uniform

[A room in the fort of Rajgarh near Poona. Jijabai, Shivaji's mother, is sitting on a small throne. She is surrounded by officers of the court. Among them are the Mantri, the Sachiv, Pandit Rao and the poet Ram Das who has an open letter on his knee. In a corner, Soyabai, Shivaji's wife and Sambhaji's mother, is sitting quietly; and by her side is Sambhaji's foster-mother who is an older woman. The two of them are talking softly.]

Jijabai : I can't believe that my son is dead. The letter is a hoax.

Ram Das : But the letter is from Agra

Jijabai : And therefore it is a hoax. When did Aurangzeb tell the truth? Did he not make false promises to my son?

Ram Das : It was Jai Singh who made those promises to our Raja.

Jijabai : I know that; but can Jai Singh ever make a promise on his own? Surely, the slave spoke for the master

Mantri : We're in a terribly bad way. Aurangzeb has laid traps for us everywhere. Bijapur is about to strike. Discontent is spreading among our own men.

They may revolt any day. And there is no news about Shivaji. We don't know what to do.

- Sachiv : (sadly) The letter says that Shivaji is dead, but it doesn't say how he died.
- Jijabai : (Sternly) Listen! I, your Raja's mother and your Regent, say the letter is a hoax. Don't speak about it any more.
- Soyabai : (*anxiously*) Does the letter say nothing about my dear boy Sambhaji:
- Jijabai : Keep quiet, girl. You're not the only mother here. I say the lion and his cub will soon return to their kingdom. They can't stay long in the fox's den. Mantriji, listen to me. Raise the pay and increase the rations of the soldiers. Send useful gifts to their wives and sweets and toys to their children. I'll pay for everything out of my private purse. And please tell them that the Raja is at Varanasi and will return before long. Tell them also that all the great astrologers at Varanasi have studied Shivaji's horoscope and they all say that nothing can stop him from becoming the lord of the whole of Maharashtra. Keep the soldiers and priests contented and happy, and they will believe your words. (addressing all those present there in a changed voice) Friends! I've grown old and weak. I haven't many years to live. Help me to live till my brave boy returns to me. Don't say he is dead.
- All Men : Our Raja's mother will live! The Queen Regent will live! Our Raja will return to us. We'll pray for his safe return.
- Jijabai : Well said, my brave friends. Tomorrow I'll say my special prayers to our family goddess Bhawani. She gave him to me, and I'm, sure she'll bring him back to me. (turning to Soyabai) Soyabai, my child don't worry. Your son as well as mine are soon going to return to us.

32.1 Read, Think and Answer I

A. Tick the most suitable answer

1. Jijabai told her Mantri :

- (a) to get the soldiers ready for war by giving them guns
- (b) to send sweets to the soldiers
- (c) to give soldier's wives gifts and keep them happy

2. Where was Shivaji?

- (a) He had gone hunting with Sambaji.

- (b) He had been taken prisoner by Aurangzeb.
- (c) He had gone to Varanasi to consult the astrologers.

3. Jijabai was sad because

- (a) she was old and ill and likely to die soon.
- (b) She was lonely without anyone beside her.
- (c) She thought her son Shivaji was dead.

4. Ram Das was

- (a) Shivaji's minister and leader of the army.
- (b) Sambaji's teacher and companion
- (c) A court poet and Shivaji's teacher and companion.

32.3 Section II

(Footsteps and a slight noise outside)

Sachiv : What's that?

Ram Das : Perhaps someone wants to see us. (An attendant, who is a tall Maratha in uniform, enters and bows three times to Jijabai)

Attendant : Rani Saheba, there are three holy men at the gate outside. They want to see you.

Jijabai : Where do they come from?

Attendant : I think they're from the north. They say they're bairagi sadhus.

Jijabai : What can their business be?

Attendant : Perhaps they've come to beg from you. They must have heard of your charity. They're poor men in rags. Their heads are shaven and their arms and faces are painted grey with ashes.

Jijabai : They are holy men, and they have come from a far-off place. I cannot say no to them. I need their blessings. Let them come in

(The attendant bows three times again and goes out. Soyabai and Sambhaji's foster mother move up nearer to the throne.)

