SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION

(Elective Group 4 : American Literature : Paper-IV)

19th Century American Literature

For

M. A. Part-I
Centre for Distance Education
Shivaji University, Kolhapur

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Prof. (Dr.) N. J. Pawar
Vice-Chancellor,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Dr. A. B. Rajge
Director BCUD,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Dr. B. M. Hirdekar
Controller of Examination
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Dr. (Smt.) Vasanti Rasam
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Prof. (Dr.) B. S. Sawant
Dean, Faculty of Commerce,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Dr. T. B. Jagtap
Dean, Faculty of Science,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Dr. K. N. Sangale
Dean, Faculty of Education,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Dr. D. V. Muley
Registrar,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Shri. B. S. Patil
Finance and Accounts Officer,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Prof. (Dr.) U. B. Bhoite
Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg,
Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune.

Prof. (Dr.) A. N. Joshi
Director, School of Education,
Y. C. M. O. U. Nashik.

Shri. J. R. Jadhav
Dean, Faculty of Arts & Fine Arts,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Prof. (Dr.) S. A. Bari
Director, Distance Education,
Kuvempu University, Karnataka.

Prof. Dr. (Smt.) Cima Yeole
(Member Secretary)
Director, Centre for Distance Education,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

B. O. S. MEMBERS OF ENGLISH

Chairman- Shri. J. A. Mhetre
Lal Bahadur Shastri College of Arts, Science and Commerce, 17, Malhar Peth, Satara

- Prof. (Dr.) P. A. Attar
  Professor and Head, Dept. of English,
  Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

- Shri. B. M. Ladgaonkar,
  Yashwantrao Chavan Warna
  Mahavidyalaya, Warananagar,
  Dist. Kolhapur.

- Shri. S. V. Shelake
  Raje Ramrao Mahavidyalaya, Jath,
  Dist. Sangli.

- Shri. Pandurang Rangrao Shewale
  Shri. Shahaji Chh. College, 296, 'C',
  Dasara Chowk, Kolhapur.

- Shri. S. D. Thorat
  Kai. Sou. Malati V. Patil Kanya
  Mahavidyalaya, Urun-Islampur, Tal. Walwa,
  Dist. Sangli.

- Shri. G. M. Shikalgar,
  Bhogawati Mahavidyalaya, Kurukail,

- Dr. Ashok Thorat
  10, Usha Manor, Body Gate Bus Stop,
  Ganeshkhind Road, Aundh, Pune.

- Dr. Shreedhar Gokhale
  Professor, Dept. of English,
  Poona University, Poona, Aundh Pune.

- Dr. Rajagopal G.
  English and Foreign Languages
  University, Hyderabad.
## Writing Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author’s Name</th>
<th>Unit No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. I. R. Draxi</td>
<td>1, 3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Co-ordinator, Centre for Distance Education, Shivaji University, Kolhapur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri. P. A. Patil</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miraj Mahavidyalaya, Miraj</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri. J. A. Mhetre</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Commerce College, Nagthane, Dist. Satara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri. P. B. Patil</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Shiv-Shahu Mahavidyalaya, Sarud</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Dilawar Y. Jamadar</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vishwasrao Naik Mahavidyalaya, Shirala, Dist. Sangli</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Editors

**Dr. I. R. Draxi**  
Regional Co-ordinator,  
Centre for Distance Education  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur  

**Shri. J. A. Mhetre**  
Chairman, B.O.S. in English  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur  
Lal Bahadur Shastri College, Satara.
Dear Learner,

19th Century American Literature is an optional paper No. 4 (Elective Group 4, American Literature : Paper-IV) at M. A. Part-I. The Syllabus contains - Four general topics; four novels; six short stories and eight poems. The general topics throw light on the prevailing social conditions and their reflection on literature. The students of American literature in that particular age would not only affect but also shape the literary work. The remaining topics, novels, short stories and poems, are other components of American literature. All these topics are covered in the book. The learners have to read and refer a number of books, given at the end of each Chapter. It is rather difficult for the distant learners to get all these books and understand on their own without the help of a teacher.

Realizing this problem of the distant learners, Shivaji University has undertaken the responsibility of preparing 'Self Instructional Material' in most of the subjects. This book is also prepared keeping in mind the needs, difficulties and problems of the distant learners.

Each unit in this book begins with the objectives followed by an introduction of the topic. It is divided into sections as per the syllabus, so that the students will feel comfortable when they go through it. There are comprehension questions given under the heading "Check Your Progress" which will enable them to self-evaluate their understanding of the topic. The answers to these questions are given at the end of the unit.

The learners will find the book easy to understand because the language used in it is simple. The difficult words are glossed. The list of reference books is also provided under each unit for additional reading. The exercises will definitely help them to prepare well for the examination.

The editors have been fortunate to receive encouragement, guidance and co-operation from many people in accomplishing this great task. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all who contributed to the making of this book.

Editors
## CONTENTS

1. **A)** Puritanism 1  
   **B)** Transcendentalism 8  

2. **A)** The Frontier 15  
   **B)** The Adamic Myth 20  

3. The Awakening - Kate Chopin 27  

4. Blithedale Romance - Nathaniel Hawthorne 48  

5. 'Billy Budd, Sailor' - Herman Melville 71  


7. Short Stories - O. Henry 121  


(vii)
Each Unit begins with the section Objectives -

Objectives are directive and indicative of:

1. What has been presented in the Unit and
2. What is expected from you
3. What you are expected to know pertaining to the specific Unit once you have completed working on the Unit.

The self check exercises with possible answers will help you to understand the Unit in the right perspective. Go through the possible answer only after you write your answers. These exercises are not to be submitted to us for evaluation. They have been provided to you as Study Tools to help keep you in the right track as you study the Unit.
Unit-1 (A)  
PURITANISM

Index
1.1 Objectives
1.2 Introduction
1.3 Puritanism
   1.3.1 Self Assessment Questions
1.4 Model Answers of Self-Assessment Questions
1.5 Summary
1.6 Exercises
   1.6.1 Broad Questions with Answers
1.7 Activities/ Field Work
1.8 Further Reading

1.1 Objectives :
   After studying this unit, you will be able to :
   ● Know the significance of the general topic that has shaped American literature
   ● examine the general topic in relation to American literature
   ● understand the impact of Puritanism on different forms of literature
   ● trace impact of Puritanism on Nathaniel Hawthorne
   ● know the history and development of Puritanism.

1.2 Introduction :
   One of the chief problems in the study of any literature is to understand the relationship existing between that literature and the social milieu in which it was produced.
Literature tends to reflect the dominant tendencies of its era and to grow out of the moral, social, and intellectual ferment impinging upon the sensibilities of literary men. Particularly this is true of American literature.

The students of American literature should note that the conditions prevailing in that particular age would not only affect but also shape the literary work. The influence of the Puritanism can be traced in the novels and short stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne and a host of others The Frontier, the Adamic myth, Transcendentalism and Puritanism reflect the tendencies of the age. With this perspective at the back of mind, let us see these general topics what the role they have played in shaping American literature.

1.3 Puritanism

1.3.1 Self Assessment Questions

(a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/ sentence each :

1. How is the word "Puritan" formed?
2. What is Puritanism?
3. What type of movement Puritanism is?
4. Which book inspired the Puritans?
5. Who influenced the Puritans most?
6. What are the four basic tenets of Puritanism?
7. Who were the transcendentalists profoundly affected by Puritanism?

(b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option :

1. The Puritans who come to settle down in New England were from _____.
   (a) England (b) Russia (c) Germany (d) France
2. The Calvinists were the followers of _____.
   (a) John Bunyan (b) Jean Calvin
   (c) John Milton (d) Martin Luther
3. The Puritans believed that they had found the truth as revealed in the _____.
   (a) The Bible   (b) The Gita   (c) The Quran   (d) The Upanishads

4. The two dominant themes of the Puritans are _____.
   (a) Love and Hate   (b) Love and Marriage
   (c) Love and War   (d) Sin and predestination

5. The Church of England was established by _____.
   (a) Henry VIII   (b) Queen Elizabeth (c) John Milton (d) Coverdale

6. _____ had shaped the course of the Reformation in Germany.
   (a) Martin Luther   (b) Zwingli   (c) Calvin   (d) Johnn Tetzel

1.4 Model Answers of Self-Assessment Questions.

Sub-Section 1.3.1 (a)

1. Puritan is formed from the Latin word Puritas.

2. Puritanism is a religious movement which has had such a significant role to play in the histories of the United States.

3. Puritanism is a religious movement.

4. The Puritans were influenced by The Bible most.

5. The Puritans were mostly influenced by the French religious reformer, Jean Calvin.

6. Total Depravity; Limited Atonement; Irresistible Grace and Predestination.

7. Nathaniel Hawthorne was influenced by Puritanism.

Sub-Section 1.3.1 (b)

1) a 2) b 3) a 4) d 5) a 6) a

1.5 Summary:

Puritanism is a religious movement. The movement played a significant role in the histories of the United States, England and Germany.
The word "Puritan" is formed from the Latin word "Puritas" which means "purity". The King of England, Henry VIII, established his own church. This irked the Puritans because they felt that the Roman Catholic Church was in danger. They raised their voices against the King. The result was that the King gave an order to execute all the Puritans. The Puritans ran away, and came to settle down in New England, in the north part of America.

The Puritans believed in the Bible as the source of all authority, accepted "inner light" as a source of understanding and maintained a rigid faith in hard work and duty. They were mostly influenced by the French religious reformer, Jean Calvin (1509-1574) whose belief in "Predestination" and "Grace" they fully accepted. According to the theory of "Grace", God's ways are unknown to men. Men only have to work hard and pray hopefully, but which souls are to be saved and whose to be condemned is not decided by one's devotion to God and the holiness of one's life, but by God Himself, although purity of thought and action is important. Hence, all life was a stage for the constant struggle between the forces of good (God) and evil (Satan).

There were four basic tenets of Puritanism. They are:

1. Total Depravity is the first tenet. Adam and Eve, the creations of God, were in the Garden of Eden; they were tempted by the devil. Because of disobedience to God, they were thrown out of Eden. Belief in the fact of the fall was the basis of all Puritan thought. Puritans believed that with this fall came Total Depravity; that is, all nature and all humans were corrupted and incapable of perfection; 'In Adam's Fall/ We sinned all', as the New England primer pithily expressed it.

2. Limited Atonement is the second tenet. Contrary to the belief that Christ's crucifixion had made redemption available to all, the Puritans believed in Limited Atonement; that is, only a minority, called the elect, were to be saved. The majority were damned or reprobate.

3. Irresistible Grace is the third tenet. The doctrine stated that the condition of being elect or reprobate was unalterable.

4. The fourth tenet is predestination. As in the Calvinistic doctrine of predestination, God had determined the course of human history since the beginning of time, and this included deciding who would be damned and who
saved. Good works could not bring about salvation, although it was believed that individuals could show a readiness for grace by moral conduct.