Sachiv : May I leave now, Rani Saheba? My secretary must be waiting for me.

Jijabai : Please stay a while. These holy men have come from the north. Perhaps they have news for us about the Raja. Ah, my heart beats.

(The attendant enters again with three sadhus who seem to be poor, humble men dressed in rags. Two of them are tall and the third is a small man who does not look up)

Ram Das : (rising and joining the palms of his hands) Welcome, holy men.

First Sadhu : God bless you, holy guru!

Second Sadhu : God bless this house!

(The third sadhu joins the palms of his hands in greeting but say nothing. He keeps his eyes fixed on the ground.)

Jijabai : *(to the third sadhu)* Have you no words to bless us with, holy man? Why don't you say something?

First Sadhu : He has taken a vow of silence, noble lady.

Jijabai : I see *(Thinks)*

First Sadhu : Stories of your wisdom and your kindness to the poor have reached distant places. We've travelled a long way to see you.

Jijabai : You're most welcome to this house and to stay here as long as you wish.

Second Sadhu : At Varanasi we met a Brahman who told us that your son Shivaji had gone to Agra and that your were ruling for him.

Jijabai : What else did you hear about Shivaji?

Second Sadhu: One day we met a band of horsemen. They said the Raja had been put in prison by Aurangzeb.

Jijabai : The lion won't stay long in that dirty den. What else did you hear? Tell me.

First Sadhu : That's all we heard, noble lady. We wish we knew more, but we don't. We're men of peace and spend most of our time in temples and lonely places.

Jijabai : True, Holy men have nothing to do with war and fighting. Come, give me your blessings. I need them badly. I'm *dying* to see my son.

(The first and the second sadhus bless her. The third does nothing)

Jijabai : (to the third Sadhu) If you don't want to bless me, you may curse me and I'll die cheerfully. I can't live without my son. (He falls at her feet. She passes her hands gently over his face, utters a cry and draws his head to her breast.)

It's my son! It's my son! My son has come back to me! Shivaji has come back! The Lord of Maharashtra has come back! The lion has come back from the fox's den!

All : Long live Shivaji! Long live the Lord of Maharashtra!

Shivaji : (rising) Yes, Shivaji has escaped from the fox's den and the vulture's claws. I've come back to my mother, my friends and my people.

Soyabai : (nervously) Dear husband, have you left my son behind in the hands of the enemy.

Shivaji : No, I haven't. he's quite safe with friends. Don't worry about him. He'll be with you in a few days. (Looks round and sees Ram Das.) Sir, your pupil has returned to you. Won't you advise him and guide him as you've always done? (turning to others) Friends, come closer. Your Raja has come back safe from the spider's web. Be happy and rejoice. Today we'll give a feast to the poor. Light the torches on the hill –tops and illuminate the palace. Fire the guns and shout that the Raja has returned to his people.

All : We'll do all this; and we'll feast and sing and dance. Long live Shivaji! Long live Jijabai! Long live Maharashtra!

32.2 Read think and Answer II

Match the following to complete the sentences

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Jijabai agrees to see the three bairagi sadhus | (a) Shivaji was captured by Aurangzeb |
| 2. The sadhus informed her that | (b) to bless her |
| 3. The third sadhu | (c) she couldn't see her son Sambaji |
| 4. Jijabai asked the sadhus | (d) because they had come from far off places |
| 5. Soyabai was sad because | (e) remained silent. |

32.4 Overall Questions

Arrange the sentences in the right order.

1. Three sadhus came to meet Jijabai.
2. The queen asked the third sadhu to bless her.
3. Jijabai got a letter announcing her son's death.
4. She identified the third sadhu.
5. The sadhus told the court that Shivaji had been put in prison by Aurangzeb.
6. She asked her mantri to take gifts for the soldiers.
7. Every one was happy.

32.5 Let's Learn Grammar

(A) Adverbs

Do you know how Adverbs help a Verb? They add something extra to the meaning of a verb.

Eg. He laughed loudly. How did he laugh? The answer is – loudly.