Because of rigid principles of Puritanism, the influence in the colonies waned with increased immigration of non-Puritans. The critics of Puritanism have seen it as a blight on American history and culture. Ezra Pound called Puritanism 'blood poison' in a 1920 letter to William Carlos Williams. It has been held responsible for the American repression of sexuality, a fear of the body, a dualistic world view, the denigration of women and the cultivation of censoriousness.

In addition to the rich legacy of Puritan Literature, Puritanism profoundly affected many later American writers, including Hawthorne, Melville, T. S. Eliot and Emily Dickinson.

1.6 Exercises :

1. What is Puritanism?
2. What are the characteristics of Puritanism?
3. What were the efforts of Martin Luther in regard to the establishment of the Protestant Church?
4. In between 1630 and 1640 how many Puritans emigrated in the United States.
5. Trace the influence of Puritanism on Hawthorne.
6. What are the limitations of Puritanism?
7. Which were the Puritan themes that bothered Hawthorne?

1.6.1 Exercises with Model Answers.

A.1 What is Puritanism? Mention its characteristics.

OR

Trace the impact of Puritanism on Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville.

What is Puritanism? Puritanism is a "spiritual movement": which developed under Elizabeth I (late 16 century), blossomed in the Interregnum (1640's and 1650's), and withered in the persecution between the Restoration (1660) and Toleration (1689).
Because of The Civil War (1638-1642) and the execution of King Charles I made enemies out of the Puritans and the King's supporters. After the Restoration (1660), the Puritans were persecuted by the civic authorities and they left England to settle in America, where the Mayflower expedition (1620) had already seen them settled in New England.

The Puritans in New England established as Congregationalist Church in close association with their political rulers. Heretics and Dissidents were not accepted by them, and religion was the basis of this society. The priests were appointed by ability rather than by official patronage. The puritans were very strict in the their principles. Those who did not attend Church for worship were severely punished. Members of the community were denied the freedom.

The Bible was the source of understanding and maintained a rigid faith in hard work and duty. They were mostly influenced by the French religious reformer, Jean Calvin whose belief in "predestination" and "Grace" they fully accepted. According to the theory of "Elections" or "Grace", God's ways are unknown to men. Men only have to work hard and pray hopefully, but which souls are to be saved and whose to be condemned is not decided by one's devotion to God and the holiness of one's life, but by God Himself, although purity of thought and action is important. Hence, all life was a stage for the constant struggle between the forces of good (God) and evil (Satan).

This theme of struggle between good and evil is presented in most of the poets, the novelists and the dramatists John Milton's Paradise Lost, John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress, Christopher Marlowe's Dr. Faustus are good examples in this regard.

Nathaniel Hawthorne imbibed most of the views of his Puritan ancestors. He projected Puritanism in his novels such as The Scarlet Letter and The House of the Seven Gables. Herman Melville was equally influenced by this theme. He projected this theme in his masterpiece Moby Dick. The puritan themes of the universality of sin and "Predestination" also bothered Hawthorne's mind. The tales like "The Young Goodman Brown" and "Ethan brand" are good examples in this regard.

Critics of Puritanism have seen it as a blight on American history and culture. Ezra Pound called it "blood poison". It has been held responsible for the American
repression of sexuality, a fear of the body, a dualistic world view, the denigration of women and the cultivation of censoriousness.

Despite its limitations, one could notice that Puritanism, even in the later periods, profoundly affected many later American writers like Emily Dickinson, T. S. Eliot and a host of others.

1.7 Activities/ Field Work :
1. Make a list of the puritans who have influenced English literature.
2. Point out the Puritanical atmosphere prevailing in New England during the times of Nathaniel Hawthorne.

1.8 Further Reading :
Unit-1 (B)

TRANSCENDENTALISM

Index
1.1 Objectives
1.2 Introduction
1.3 Transcendentalism
   1.3.1 Self Assessment Questions
1.4 Model Answers of Self-Assessment Questions
1.5 Summary
1.6 Exercises
   1.6.1 Broad Questions with Answers
1.7 Activities/ Field Work
1.8 Further Reading

1.1 Objectives:

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

- know the significance of the general topic that has shaped American literature
- examine the general topic in relation to American literature
- see how transcendentalism is formed.
- know the characteristics of transcendentalism
- know who were the British writers influenced the transcendentalists
- trace various transcendentalists and their respective contribution
- know different forms of literature such as Essay, Short Story, Novel, Gothic tales
- know the rise of American individualism and the American dream
1.2 Introduction

1.3 Transcendentalism

1.3.1 Self Assessment Questions

a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/sentence each:
   1. What is transcendentalism?
   2. Who were the transcendentalists?
   3. Who were the British writers influenced the transcendentalists?
   4. Which was the famous magazine that R. W. Emerson edited?
   5. Who wrote The American Scholar?
   6. Who was the Indian politician influenced by Civil Disobedience?
   7. What does Moby Dick symbolize?
   8. In which novel does the character Hester Prynne appear?
   9. To whom does the title O Captain ! My Captain refer to?
  10. What was the name of the poet who wrote “The Raven”?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct options:
   1. Emerson's first major work was _____.
      (a) The Dial         (b) Nature
      (c) The American Scholar  (d) Self-Reliance
   2. The Scarlet Letter was written by _____.
      (a) Emerson       (b) Thoreau    (c) Hawthorne    (d) Melville
   3. The composer of The Leaves of Grass was _____.
      (a) Walt Whitman    (b) Herman Melville
      (c) Nathaniel Hawthorne     (d) E. A. Poe
4. Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque appeared in _____.
   (a) 1940  (b) 1840  (c) 1950  (d) 1810

5. Of these transcendentalists, _____ was a composer of the art of short story.
   (a) E. A. Poe  (b) Walt Whitman  (c) Emerson  (d) Thoreau

1.4 Model Answers of Self-Assessment Questions.

Sub-Section 1.3.1 (a)

1. Transcendentalism is a literary, religious and philosophical movement originating in New England.

2. The transcendentalists are - Bronson Alcott, Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Thoreau, E. A. Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Whitman.

3. The British writers who influenced the transcendentalists are William Wordsworth, S. T. Coleridge and Carlyle.

4. The name of the magazine is The Dial.

5. Emerson wrote The American Scholar.

6. M. K. Gandhi was influenced by Civil Disobedience.

7. Moby Dick symbolizes evil.


9. The title O Captain! My Captain refers to Abraham Lincoln.

10. E. A. Poe wrote The Raven

Sub-Section 1.3.1 (b)

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

1.5 Summary:

Transcendentalism is a literary and philosophical movement in New England in the early and middle part of the 19th century. It gave expression to several strains of thought:

1) the weakening of Calvinistic views about the corruption of human nature;
2) the rise of Romantic attitudes toward the pervasiveness of the divine and the inherent power of the individual imagination;

3) and the frustration with what was seen as the polite and unemotional rationalism of Unitarian thought.

Once considered to have derived from European movements, it is now generally seen as a development of native tendencies.

Centered on Boston and Concord, some of its most notable voices were those of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Margaret Fuller and Bronson Alcott. The British writers such as William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Thomas Carlyle profoundly influenced these writers.

Transcendentalism was opposed to the idea that man needed an intercessor through which to reach the divine, and was critical of formalized religion. Like the physical universe itself, all constructive practical activity, all great literature, all forms of spiritual awareness were viewed as an expression of the divine spirit. The oft-expressed ambition was to achieve vivid perception of the divine as it operates in common life, an awareness seen as leading at once to personal cultivation and to a sense of history as an at least potentially progressive movement.

1.6 Exercises:

1. Explain the meaning of the term 'Transcendentalism' and show its treatment in 19th century American literature.

2. What was the contribution of R. W. Emerson to transcendentalism?

3. Discuss Walt Whitman as a poet of democracy.


1.6.1 Exercises with model Answers:

Q.1 Explain the meaning of the term 'Transcendentalism' and show its treatment in 19th century American Literature.

Like Puritanism, Transcendentalism also played an important role in the 19th century American literature. The pioneers of this movement not only enriched American literature but also paved the way for the coming writers. In addition to
this, these pioneers broke out the old traditions and established their own distinctive form of literature.

What is transcendentalism? Transcendentalism was a philosophical dissent from Unitarianism, which represented the compromise of rational Deism with Calvinism, relating to the rationalist's acceptance of liberal scientific thought and rejecting extreme concepts concerning the original depravity and the inherited guilt of man. The rising young transcendentalists asserted that the Unitarian creed had become conventional and complacently in its orthodox fidelity to Christian dogmas of supernaturalism. They rejected Locke's materialistic psychology in favour of the idealism of the German thinker Immanuel Kant who declared that the "transcendental" knowledge in the mind of man was innate. Following the philosophy of Kant, they asserted the doctrine of correspondence between the microcosmos of the individual mind and the macrocosmos over-soul of the universe, and they derived an enlarged conception of the sanctity of the individual and his freedom to follow his intuitional knowledge.

The American Transcendentalists were influenced by British writers as Wordsworth, Coleridge and Carlyle; Kant, Hegel, Fichte, Schelling, Goethe, Richter, Harder influenced the transcendentalists with their philosophy; Greek philosophers like Plato, the Sufis, and the writers of the Upanishads and the Bhagavad-Gita, and the Buddhists and the eclectic idealists profoundly influenced the transcendentalists.

These transcendentalists used to meet at Emerson's Concord house, and through their magazine The Dial, they published their philosophy. "Book Farm" (1841) and "Fruit Lands" (1842) were agrarian experiments in communal living, supported briefly by the transcendentalists concerned with the social order.

'Nature' was the first comprehensive expression of American Transcendentalism. Emerson provided a fresh and lyrical intimation of many of the leading ideas that developed in various essays and poems.

Thoreau's transcendentalism was empirical, not theological. He did what he felt to be right and publicly opposed what he felt to be wrong. If Emerson believed in Man, Thoreau believed in men. Both were the party of Hope against the party of Memory, and were symbolic of a New England turn from Calvinism through Unitarianism to a belief in man. Both wrote and lived as if the 'American Adam' were more possibility than myth. Walden is his famous book.
Whitman came to transcendentalism by way of his mother’s Quakerism, and Carlyle’s and Hegel’s writings, but Emerson was the immediate influence. The Leaves of Grass was his momental work. Through his book, he taught the philosophy of democracy. He believed in the transforming power of love in humanity and in life. Whitman was theoretically the answer of Emerson’s prayer, as he was also the voice of the land of Promise, the first wholly unique one to emerge from American continent.

Nathaniel Hawthorne satirized Book Farm in his novel The Blithedale Romance. The Scarlet Letter was his another novel in which he has bitterly satirized Puritanism. Herman Melville satirized Puritanism in his novel Moby Dick.

These transcendentalists – Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Whitman – seem to differ from one another more than they agree. First, they are divergent in temperament; second, they are different in their choice of subject matter and literary form; thirdly, they differ in their interest and capacity for sustained philosophical thought. Despite their differences, they have certain common things. These writers have a profound sense of human predicament. They are worried about the problem of man. They all believe that individual virtue and happiness depends upon self realization and the self realization depends upon the harmonious reconciliation of two universal psychological tendencies. The five writers have a common assumption. They think that intuition and imagination offer a surer road to truth than abstract logic or scientific method. Finally, these five writers were able to deduce a consequence of immense practical importance not only for their own work but for the subsequent course of American literature as a whole.

To conclude, American literature of 19th century was developed, and enriched by these writers. They are unforgettable for their philosophy. They prepared the way for the coming writers.

1.7 Activities/ Field Work :

1. Write a note on every transcendentalist and find out the differences in between them.

2. Take the help of Internet for further study.
1.8 Further Reading:


Unit-2 (A)
THE FRONTIER

Index :

2.1 Objectives
2.2 Introduction
2.3 The Frontier
   2.3.1 Self Assessment Questions
2.4 Model Answers of Self-Assessment Questions
2.5 Summary
2.6 Exercises
   2.6.1 Broad Questions with Answers
2.7 Activities/ Field Work
2.8 Further Reading

2.1 Objectives :

After studying this unit, you will be able to :

- know the significance of the general topic that has shaped American Literature
- examine the general topic in relation to American literature
- know different implications of the frontier
- know how the frontier provided basic qualities like optimism
- acknowledge Thark Twain's contribution to American humour.
2.2 Introduction

2.3 The Frontier

2.3.1 Self-Assessment Questions:

(a) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each:

1. Who wrote Frontier Thesis?
2. Who is the author of Leather Stocking Tales?
3. What do you mean by the frontier?
4. How do you distinguish the American frontier from the European frontier?
5. What was the pen name of Samuel Clemens?

(b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:

1. Roughing It was written by _____.
   a) Hamlin Garland b) Sinclair Lewis c) Willa Cather d) Mark Twain
2. Mark Twain suffered from the disease ____.
   a) cancer b) tuberculosis c) swine-flu d) cholera
3. The important contribution of the Frontier to the American literature was ____.
   a) Irony b) Satire c) Humour d) Metaphor
4. Davy Crockett published his autobiography in ____.
   a) 1834 b) 1846 c) 1872 d) 1976
5. Huckleberry Finn was published in ____.
   a) 1885 b) 1883 c) 1876 d) 1873

2.4 Model Answers of Self-Assessment questions.

Sub-Section 2.3.1 (a):

1. Frontier Thesis was written by Frederick Jackson Turner
2. The author of Leather Stocking Tales is James Fenimore Cooper
3. The Frontier means the outer limits of settlement
4. The American frontier is sharply distinguished from the European frontier – a fortified boundary line running through dense population
5. The pen name of Samuel Clemens is Mark Twain.

Sub-Section 2.3.1 (b):

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

2.5 Summary:

In his book Frontier Thesis, Frederick Jackson Turner has noted the significance of the frontier in American literature. According to him, the historical experience of the frontier has been considered a key element of the American character. While for early settlers the frontier was simply the land beyond the settlement, to later generation it became a challenge to be overcome so that the Manifest Destiny of the United States could be fulfilled.

The concept of the frontier has been repeatedly invoked and revised. The significance of the frontier is notably examined in works by Mark Twain, Hamlin Garland, Sinclair Lewis and Willa Cather. A great deal of Western and Dime Novel writing is concerned with the frontier which also shaped the Tell Tale, a great deal of folklore, and a particular kind of humour. James Fenimore Cooper’s Leather – Stocking Tales are the earliest sustained examination of the frontier as it moves westward from the eastern seaboard.

2.6 Exercises:

1. Explain the meaning of the term the Frontier, and show its different implications.
2. What is the role of Mark Twain in the Frontier literature?
3. Briefly summarise the names of the writers who have written on the Frontier.
4. Write a note on Mark Twain.
5. Write a note on the impact of gold and silver, found in Nevada and California.
2.6.1 Broad Questions with Answers.

Q.1 What is the role of the Frontier in 19th century American Literature?

Literally, the frontier means the outer limits of settlement. It was a "meeting point between savagery and civilization". Every extension of the settlement meant a ruthless fight against the unknown, mysterious nature – the forests and mountainous soil; and the natives who had a different culture and who fought with their old weapons.

The frontier has now become a part of the American unconscious; it is a phase "through which most of the nation has passed". In relation to the American experience the word is used as a thematic metaphor which has many implications – economic, cultural, geographical, spiritual and even psychological.

Economically it symbolized man's fight against nature for more and more food and raw material.

Culturally, it meant the struggle of the settlers for dominance over the natives.

Geographically it stood for that part of the west and the south toward which the settlers moved in their quest for land.

Spiritually, it denoted the Puritans' efforts to propagate their creed.

Psychologically it was a challenge to man's innate capacity to fight and endure. In all these interpretations of the word the idea of struggle, a hard confrontation with violent forces which the frontier symbolized, should be kept in mind.

In due course of time, the frontier was not limited to the settlement only; for the geographical frontier was soon closed. The earlier scene began to change. Places like Nevada and California opened up the economic factor since those places contained gold. People began to shift to those places where they were hungry of gold. The Puritans who settled down here began to fight on the spiritual frontier. Hawthorne and Melville have highlighted this aspect in their novels and short stories. There were certain basic rules and laws. People took laws into their own hands. The frontiers men had a wild kind of justice. In Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn, we come to understand the concept of justice which the people cherished. Hester Prynne, the heroine of The Scarlet Letter, is a good example of the justice. Hester's exposure on the Scaffold is watched by the whole of the town with curious interest.
If the frontier was changed by the settlers, it also left its impact on the character and mood of the people, especially the writer. Twain's Huckleberry Finn, Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter and Melville's MockDick, to name a few, are sufficient examples that throw a flood of light on the society of the frontiersmen.

To conclude, Edwin Fussel has rightly remarked that "American literature may in origin fairly be called an effect of the frontier", and probably the origin of the present symbolic interpretation of the world. Even where there is no frontier as such, the word has a moral and spiritual force that continues to rejuvenate the American consciousness and nationalistic spirit. And in the greatest possession of the Americans, we have the frontier dramatized in its whole truth that makes it "one of the central elements of American culture". When Bernard De-Voto remarked that Twain 'was the frontier itself' and that Huck's story is American life formed into action", he told the truth. Look for yourself : here is America."

2.7 Activities/ Field work :

1. Point out different frontiers and show its impact upon the residents.
2. Write a note on humour of Mark Twain.
3. Take the help of Internet for further study.

1.8 Further Reading :

2.1 Objectives:

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

- know the significance of the general topic that has shaped American literature
- examine the general topic in relation to American literature
- trace the meaning of Adamic myth
- understand the significance of Adamic myth
- know the brief history of Adamic myth
- know the impact on American novelists like Herman Melville
- study the difference between good and evil
- make use of Adamic youth as a technique (mythical technique)
2.2 Introduction

2.3 The Adamic Myth

2.3.1 Self-Assessment Questions.

a) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each:
   1. What is myth?
   2. From which word the name Adam is derived?
   3. What does the name Adam symbolise?
   4. What does Eden symbolize?
   5. What does the term Adamic myth refer to?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:
   1. According to the Bible, Adam is ____.
      a) the second man  b) the first man  c) No man  d) the third man
   2. Eden refers to ____.
      a) a garden  b) a playground  c) a valley  d) a setting
   3. Even was corrupted by ____.
      a) Adam  b) Satan  c) God  d) Michael
   4. John Milton wrote the biblical story of Adam and Eve in his epic ____.
      a) Paradise Lost  b) Paradise Regained  c) Lycidas  d) Samson Agonistes
   5. The Christians believe that we are all children of ____.
      a) Eve  b) Adam  c) Adam and Eve  d) Satan
   6. The adamic myth is used in literature to refer to ____.
      a) love and hate  b) sin and expiation  c) purification  d) the tragic end of innocence
2.4 Model Answers to the Self-Assessment Questions.

Sub-Section 2.3.1 (a):

1. Myth is defined as an ancient story, that is based on popular belief or that explains natural or historical events.
2. The word Adam is derived from adamah.
3. Adam symbolizes innocence.
4. Eden symbolizes paradise.
5. Adamic myth refers to the tragic end of innocence.

Sub-Section 2.3.1 (b):

1) b  2) a  3) b  4) a  5) c  6) d

2.5 Summary:

The Adamic myth is used mostly by men in writing. In this tradition, referring to the biblical Book of Genesis, the American hero is represented as a new Adam in the Garden of Eden. Both the essential innocence of the archetypal American hero and the sense of America as a fresh beginning are thereby emphasized. Many critics refer to this tradition, notably D. H. Lawrence in his Studies in Classic American Literature (1923), and it received its most influential examination in The American Adam (1955) by R.W.P. Lewis. Lewis focused on what he considered the beginnings of the Adamic myth in literature of the period 1920-60. He wrote of the insistence on ‘the authentic American as a figure of heroic innocence and vast potentialities, poised at the start of a new history’.

The Adamic myth is a significant presence in the works of many diverse writers, including James Fenimore Cooper, R. W. Emerson, H. D. Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Henry James, William Carols Williams, Wallace Stevens, F. Scott Fitzerald, Ernest Hemingway and J. D. Salinger. Some writers, notably Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, William Faulkner, have developed the Adamic tradition to explore the tragic end of innocence.
2.6 Exercises:

1. Explain the meaning of the term 'Adamic myth' and show its treatment in 19th century American literature.

2. What was the story of Adam and Eve depicted in John Milton's Paradise Lost?

3. How has Heman Melville exploited the Adamic myth as a technique in his novel Billy Budd, Sailor?

4. Make a list of the novels that have been written in the Adamic myth technique.

2.6.1 Exercises with model Answers:

Q.1 Explain the meaning of the term 'Adamic myth' and show its treatment in 19th century American literature.

Adam, according to the Bible, is the first man. The word is used as a generic name for mankind in the Hebrew and Assyrian languages. Adam is a symbol of innocence. Eve, wife of Adam, is derived from Hebrew word "Hawwah", which means "life". Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden. John Milton, in his epic Paradise Lost, has given a graphic picture of Adam and Eve, and the Satan who succeeded in tempting Eve. The result is the fall of man, and thus the earth is full of darkness.

In course of time, the Puritans began to highlight this theme – the fall of man, that is, the loss of Good and success of Evil. All life was a stage for the constant struggle between the forces of Good (God) and evil (Satan). We have Good angels and bad angels in Marlowe's Dr. Faustus; the cosmic struggle in John Milton's Paradise Lost; John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress; and in Melville's Moby Dick; Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter wherein the village stands for good and the forest stands for evil.

So, the term Adamic myth refers to the Fall of Adam, and the Fall of Eve. The fall of both has different implications:

1. Disobedience of God is sin and vice-versa.
2. The idea of temptation
3. Eve's situation or state of mind.
The Adamic myth, in addition to the above implications, brings so many questions in our minds:

1. Should Eve be blamed for eating the forbidden fruit?
2. Was she really guilty?
3. Should one roll and rust in stagnancy and sterility or change up new channels of life?
4. The loss of innocence
5. The feelings of sex-instinct
6. The feelings of temptation
7. The serpent to be hated by mankind
8. The woman is to have painful childbirth
9. The man is to till the earth which is henceforth cursed
10. Death being the natural result of Adam’s earthly nature
11. Man’s ambition and God’s absolute sovereignty

It is interesting to note that almost all experimentalists in fiction, poetry, and drama diagnosed the malaise of the contemporary men and society and reached the same conclusion. Huxley, Lawrence, Joyce, Eliot, and Pound found men spiritually sterile. Discoveries in the world of science including psychology, technological inventions and the outbreak of the first World War denuded men of all their beliefs in the ideals of modern civilization. They lost their sense of purpose, sense of directions and of meaning of their existence. Human relationship – even the relationship of love – became mechanical and commercial. Men and women became all intellect, their energies and passions spent on commercial transactions, and sterile for human relationships.