(B) You can change certain words into Adverbs by adding adding the suffix –**ly** at the end of the words.

e.g. loud + ly ————— loudly

happy + ly ————— happily

Adverbs which tell us how an action was done are called **Adverbs of Manner**.

(C) Choose a **suitable word** from the brackets and use it to complete the sentences. (Remember to use the right form of the word)

e.g. She laughed _____ (happy/slow)

She laughed happily

1. She looked _____ at her broken doll. (happy/sad)
2. The man stared _____ at the boy who broke the window. (kind/stern)

3. She looked _____. (anxious/rude) out of the window to see if he was coming.
4. I like to write _____ (neat/untidy) so that my work looks good.
5. He's popular because he always speaks _____ (polite/rude)

Exercise

Make Adverbs with the words given below. Check your answers with the rules given in A

1. beautiful _____
2. dutiful _____
3. sorrowful _____
4. pretty _____
5. naughty _____
6. happy _____
7. horrible _____
8. reasonable _____
9. honourable _____
10. delightful _____

Adverbial Antonyms (Opposites)

Choose a suitable word as an Antonym (opposite). Strike out the wrong word.

e.g. happily **sadly**

1. timidly - (honestly/boldly)
2. discontentedly - (happily/sadly)
3. sternly - (shyly/kindly)
4. softly - (bravely/loudly)
5. anxiously - (happily/hopefully)
6. weakly - (strongly/tidily)
7. safely - (dangerously/prettily)
8. cheerfully - (sorrowfully/cruelly)
9. loosely - (tightly/victoriously)
10. slowly - (bravely/quickly)

Role Play

A. Ask your friends to join you. You can enact the play for your parents.

Or

B. You along with a group of your friends, can read the play loudly before an audience.

32.6 Increase Your Word Power

Prefixes

A prefix is a syllable which combines with the beginning of a root word to modify its meaning.

e. g. Dis –content

Dis – means **not**. Content means **satisfied** or **happy**.

Dis **is a negative prefix**. It gives a negative meaning to a word.

1. Add dis- to the words and rewrite them

1. Satisfy _____ 3. Obey _____

2. Like _____ 4. Loyal _____

2. We can also use other negative prefixes like non, un, in, im to make the negative forms of words.

Non	un	in	im
___smoking	___do	___decent	___possible
___sense	___lock	___complete	___polite
___violence	___well	___human	___patient

3. Add a suitable prefix to the word in brackets and complete each sentence.

I _____ (like) bitter medicine.

I **dislike** bitter medicine.

1. He is _____ (loyal) to Shivaji

2. He speaks _____ (sense) all the time.

3. Please _____ (lock) the door.
4. His work is _____ (complete).
5. Is it _____ (polite) to take loudly?

32.7 Let's Write

Use the following hints/clues to describe how Shivaji and his son escaped from Aurangzeb's court.

_____ sent for two big basket _____ sweets _____ told _____ guards
 _____ sent the basket _____ temple _____ both _____ hid in
 _____ top seen _____ guards _____ sweet _____ escaped _____ helped
 by loyal followers.

32.8 Check Your Answers

Read, Think and Answer I

A 1) c 2) b 3) a 4) c

Read, think and answer II

1)d 2)a 3) e 4)b
 5)c

Overall questions

a) 3 b) 6 c) 1 d) 5 e)2
 f)4 g)7

Let's Learn Grammar

(C) 1. Sadly 2. Sternly 3. Anxiously
 4. neatly 5. Politely

(1) 1. Dissatisfy 2. Dislike 3. Disobey 4. Disloyal

English

(2) nonsmoking undo indecent impossible
nonsense unlock incomplete impolite
nonviolence unwell inhuman impatient

(3) 1. Disloyal 2. Nonsense 3. Unlock
4. incomplete 5. Impolite

B.

1. beautifully 2. dutifully 3. Sorrowfully
4. prettily 5. Naughtily 6. Happily
7. horribly 8. Reasonably 9. Honourably
10. delightfully

C.

1. boldly 2. Happily 3. Kindly 4. Loudly 5. hopefully
6. strongly 7. Dangerously 8. Sorrowfully 9. Tightly 10. quickly