In order to project the situation of the modern man and his society, the modern writers opted for myths such as Adamic myth as a literary device, using Biblical imagery, Biblical episodes, Biblical characters and Biblical language. T. S. Eliot’s The Waste Land, James Joyce’s Ulysses, and Eugene O’Neill’s Mourning Becomes Electra are good examples in this regard. Eliot, Joyce, and O’Neill and a host of others differ widely in their techniques and intentions, but there is one element
common in their diverse methods: each of them uses mythical (or classical) situations or characters in a modern context, thereby seeking to illuminate the predicament of contemporary man, viewing him in a large perspective of time. Eliot praised Joyce, for having invented a 'mythical method' or a 'continuous parallel between contemporaneity and antiquity' which enabled a modern writer to give 'a shape and significance to the immense panorama of futility and anarchy which is contemporary history'.

The Adamic myth became one of the important literary devices for the nineteenth century writers. Melville in Moby Dick makes a study of Evil and man's tragic confrontation with this mighty power of blackness. Billy Budd, who at times resembles Adam in his innocence and Christ in his agony, perhaps represents virtuous man whose purposes a diabolical force (Claggart) distorts, while God (Vere) looks unhappily on – bound by His own laws. Critics regard Billy Budd as another chapter in Melville's long pessimistic commentary on man, God and destiny. Both of them – Melville and Hawthorne – explored the till then unexplored regions of evil.

The Adamic myth covers the period of 1820-60. The Adamic tradition is a significant presence in the works of many diverse writers, including J. F. Cooper, R. W. Emerson, H. D. Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Henry James, William Carlos, Williams, Wallace Stevens, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, J. D. Salinger and a host of others. Some writers, notably Hawthorne, Melville and Faulkner have developed the tradition to explore the tragic end of innocence.

To conclude, Adamic myth may exercise its influence even in the coming generation of the writers.

2.7 Activities/ Field Work:

1. If you get the movie 'The Bible', please see it.
2. Make use of Internet, for the story of Adam and Eve.
3. Go to Church, and get information about Adam and Eve from the preacher.
2.8 Further Reading:


# Unit-3

THE AWAKENING

- Kate Chopin

## Index

3.1 Objectives  
3.2 Introduction  
3.3 Text- The Awakening  
  3.3.1 The Story of the Novel  
  3.3.2 The characters in the Novel  
  3.3.3 Themes: the theme of man-woman relationship  
  3.3.4 Significance of the Title  
  3.3.5 Self Assessment Questions  
3.4 Glossary  
3.5 Model Answers of Self Assessment Questions  
3.6 Summary  
3.7 Exercises  
  3.7.1 Broad Questions with Answers  
3.8 Activities/Field Work  
3.9 Further Reading
3.1 Objectives:

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

- know who is Kate Chopin and what is her contribution to the American novel.
- explore Kate Chopin is a local colour writer.
- notice the influence of Madame Bovary on Kate Chopin.
- point out her feminism.
- distinguish between romanticism and naturalism.
- trace the predicament of women.

3.2 Introduction:

Kate Chopin was born Katherine O'Flaherty in St. Louis on February 8, 1851, of a prosperous Irish-born merchant father and an aristocratic Creole mother. She studied piano, wrote poetry, and read Dickens, Austen, Goethe, de Stael, and the Bronties. Despite her free spirit—she was once nicknamed the "littlest rebel" for yanking down a Union flag—Kate grew to be a leading social belle, admired for her wit and beauty.

On marrying Oscar Chopin in 1870 she moved to Louisiana, which provides the setting for most of her fiction. After the death of her husband on 1882 she returned to St. Louis and began writing for publication. She died in 1904.

Chopin started her career as a novelist. She wrote the novel, At Fault (1890) and the short story collection Bayon Folk (1894). Her collection of short stories indicate the influence of Guy de Maupassant. Her stories reveal a member of characteristics that we notice in the French writer, such as local colour, manipulation of plot, plot twist etc. During her lifetime she published another collection of stories, A Night in Acadie (1897) and the novel The Awakening (1899) for which she is best known today. The Awakening was strongly influenced by the 1857 French novel Madame Bovary by Flaubert and was considered scandalous. A posthumous collection of stories, A Vocation and a Voice, was published in 1991. Chopin’s work was little known until the 1960s, when it was seen to anticipate many of the concerns of modern feminist writers.
Chopin worked mainly in the Romantic tradition, although The Awakening interestingly explores tension between romanticism and naturalism. Her prose style makes heavy use of symbolism and often has a lyrical, poetical quality. Thematically she frequently examines the married woman’s lack of fulfillment and control in life, this is especially evident in The Awakening in which Edna Pontellier’s frustration leads her to adultery and suicide.

3.3 Text – The Awakening

3.3.1 The Story of the Novel

This is the story of one family known as Pontellier. The head of the family is Leona Pontelier, the successful speculator from Louisiana. Edna Pontellier is his wife who has two small boys. While spending the summer at Grand Isle, she flirts with Robert Labrum, the son of the resort owner, who awakens her to a new sense of spiritual and physical self-awareness. She begins to question the importance of the traditional roles of wife and mother that she has always fulfilled and that she sees embodied in her friend Adele Ratignolle. On her return to New Orleans, she begins to assert her new sense of identity. She develops her artistic nature by painting and attains some financial independence by selling her work. She moves out of the family house, and has sexual relations with another man. Labrum returns and their intimacy is renewed, but the consummation of their love is prevented when Edna is called to help Adele through the birth of her child. Profoundly distressed by the British scene, she returns home to find Labrum gone. She realizes that a succession of lovers will not lead to fulfillment, and that, though she feels neither loyalty nor guilt toward her husband, she can not escape from her responsibilities to her sons. In a final desperate assertion of her independence, she returns to Grand Isle, and the novel closes as she swims far out to sea to her death.

3.3.2 The Characters in the Novel:

Generally speaking, it is the “Man” at the centre of the novel. But in The Awakening, Kate Chopin has given her female protagonist the central role, normally reserved for Man, in a meditation on identity and culture, consciousness and art. The vivid and accomplished characters are women; Adele Ratignolle and Mademoiselle Reisz, the latter admired for her music though she violates every supposed female norm by being independent, ill-mannered, single, and childless.
Even the duties of mother-women are largely, ceremonial, since their children are attended by nurses.

In regard to male characters, it is to be noted that the Creole men in The Awakening seen notably free of masculine pretensions. They pursue tedious occupations in the city, earning influence, which they devote to their families. They are, in a word, bourgeois. Yet they scarcely seem patriarchal. Robert Lebrun’s great gift is for attentiveness and flattery. He is good with children and he can cook. Alcee Arobin puts on a maid’s dust cap to help Edna with the work of moving. Edna’s husband, Leonce Pontellier, scolds Edna once for failing to supervise the house and to receive callers, but he takes it upon himself to go alone to her sister’s wedding to try to repair with love and money the offense she has caused by refusing to attend. In other words, men frequently accept roles that else were normally delegated to women.

In addition to these major characters of men and women, there are a number of minor characters who contribute to the development of the plot.

The Characters :

1. **Leonce Pontellier** : Comes from the Creole society, a businessman, fond of name and money, husband of Edna, has two boys.

2. **Edna Pontellier** : married Leona, has two beautiful boys, develops extra marital relationship with Robert and Alcee, tragic end.

3. **Robert Lebrun** : a gentleman, his life is disrupted by Edna.


5. **Adele Ratignole** : friend of Edna, a good housewife, quite opposite to Edna.


7. **Mrs. Highcamps** : another friend of Edna.

8. **Alphonse** : husband of Adele.

9. **Dr. Mandelet** : a local doctor, a family doctor of Edna.

10. **Raoul and Etienne** : beautiful boys of Mrs. Edna Pontellier.
11. Margaret: Edna's older sister, fond of English classics, opposed the marriage of Edna with Leonce.

3.3.3 Themes: The theme of man-woman relationship

The fictional world of Kate Chopin projects a wide variety of themes ranging from innocence and racialism to the problems of the feminine self. There are a number of themes in the novel. But the major theme is man-woman relationship and the bearing it has on the nature of feminine identity. Kate Chopin has explored the theme of man-woman relationship in her stories and novels. With this perspective at the back of mind, let us see the theme of man-woman relationship in The Awakening.

Edna Pontellier is a Kentuckian married to a New Orleans businessman, Leonce Pontellier, who is about twelve years older than she. They have two beautiful children whom Edna loves in an “uneven, impulsive way.” Leonce is an ambitious money-maker with his brokerage business. He is fond of his wife and family and provides them with all the comforts that money can provide. At weekends he leaves his business to join his wife and children on Grand Isle where they are vacationing.

Edna ineffusive by nature has never learned to show her affections. Also she is not at home in the all-Creole catholic group to which her husband belongs as she is the only ‘American’ there. She adjusts herself to the ‘lofty chastity’ which is inborn in a Creole woman, but their lack of prudery is beyond her understanding.

There is little contact between Edna and Leonce, who spends most of his time in the clubs. This leaves Edna in a very vulnerable position. From girlhood she had apprehended instinctively the dual life—that outward existence, which conforms, the inward life which questions. She is at first bewildered by the attentions devoted to her by Robert Lebrun, the son of the hostess, of the hotel where she is staying but then the first vague stirrings of love take place within her. Through Robert, Edna tentatively experiences the possibility of venturing beyond the set routine of her life.

Edna is unlike Adele Ratignolle, who is the conventional “mother woman”. Edna is a valiant woman. Her swimming with Robert arouses throbings of desire within her. She is not only aware of Robert besides her, but of her own body and dormant will. It seems to Edna as if she is awakening from a dream for the first time.
Edna returns to New Orleans, after the vacation. She is not happy with her husband at home because Leonce always looks at her “a valuable piece of personal property which has suffered some damage.” Her relationship with Leonce deteriorates. He never understands his wife.

Edna finally learns to swim. Elated and exhausted, she sits with Robert while waiting for Leonce to come home. After a couple of days, it is so happened that Edna discontinues her relationship with Leonce and pursues the new friendships during the summer. Edna’s marriage disintegrates. Edna decides to move out of Leonce’s mansion to a small house she can finance independently. She tries to extend her relationship with Robert but unfortunately both Leonce and Robert are the product of the same Creole Catholic culture and hence Robert understands Edna no better than her husband does. Robert has no affection for her. All of sudden, he announces that he is going to Mexico and bids her farewell. In his absence Edna recognizes once again the symptoms of infatuation felt as a child and now as a young woman. But gradually her personality begins to emerge and her passion for him grows apace.

On the evening after Edna learns that Robert is coming back Alcee consummates the seduction. He kisses her. After the seduction Alcee assumes a proprietary air as authoritative as Leonce’s. He comes uninvited to her house, where he reads the newspaper and smokes cigars as though he owns the place. When she demands that he leave, he merely continues to caress her, till she submits to his sexual desire. Even Alcee Arobin who was absolutely nothing to her believes that he owns Edna.

In her maternal role too, Edna encounters resistance to her desire to become a fully developed human individual. Edna confesses her feelings towards her children to Adel once: “I would give up the unessential. I would give my money. I would give my life for my children, but I wouldn’t give myself." When Robert left for Mexico, Edna became impatient with her children and their maid. Edna leaves her children. She now begins to apprehend the deeper undercurrents of life. Robert, Leonce, Alcee and the children all appear before her like antagonists who seek to overpower her and drag her into soul’s slavery. But she knows a way to elude them. “The touch of the sea is sensuous as it enfolds the body in its soft, close embrace.”
3.3.4 Significance of the Title:

The Awakening is the significance title. It gives the hidden mystery of the novel. Through Edna Pontellier, Kate Chopin would like to show powerfully a woman's arousals/awakening of the senses and emotions in relative maturity, her growing sense of her own power and freedom towards the assertion of an individual selfhood. Chopin in this novel is trying to focus on the fundamental problem of what it means to be a woman, particularly in a patriarchy. To a certain extent, The Awakening shows Edna at the mercy of a patriarchal husband, a creole lifestyle and the circumscribed expectations of a particular class of Louisiana women.

At twenty-eight Edna has a loving husband, two children, and the security of a home and happy marriage. But, she falls in love with ‘another man’, Robert Lebrun, while vacationing on Garden Isle. On her return to New Orleans, Edna becomes conscious of a new sense of dissatisfaction. Her husband, Leoncé’s ‘affections’ begin to irk her. Willfully she contradicts his every wish and even command. She even discontinues sexual relations with her husband. She gives up her “reception days, severs contacts with her husband's business associates, renews her interest in painting and pursues new friendships. These acts of rebellion are Edna's mode of seeking 'emancipation' from those bonds which seek to tie her to her husband, children, home and a set society, where she has no identity of her own, except as “Mrs. Pontellier.”

Further, Edna unlike Adele Ratignolle is unable to achieve a satisfactory existence in a “mother-woman” image. It is not that she does not love her children. She is ready to give her life for them, but she is not ready to give “herself”. While Adele’s entire sense of who she is depends upon her maternal capacity. Edna is still seeking the answer to her question, “Who am I?”

Quietly, Edna’s awakening begins with a growing awareness of the inadequacy of her existence. She awakens first to a sense of vague dissatisfaction, next to the aesthetic joy of music and then to the physical pleasure of swimming. After this she feels a strong sexual attraction toward Robert and her full sexual awakening occurs only with Alcee Arobin. But Edna’s sexual awakening follows her awakening to her own individuality, rather than the other way around.

Unable to satisfy this newly felt sexual need through her husband, whose possessiveness is responsible for its earlier repression. Edna is unable to satisfy it
through Robert too, as he is an honourable man, who flees to Mexico. Thus, Edna “gives herself where she chooses” to Alcee Arobin. But Edna’s demand to be recognized as an autonomous individual is tragically hopeless, since even Arobin believes he owns her. Finally, Edna comes to the conclusion that she is unable to have a full human existence.

★ Self Assessment Questions-1

(a) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each.

1. What was the age of Mr. Pontellier?
2. How does Mr. Pontellier look at his wife?
3. Where did Robert Labourn want to go? And Why?
4. Why did Mr. Pontellier rebuke his wife?
5. How did Mrs. Pontellier spend her childhood?
6. Who were the sisters of Edna?
7. When did Edna’s mother die?
8. What was the effect of music on Edna?

(b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:

1. Kate Chopin was born in St. Louis on _____.
   a) February 8, 1951 b) March 10, 1952
c) April 6, 1953 d) June 10, 1951
2. The original name of Kate Chopin was _____.
   a) Katherine O’Flaherty b) Mary
c) Beatrice d) Juliet
3. The Awakening was published in _____.
   a) 1899 b)1851 c) 1901 d)1940
4. The first title of The Awakening was _____.
   a) A Solitary Soul b) The Consciousness
   b) The plotter d) The Rebellion
5. Kate Chopin became a widow at the age of _____.
   a) thirty-two b) Forty c) Twenty-nine d) Fifty

6. Kate Chopin had _____ children.
   a) Six b) two c) No children d) five

7. Kate Chopin died in _____.
   a) 1904 b) 1940 c) 1899 d) 1901

8. Oscar Chopin, husband of Kate Chopin died in _____.
   a) 1882 b) 1870 c) 1901 d) 1908

9. The novel, The Awakening, begins on _____.
   a) a Sunday morning b) a Saturday morning c) a Monday morning d) a Tuesday morning

★ Self Assessment Questions-2

a) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each
   1. Why had Edna experienced a pang of jealousy?
   2. How was the home of the Pontelliers?
   3. What did Mr. Pontellier value in his life?
   4. When was the dinner served at home of Pontelliers?
   5. What was the pasttime of Mrs. Pontellier?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:
   1. Mrs. Pontellier, wife of Mr. Pontellier, has _____.
      a) two children b) six children c) three children d) eight children
   2. Mrs. Pontellier was always thinking about _____.
      a) the past b) the future c) the present d) none
   3. When Robert left for Mexico, Mrs. Pontellier felt _____.
      a) no change b) the whole existence was dulled c) ashamed d) tired
4. Mrs. Pontellier's love for Robert was _____.
   a) spiritual  b) sexual c) romantic d) ultra romantic

5. Mrs. Pontellier looks handsome because of _____.
   a) her make up  b) the city atmosphere
   c) her health d) Robert

★ Self Assessment Questions-3

a) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each

1. What was the reaction of Mrs. Pontellier when Robert wrote a letter to Mademoiselle Reisz?
2. Who was Doctor Mandelet?
3. Who was Janet?
4. Why did not Mrs. Pontellier attend the marriage of her sister?
5. Who opposed the marriage of Mrs. Pontellier?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:

1. Mrs. Pontellier was fond of reading _______
   a) Walt Whitman b) Henry David Thoreau
   c) Edgar Allan Poe d) Ralph Waldo Emerson

2. According to Dr. Mandelet, most women are _______
   a) fighting for eternal rights b) dangerous to society
   c) moody and whimsical d) feminists

3. Edna's father came to the city because _______
   a) he has not seen the city b) he has come to purchase a wedding
   c) he has come to meet the daughter d) he wanted to consult a doctor.

★ Self Assessment Questions-4

a) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each

1. Why did Mrs. Pontellier abandon her house?
2. Why was Mrs. Pontellier disappointed?
3. Why did Mrs. Pontellier go to Madame Ratignolle?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:
1. Edna was seen always in anxious mood because _____.
   a) she was waiting for Robert  b) her husband left her
   c) her children did not like her  d) she was tired of life
2. Robert's love for Mrs. Pontellier is _____.
   a) physical  b) platonic  c) romantic  d) seductive
3. Mr. Pontellier wrote a letter to his wife, mentioning that he was going to come to his home in the month of _____.
   a) January  b) February  c) March  d) April
4. At the end of the novel, we see that Mrs. Pontellier died of _____.
   a) drowning  b) murder  c) suicide  d) accident

3.4 Glossary:

Part-I

1. countenance : facial expression
2. amuse : entertain
3. to rock : move gently to and fro
4. to and fro : up and down
5. upbraid : scold
6. dainty : beautiful
7. ample : sufficient
8. atonement : amendments
9. fluttering : flapping the wings rapidly
10. look upon : respect
11. to efface : rub, wipe out
12. sizzle : make a hissing and cracking sound
13. repulse : resists an attack
14. to vouchsafe : to give or do something as an act of favour
15. capricious : whimsical
16. to put an end to : finish
17. Assent : agreement, compliance
18. flippancy : being flippant
19. hammock : hanging bed a canvas or netting

Part –II
1. Devour : eat hungrily or greedily
2. to blurt out : to utter suddenly
3. buffet : counter or table where drink and food are served and eaten
4. exuberance : state or quality of being exuberant
5. totter : walk in steady manner.
6. to stroll : walk leisurely
7. suffuse : spread slowly over the surface of
8. grumble : complain
9. giddy : dizzy
10. detest : hate
11. appease : to soothe, to pacify
12. escort : group of armed guards
13. banquet : great feast
14. to banter : to jest
15. Ravish : enrapture
Part – III
1. wiry : resembling wire
2. to make out : understand
3. whimsical : full of whims.
4. fathom : measure of depth of water
5. flatter : to praise insincerely
6. ejaculate : utter suddenly
7. mandolin : musical instrument with six or eight metal strings.

Part – IV
1. to balk : thwart
2. impose : lay or place
3. to long to : desire earnestly
4. sputter : make a series of spitting sound
5. delicious : pleasing to taste and to smell.
6. despondency : loss of heart, courage or hope
7. clamour : din

3.5 Model Answer of Self Assessment Questions.
★ Self Assessment Questions-1
a) 1. Mr. Pontellier was forty years old.
2. Mr. Pontellier looks at his wife as if she is a valuable piece of personal property.
3. Robert wanted to go to Mexico for his business.
4. He rebuked her because she neglected her children.
5. She spent her childhood looking into herself.
6. Margaret and Janet were the sisters of Mrs. Pontellier.
7. Edna lost her mother when she was quite young.
8. Music evokes pictures in her mind.

b) 1) a  2) a  3) a  4) a  5) 6  6) a  7) a  8) a  9) a

★ Self Assessment Questions-2

da) 1. Edna experienced a pang of jealousy because Robert did not write to her and he wrote to other woman.
   2. The house of Pontelliers was big and beautiful with all kinds of furniture.
   3. Mr. Pontellier valued his possessions in life.
   4. Dinner was served at half-past seven.
   5. Painting was her past time.

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

★ Self Assessment Questions-3

da) 1. Mrs. Pontellier became desperate.
   2. Friend and family physician of Mr. Pontellier.
   3. Janet was the younger sister of Mrs. Pontellier.
   4. Mrs. Pontellier did not attend the marriage of her sister because she could not tolerate the authority of her father.
   5. Mr. Pontellier and Margaret opposed the marriage of Mrs. Pontellier.

b) 1) b  2) c  3) b

★ Self Assessment Questions-4

da) 1. She abandoned her home because her husband was mischief to his business prospects.
   2. She was disappointed because Robert did not arrive as per his promise.
   3. Mrs. Pontellier went Madame Ratignolle because she was sick.

b) 1) a  2) b  3) c  4) a
3.6 Summary:

The Awakening (1899) was Chopin's masterpiece. The novel aroused a national scandal for its "indecency". Banned by libraries, it even prevented her admission into the St. Louis Fine Arts Club – even though Chopin was famous for her literary salon, which attracted distinguished artists and writers from all over the country.

Always sensitive to criticism, Chopin was devastated by the furore that surrounded the publication of The Awakening and its harsh reception ultimately caused her to stop writing. When she died in 1904, she had been denied the recognition she desperately wanted and richly deserved. With this perspective at the back of mind, let us see what the novel is about.

The Awakening is the study of the inner life and rebellion of Edna Pontellier. She is the wife of a successful Creole speculator in Louisiana. She is the mother of two small boys. While spending the summer at Grand Isle, she flirts with Robert Lebrun. Lebrun is the son of the resort owner. It is he who awakens her to a new sense of spiritual and physical self-awareness. She begins to question the importance of the traditional roles of wife and mother that she has always fulfilled and that she sees embodied in her friend Adele Ratignolle. On her return to New Orleans, she begins to assert her new sense of identity. She develops her artistic nature by painting and attains some financial independence by selling her work. She moves out of the family house, and has sexual relations with another man. Lebrun returns and their intimacy is renewed, but the consummation of their love is prevented when Edna is called to help Adele through the birth of her child. Profoundly distressed by the birth scene, she returns home to find Lebrun gone. She realizes that a succession of lovers will not lead to fulfillment, and that, though she feels neither loyalty nor guilt toward her husband, she cannot escape from her responsibilities to her sons. In a final desperate assertion of her independence, she returns to Grand Isle, and the novel closes as she swims far out to sea to her death.

3.7 Exercises:

A) Answer the following questions:

1. Discuss The Awakening as an early vision of woman's emancipation.
2. The Awakening is a story of adultery and sexual awakening. Discuss.

3. The Awakening is a study of the inner life and rebellion of Edna Pontellier. Discuss.

4. Discuss the theme of women as property, illustrated in The Awakening.

5. The Awakening is a story of oppression and escape. Discuss.

6. What are the leading themes of the novel, The Awakening?

B) Write short notes:

1. The setting of the novel, The Awakening
2. Robert Lebrun
3. Edna Pontellier
4. Alcee Arobin
5. The end of The Awakening

3.7.1 Broad Questions with Answers.

Q.1 Discuss The Awakening as an early vision of woman's emancipation.

OR

The Awakening is Kate Chopin's work reemerged as a precursor to women's rights. Discuss.

Catherine O'Flaherty is known as Kate Chopin. She is a popular writer, known as Kate Chopin. She published her two novels, At Fault (1890) and The Awakening (1899). She also published two collections of short stories – Bayou Folk and collection of short stories A Night in Acadie and A Vocation and the Voice, The Awakening and other stories. Although Chopin had written a small library of works, it is The Awakening that ultimately placed her in the league of revered writers. While alive, the groundbreaking story prevented her from entrance into the St. Louis Fine Arts Club and ceased further exploration of her writing talents. She wrote very little after the harsh critical reception of her masterpiece.

Despite the controversy over The Awakening, it is now studied in almost every high school and college. It has been published over twenty times. It was translated into French, German, Italian, and several Scandinavian languages. During the
1970s in which feminism began to circulate throughout the entire American culture, Chopin's work reemerged as a precursor to women's rights. It has spawned hundreds of essays discussion Edna's role as a possible feminist, painter, adulteress, and more. The ambiguous ending of the book has also created a wave of critical study. Chopin died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1904. She never knew the fame and honour her masterpiece would command in the future and never expanded her library of work for fear of more scandal. With this perspective at the back of mind, let us see how the critics and readers of Chopin welcome the novel and what critical interpretations are forwarded.

One of the interpretations of the novel is that The Awakening reveals an early vision of woman's emancipation. Many critics echo the similar opinion.

Edna Pontellier married Mr. Pontellier, though her father and sister Margaret opposed the marriage. The marriage does not seem to be successful. Her husband, though a successful New Orleans businessman, looks at his wife as "a valuable piece of personal property". She was the mother of two children. The family went to the excursion at a seaside resort in Grand Isle, Louisiana. She spends much of her time with Robert Lebrun, a romantic young man who has decided to attach himself to Edna for the summer. After many intimate conversations, boating excursions, and moonlit walks, they both realize that they are developing romantic feelings for each other. Edna then realizes that there is much within herself that has remained dormant throughout her adult life.

When vacation ends and the Pontelliers return to New Orleans, Edna frees herself from the trappings of her old life, including her social position, her role as a mother, and her role as a wife. Edna feels "I am no longer one of Mr. Pontellier's possessions to dispose of or not. I give myself where I choose. If he were to say, 'Here, Robert, take her and be happy; she is yours', I should laugh at you both" (146). She further openly declares "I love you", "only you; no one but you. It was you who awoke me last summer out of a life-long, stupid dream. Oh! You have made me so unhappy with your indifference. Oh! I have suffered, suffered! Now you are here we shall love each other, my Robert. We shall be everything to each other. Nothing else in the world is of any consequence" (147).

A major part of this freeing in Edna's life is accomplished through her affair with Alcee Arobin. Moving out of her husband's house, she establishes herself in a cottage and hopes that Robert Lebrun will return soon from an extended business
trip in Mexico. As she observes; "A hundred times Edna had pictured Robert's return, and imagined their first meeting. It was usually at her home, whither he had sought her out at once. She always fancied him expressing or betraying in some way his love for her" (133). Upon Robert's return, Edna discovers that he is unable to come to grips with her new found freedom. Indeed, he seems hopelessly bound by the traditional values of the French Creole community. Edna thereupon returns to the seaside resort in the off season. She makes arrangements for her lunch before heading off to the beach, and carries along a towel for drying off. Unable to resist the lure of the water, she strips nude and swims out as far as she can and, having exhausted herself, drowns. Most readers interpret this final passage as a deliberate attempt at suicide.

Q.2 Write short notes:

1. The setting of The Awakening
2. The end of The Awakening
3. Edna Pontellier
4. Robert Lebrun

1) The setting of The Awakening:

The setting constitutes time and place. The time is 1899; the place is Grand Isle. The main protagonist of the novel is not man, but woman who is transported from New England to Grand Isle in order to expose the main character. William Faulkner did the same thing in his novel Mosquitoes. In this novel, Chopin portrays Nature as violent and deceptive and also quite explicitly predatory. Her Nature is closely associated with the sea and is potent and gorgeous and abysmal. The Creole society summering on Grand Isle is a little like Melville's "insular Tahiti", the balmy island one leaves at peril of engaging the most fearsome and absolute spiritual questions. However, Chopin's society has a knowing innocence. It is not primitive, but worldly, courtly, and highly conventional. Her Creole culture is vivid and beautiful in a fulsome bourgeois style.

The Creole society has an idealized culture, tolerant and humane. Edna Pontellier, the protagonist, ignores all its conventions and expectations, yet she bears no social penalty, continuing to enjoy the affection of her friends and the loyalty of her husband.
The main characters and the minor characters are exposed, their whims and whimsicalities. Robert Lebrun is a gentleman whose life Edna Pontellier unreflectingly disrupts, driving him away from, the temptation she presents. Alcee Arobin is a cad, with a tainted atmosphere about him, because he oversteps the bounds Robert will not cross. Edna's father is free of masculine pretensions. He pursues his tedious occupation in the city, earning influence.

The vivid and accomplished characters are women; Adele Ratignolle and Mademoiselle Reisz, the latter admired for her music though she violates every supposed female norm by being independent, ill-mannered, single, and childless. Even the duties of mother-women are largely ceremonial, since their children are attended by nurses.

The setting plays a vital role in the lives of the characters. Chopin has exposed the flora and fauna of the atmosphere, and its tangible effect upon the characters.

2) The end of The Awakening:

The Awakening is the story of the Creole society. The society has its own idealized culture, tolerant and humane. Edna Pontellier, the main protagonist, ignores all its conventions and expectations. Edna marries Leonce Pontellier because he is absolutely devoted to her, and because his Catholicism offends her father. She feels that in her marriage she is "closing the portals forever behind her upon the realm of romance and dreams".

She married Leonce opposing her sister and father. She developed infatuation with Robert who never responds to her love. She develops relationship with Arobin who never loves her but only concentrates on her sex. The result is that at the end she gives herself up to the embrace of the sea like a newborn child. The sea in The Awakening is clearly abetted in assuming its seductive forms by Edna's own consciousness, her motherlessness, her predilection for an intense interior life.

It is well observed that the novel is not a simulated case study, but an exploration of the solitary soul.

3) Edna Pontellier:

Kate Chopin wrote her masterpiece, The Awakening, in which Edna Pontellier plays a major role. Her first published title was A Solitary Soul, dealing with Edna's tempest going on in her soul.
Edna is the 28 year old (she turns 29 later in the novel) wife of Leonce Pontellier, a successful New Orleans businessman. Her marriage with Leonce was strongly opposed by her father and sister. She marries Leonce because he is absolutely devoted to her. And because his Catholicism offends her father. She feels that in her marriage she is "closing the portals forever behind her upon the realm of romance and dream".

She is rich, beautiful, and the only character in the novel to undergo a significant change in perception.

Both Leonce and Edna had two children – Raoul and Etienn. Leonce has kept her rings in his vest pocket. He gives them to her and she puts them on. It is a most connubial piece of stage business, emphasizing the privileged relationship of Edna and Pontellier over and against the apparently greater intimacy of Edna and Robert. When she gives up trying to be a "model wife" in the New Orleans Creole community, her character develops, liberating her inner emotions and artistic ambitions. She says: "You have been a very, very foolish boy, wasting your time dreaming of impossible things when you speak of Mr. Pontellier setting me free! I am no longer one of Mr. Pontellier's possessions to dispose of or not. I give myself where I choose. If he were to say, 'Here, Robert, take her and be happy; she is yours', I should laugh at you both". She further adds that "I love you", she whispered, "only you; no one but you. It was you who awoke me last summer out of a life-long, stupid dream."

Other characters in the novel tend to consider Edna to be flawed as a wife, mother and woman. Edna, on the other hand, does not feel that she should conform to these standards, thus creating the pivotal tension in the story. As she externalizes her struggle, she becomes not only resistant but also somewhat resentful toward the expectations of the society and toward her husband. When she informed her husband of her move into a house that she feels more ownership of, "her letter was brilliant and brimming with happiness."

4) Robert Lebrun:

Robert Lebrun is a young, flirtatious Creole. He is known to be in the company of at least one woman all summer at his family's resort. He and Edna have an all-consuming love for one another, but he is unable to express these true feelings because she is a married woman. He leaves for Mexico to Edna's dismay, but
eventually returns. After Edna's prodding, he does not reveal his feelings, but when Edna has to leave to help a friend, he is not there when she returns. A note states that he left because he loved her and did not want to enter into an affair that would harm them both.

3.8 Activities/ Field Work :
1. Make a list of women novelists of 19th century American literature.
2. Read out some of the stories of Kate Chopin, like The Kiss, The Locket, A Reflection etc.

3.9 Further Reading :
Index

4.1 Objectives

4.2 Introduction

4.3 Text – Blithedale Romance
   4.3.1 The Story of the Novel
   4.3.2 The Characters in the Novel
   4.3.3 The leading Themes of the novel
   4.3.4 Self Assessment Questions

4.4 Glossary

4.5 Model Answers of Self-Assessment Questions

4.6 Summary

4.7 Exercises
   4.7.1 Broad Questions with Answers

4.8 Activities/ Field Work

4.9 Further Reading
4.1 Objectives:

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

- list the elements of a novel as a form of literature
- know who is Hawthorne
- understand what is Puritanism
- focus on the main theme of the novel
- trace satirical element in the novel
- describe the characters in the novel
- list the various aspects of the novel

4.2 Introduction:

Nathaniel Hawthorne was a novelist and short story writer. His contribution to the American transcendentalism is worthy to be noted. Hawthorne's ancestors had been prominent puritans. His novels are coloured by puritanism.

Hawthorne was born in 1804 in Salem, Massachusetts. His father was a sea Captain who died when Hawthorne was aged 4. Hawthorne attended Bowdoin College in Maine and in 1828 he published his first novel, *Funshawe*. He later withdrew it from circulation and concentrated on writing short fiction. Hawthorne worked at various jobs, including a spell in the Boston Custom house, and he lived in the *Brook Farm* community for six months in 1841. He married Sophia Peabody in 1842 and moved to Concord where he came into close contact with Ralph Waldo Emerson and other prominent thinkers.

His publications are – *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), *The House of the Seven Gables* (1851), and *The Blithedale Romance* (1852). He lived in Europe for several years and published his final novel, *The Marble Faun* (1860). He left several novels unfinished when he died in Plymouth, New Hampshire, in 1864.

Herman Meville, friend of Hawthorne, dedicated his novel *Moby-Dick* to Hawthorne. In his tales and romances, he repeatedly plays out his ambivalence towards Puritanism, and although his work typically has a historical setting, he examines Puritanism as a contemporary force rather than a historical fact. In particular, he often explores the conflict between the attractions of Romanticism or
Transcendentalism and the burden of a Puritan belief in humanity's fallen nature. Hawthorne's ambivalence is evident in his writing style. Rather than a novelist he called himself a writer of Romance, and his use of symbolism and allegory frequently creates powerful ambiguities. The unstable and even duplicitous nature of his writing has often been noted.

4.3 Text- Blithedale Romance:

4.3.1 The Story of the Novel

The Blithedale Romance is published in 1852. The novel is based on the author's experience at the Transcendentalist utopian community at Brook Farm.

The story opens with the narration of Miles Caverdale who is probably the most complex character of the novel. He is described as the most untrustworthy and intellectually dispassionate. What is more, he is effusive and sentimental.

He goes to Blithedale wherein a utopian community resides. At Blithedale, he meets the famous Zenobia who is an exotic feminist. Hollingsworth who is a blacksmith has turned to philanthropist. Priscilla, another resident of Blithedale, is a mysterious and fragile seamstress. Zenobia passionately loves the egotistic Hollingsworth who wishes to turn Blithedale into an institution for criminal reform. Priscilla has escaped to Blithedale from the control of the evil Westervelt, who forced her to pose as the mysterious "Veiled Lady", through whom he demonstrated his mesmeric powers to Boston audiences.

Westervelt also has a mysterious past connection with Zenobia. Sensing competition for Hollingsworth from Priscilla, Zenobia delivers her back to Westervelt. Hollingsworth, however, intervenes to save Priscilla, and pledges himself to her. Meanwhile, it is revealed to all that Priscilla is Zenobia's half-sister, and that apparently she has been chosen to receive the inheritance that Zenobia thought was hers. Hollingsworth has chosen her over Zenobia because he needs the inheritance money to realize his reform scheme. The spurned and impoverished Zenobia drowns herself. Hollingsworth and Priscilla marry, but the egotistical reformer, overcome by guilt for Zenobia's suicide, is a broken man. Coverdale lapses back into a lonely bachelor's life, offering as explanation for his obsession with his three friends that he has all long been in love with Priscilla.
4.3.2 The Characters in the Novel:

Nathaniel Hawthorne’s fictional characters derive their wealth and beauty from the fact that the writer considers them as consciences in the face of Sin. They are not complete figures nor do they have any previous lives. Their lives begin, as it were, with their guilt or knowledge of guilt and ends with the long drawn consequences of guilt, moral or otherwise. Thus, Hawthorne delves deeply into his characters, laying bare their very roots. Agostine Lombardo, the critic, has underlined the fact that Hawthorne offered “psychological portraits” of great characters such as Miles Coverdale, Hollingsworth, Zenobia and Priscilla.

4.3.2.1 The Characters:

1. **Miles Coverdale**: an old bachelor, the narrator, joined the Blithedale community.
2. **Hollingsworth**: member of the Blithedale community, desires to marry Zenobia
3. **Zenobia**: a flapper, a feminist, rejected by Hollingsworth
4. **Priscilla**: a pure woman, unlike Zenobia in her personal matters
5. **Westerwelt**: a mesmerist
6. **Mrs. Foster**: managing the furm
7. **Silas Foster**: an agriculturist
8. **Mr. Moodie**: a visitor from the town to Blithedale.
9. **Fauntleroy**: father of Zenobia and Priscilla.

4.3.3 The leading themes of the novel

It is to be noted that Hawthorne’s ancestors were prominent Puritans. Imagining his Puritan ancestors in ‘The Custom-House’, the introduction to The Scarlet Letter, Hawthorne declares, ‘strong traits of their nature have intertwined themselves with mine.’ In his tales and romances, he repeatedly plays out his ambivalence towards Puritanism. Although his work typically has a historical setting, he examines Puritanism as a contemporary force rather than a historical fact. In particular, he often explores the conflict between the attractions of Romanticism or Transcendentalism and the burden of a Puritan belief in humanity’s fallen nature.
Although some critics have looked for the transcendental element in Hawthorne, Stuart Pratt Sherman in Americans (1922) called him “a subtle Critic and Satirist of Puritanism from the Transcendental point of view.” T. S. Eliot felt “The work of Hawthorne is truly a criticism…. Of the puritan morality, of the Transcendental morality and the world which Hawthorne knew.” In “Hawthorne and His Mosses (1950) Melville wrote that in Hawthorne’s work there was a ‘great power of blackness;’ ‘there really, lurks in him touch of Puritanic gloom.’ Hawthorne’s ambivalence is evident in his writing style. Rather than a nudist, he called himself a writer of romance, and his use of symbolism and allegory frequently creates powerful ambiguities.

A close study of The Blithedale Romance would reveal the fact that he was working with the inner recesses of the mind and soul. His characters and incidents are just so many symbols of unseen moral laws. His books turn out to be case histories of men and women afflicted by guilt, by sin, or what he called “a stain upon the soul.” With this perspective at the back of mind, let us see the leading themes of the novel.

The following are the leading themes:
1. The theme of sin and penance in The Blithedale Romance (see Q. 10)
2. The theme of satire in The Blithedale Romance (see. Q. 2)
3. The Blithedale Romance as a psychological novel.
4. The Blithedale Romance as a symbolic novel (see. Q. 3)

4.3.4 The Blithedale Romance as a psychological novel

Henry James and T. S. Eliot have pointed out what they call the “deeper psychology” in Hawthorne. Eliot feels that Hawthorne has probed the “moral conscience” so well that in his work he shows a deep insight into human nature and its working.

In The Blithedale Romance that author is not so much interested in telling a story. His interest lies more in showing how sin affects four different individuals. The sin is taken not so much as a theological problem but as a psychological one. He depicts its consequences on four minds, altogether different from one another. Miles Coverdale, Zenobia, Hollingsworth and Priscilla have their own separate worlds of experience and suffering.
Miles Corerdale is the narrator of the novel. He is an old bachelor, recollecting
events that have taken place in his youth. As a Youngman, Coverdale had joined
the Blithedale community fired by a desire for social reform.

Above all, he sought to create poetry:

“I hope now, to produce something that shall really deserve to be called
poetry-true, strong, natural and sweet, as is the life which we are going to
lead.”

But the noble motives are merely camouflage for his voyeuristic tendencies.
Coverdale indulges in his curiosity unobserved, from his leafy tree top “hermitage”
and the boarding house window in the town from which he could see into Zenobia’s
hotel room opposite. He further observes the dramatic conflict between other people
as unobtrusively as possible. He condones his wrong doing on the ground that he
has sympathy for the people observed and sought to give the immutability of lives.
Coverdale is not in earnest, “either as a poet or a Laborer.”

Coverdale is especially interested in the sensuous Zenobia and probes into her
relation with Hollingsworth, the reformer and Priscilla, her sister. Zenobia resents his
scrutiny and rebukes him often enough:

“You Know not what you do! It is dangerous, Sir, believe me, to tamper
thus with earnest human passions, out of your own mere idleness and for
your sport. I will endure it no longer.”

Coverdale, however, continues with his voyeuristic tendencies, claiming that he did
so out of “uncertain sense of duty.” Zenobia in turn lashes out at the cold-blooded
curiosity of the artist which seeks to play games with human emotions for one’s own
personal satisfaction. She realizes that the artist seeks to poetise reality, never
present the naked truth. Coverdale likewise probes into Priscilla, “I could not resist
the impulse to take on peep beneath her folded petals.” He also manages to pry out
the secret of old Moodie, the father of the two sisters. All this inquisitiveness has
been taking a toll of Coverdale. He has been turning slowly but immeasurably into a
fiend-cold hearted beyond endurance.

Coverdale is left with a guilt-stricken sense of responsibility for the tragic
outcome of events into which he had pried and intruded. As he confesses the later
years turn out to be “all an emptiness.” The artist disintegrates with the subject of his art. Roy R. Male comments:

“Coverdale is what Hawthorne feared he might have become if he had not given himself in love and marriage.”

Hollingsworth is another important character whose self has been explored by the author. In the beginning, it is seen that Hollingsworth is equipped with admirable traits and good intentions. But unfortunately he is unappreciative of artistic concerns. He has no “external polish” and “courtesy of manner” but more than makes up with, “a tenderness in his voice, eyes, month, in his gesture, and in every indescribable manifestation which few men could resist, and no women.” Hollingsworth is a reformer with a zeal and his cherished project of establishing an institution for the reformation is laudable enough. But the zeal turns to fanaticism and intolerance of differences of opinion, his virtue becomes his vice. His compassion perverted by self interest. His solicitous attendance at Coverdale’s sick bed appears in hindsight to be motivated by self-interest. Hollingsworth’s rise from toil and obscurity, while it helped him understand the labouring classes, it made him impatient with matters beyond his understanding. He condemned Coverdale’s poetry as idle frippery and Zenobia for her interest in matters beyond his comprehension.

Hollingsworth was determined to advance his own scheme of social reform and flatly refused to accept the scheme of other social reformers. Although he was one of the prominent member of the Blithedale community, Hollingsworth privately called Blithedale “a wretched, insubstantial scheme.” Intolerant of interference, he contemplated turning his friends off Blithedale Farm so that he could establish his pet project.

Hollingsworth’s obsessive desires make him incapable of being unmotivated even in his closest relationship. He contemplates marrying Zenobin so that her wealth could fund his projects. He was quite reluctant to accept the equality of sexes: “Woman is a monster .......... Without man as her acknowledged principal.”

Hollingsworth was a perversion of personal relationships. He casts off Coverdale, discards Zenobia when her wealth proves unavailable to finance his schemes. Hollingsworth is aware of the disastrous effects of his conduct and relapses into impotent despondency. He remains, from first to the last, in the words of Zenobia, “Self, Self, Self ! you have embodied yourself in a project. You are a
better mansquerader than the witches and gypsies yonder; for your disguise is a self deception."

There are two women – Zenobia and Priscilla – who have different characters. Although they are relatives, yet they are a class apart. Zenobia has been a feminist ahead of her time. Zenobia’s passion betrays her, making her judgements untrust worthy. She had initially lavished her “dewdrops” on the cynical Westervelt who was incapable of a spiritual response to her passion. Coverdale realizes that Zenobia’s moral judgements have been perverted by her sexual aberrations. Since Zenobia is insincere she cannot be an effective feminist. She even betrays her sister Priscilla into Westervelt’s hands to be mesmerized as the veiled lady.

Priscilla is one of Hawthorne’s snow images. Like Phoebe she is the incarnation of purity. Her physical frailty and spirituality are reinforced throughout the novel. In the proverbial clash of good and evil, the rivalry of the passionate and willful Zenobia with the feeble Priscilla, Hawthorne hands the laurels of victory to Priscilla, who achieves the marital felicity her proud voluptuous sister contended for. Hollingsworth rejects Zenobia for Priscilla. The sexually experienced woman pays the price. In the ultimate analysis it is only the pure and innocent like Phoebe in the House of the Seven Gables and Priscilla in The Blithedale Romance who escape unscathed in Hawthorne’s scheme of things.

★ Self Assessment Questions-1

a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/ sentence each.

1. Who was the protagonist of the Blithedale Romance?
2. Who was Westerwelt?
3. Which were the major characters introduced in the first Chapter?
4. Where was Mr. Coverdale going?
5. Who was managing the farm?
6. How were the guests welcomed at the farm?
7. What was the profession of Silas Foster?
8. Who brought Priscilla to the farm house?
9. Who was Priscilla?
10. What was the aim of the farm?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:

1. The Blithedale Romance was published in ____.
   a) 1852   b) 1887   c) 1840   d) 1851

2. The setting of the novel is ____.
   a) Boston   b) New England   c) Mississippi   d) Blithedale

3. Mr. Coverdale was going to bed after drinking ____.
   a) Beer   b) Wine   c) Soda   d) Fine sherry

4. There are ____ women working on the Book Farm.
   a) 4   b) 6   c) 8   d) 3

5. Hollingsworth wanted to become ____.
   a) a scientist   b) a philosopher   c) a musician   d) a philanthropist

6. The Dial was edited by ____.
   a) Emerson   b) Thoreau   c) Melville   d) Hawthorne

★ Self-Assessment Questions-2

a) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each.

1. Who was a visitor from town to Blithedale?

2. What relation had Moodie with Priscilla?

3. What relation Zenobia had with Priscilla?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:

1. Mr. Moodie used to sell in his shop ____.
   a) Batteries   b) Silk purses   c) Oils   d) Cosmetics

2. Zenobia was fond of readings from ____.
   a) Milton   b) Shakespeare   c) Lord Tennyson   d) Charles Dickens
★ Self-Assessment Questions-3

a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/ sentence each.

1. Who was Apostle Eliot?
2. What bewildered Hollingsworth about Zenobia?
3. What quality of Zenobia was admired by Hollingsworth?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:

1. Hollingsworth was always thinking that he had ____.
   a) no personality       b) a narrow education
   c) no manners           d) no intelligence
2. Priscilla was rescued from the mysterious influence of Westervelt by ____.
   a) Hollingsworth       b) Zenobia       c) Mr. Foster     d) Coverdale

★ Self-Assessment Questions-4

a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/ sentence each

1. Who was Fauntleroy?
2. Who was the father of Priscilla?
3. Does Zenobia accept the wealth of Old Moodie?

b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:

1. When the door was opened, ____ appeared.
   a) Hollingsworth   b) Westervelt   c) Coverdale   d) Mr. Foster
2. ____ was a much better judge of wines
   a) Mr. Moodie      b) Coverdale     c) Hollingsworth d) Mr. Foster

★ Self-Assessment Questions-5

a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/ sentence each.

1. How does Zenobia look like?
2. What happened to Zenobia at the end of the novel?
3. What is the confession of Miles Coverdale?
b) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option:

1. At the end of the novel, Zenobia died of ____.
   a) drowning  b) swine flue  c) suicide  d) poison

2. The most suitable theme of the novel is ____.
   a) a satire on Book Farm  b) sin and expiation  
   c) Romance  d) the Christian belief of confession

4.4 Glossary:

Part – I

1. Veil : facial covering
2. humbug : fraud, sham
3. enigma : riddle
4. interrupt : to break in upon
5. lessen : to make less
6. drapery : draper's trade
7. sagacious : wise
8. dawn (upon) become known by
9. bewitch : enchant
10. vex : trouble
11. witch : sorceress
12. At all events : inspite of everything
13. to bear : tolerate
14. proselyte : person newly converted to a religious faith

Part – II

1. gibe : point out someone's faults
2. amiable : pleasant and well-intentioned
3. conjecture : guess
4. impel : drive (someone) to take action
5. polygamy : custom or practice of having more than one wife at the same time
6. strangle : kill by pressing on the throat with the hands
7. mysterious : full of mystery, not easily understand
8. fling : throw violently or with force
9. conceive : form an idea of, think, imagine
10. babble : say quickly or foolishly

Part – III
1. roam : wander about without an aim
2. to scorn : contempt, disdain
3. mutter : murmur
4. yeoman : farmer owning the land he cultivates
5. musing : dreamy
6. bewilder : perplex, confuse
7. allusion : passing reference
8. dart : sudden move
9. compel : force, oblige
10. immolate : kill as an offering

Part – IV
1. peril : danger
2. ascertain : find out
3. surmise : guess, conjecture
4. wizard : magician
5. multitude : great number
6. **virgin** : untouched, unused
7. **summon** : to command to appear
8. **betray** : to be false to
9. **pulpit** : raised platform in church
10. **utter** : speak, complete, absolute

**Part – V**

1. **profane** : secular, worldly
2. **fantastic** : strange, quaint
3. **stray** : to roam, to rove
4. **lurk** : to stay hidden
5. **tremor** : shaking, vibrating
6. **dabble** : to splash about in water
7. **pasture** : grassland
8. **perish** : to die
9. **exaggerate** : to overstate
10. **perceive** : to gain knowledge of something through the senses or remind
11. **imbibe** : to drink
12. **blush** : to redden
13. **confess** : to admit on acknowledge
14. **endure** : to suffer
15. **sluggish** : slow

**4.5 Model Answers of Self-Assessment questions.**

★ **Self-Assessment Questions-1**

a) 1. Coverdale was the protagonist of The Blithedale Romance
    2. Westerwelt was a mesmerist.
3. The major characters are Moodie, Coverdale, Zenobia, Hollingsworth.
4. Coverdale was going to Blithedale.
5. Mrs. Foster was managing the farm.
6. The guests are welcomed at the farm by greetings.
7. Agriculture was the profession of Silas Foster.
8. Hollingsworth brought Priscilla to the farm house.
9. Priscilla was a half-sister of Zenobia.
10. The aim of the farm house is to inculcate the principles of brotherhood and sisterhood.

b) 1) a b) d 3) d 4) a 5) d 6) a

★ Self-Assessment Questions-2

a) 1. Mr. Moodie was a visitor from town to Blithedale.
   2. Priscilla was a daughter of Moodie.
   3. Zenobia and Priscilla are sisters.

b) 1) b 2) b

★ Self-Assessment Questions-3

a) 1. Apostle Eliot was a prophet.
   3. Hollingsworth admired fidelity of Zenobia.

b) 1) b 2) d

★ Self-Assessment Questions-4

a) 1. Fauntleroy was father of Priscilla and Zenobia.
   2. Old Moodie was father of Priscilla.
   3. Zenobia did not accept the wealth of her father.

b) 1) b 2) b
★ Self-Assessment Questions-5

a) 1. Zenobia looks like a marble.
   2. At the end of the novel, we notice that she dies of drowning.
   3. Miles Coverdale confesses that he is in love with Priscilla.

b) 1) a 2) b

4.6 Summary:

Miles Coverdale is the narrator of the novel. He is probably the book's most complex character. He untrustworthy, often intellectually dispassionate, but also effusive and sentimental.

He goes to Blithedale where a utopian community resides; where he meets Zenobia. Zenobia is a flapper, an exotic feminist. Hollingsworth, another important character of the novel, is a blacksmith who desires to become a philanthropist. Priscilla, a half-sister of Zenobia, is a mysterious and fragile seamstress.

Zenobia who looks like a marble, passionately loves the egotistic Hollingsworth who wishes to turn Blithedale into an institution for criminal reform. Priscilla has escaped to Blithedale from the control of the evil Westervelt who forced her to pose as the mysterious "Veiled Lady". The intention of Westervelt is to demonstrate his mesmeric powers to Boston audiences. To some extent, he does this through Priscilla, the mysterious "Veiled Lady". Westervelt also has a mysterious past connection with Zenobia. Sensing competition for Hollingsworth from Priscilla, Zenobia delivers her back to Westervelt. Hollingsworth, however, intervenes to save Priscilla, and pledges himself to her. Meanwhile, it is revealed to all that Priscilla is Zenobia's half sister, and that apparently she has been chosen to receive the inheritance that Zenobia thought was hers. Hollingsworth has chosen her over Zenobia because he needs the inheritance money to realize his reform scheme. The spurned and impoverished Zenobia drowns herself. Hollingsworth and Priscilla marry, but the egotistical reformer, overcome by guilt for Zenobia's suicide, is a broken man. Coverdale lapses back into a lonely bachelor's life, offering as explanation for his obsession with his three friends that he has all along been in love with Priscila.
4.7 Exercises:

a) Answer the following questions:

1. Bring out the themes of the novel The Blithedale Romance.
2. Comment on the structure of the Blithedale Romance.
3. Write a note on Blithedale with reference to the novel the Blithedale Romance.
4. Comment on Hawthorne's art of characterization with reference to the Blithedale Romance.
5. Discuss the Blithedale Romance as a satire on Brook Farm.
6. The Blithedale Romance reads not merely as an indictment of the artist but of the reformer as well discuss.
7. Discuss Zenobia as a modern flapper?
8. Discuss the theme of Sin and penance in The Blithedale Romance.
9. Write a note on the minor characters of The Blithedale Romance.
10. Write a note on the use of masks in The Blithedale Romance.

4.7.1 Exercises With Model Answers

Q.1 Discuss the theme of Sin and penance in The Blithedale Romance.

Nathaniel Hawthorne was deeply influenced by the Puritan-Soul-Searching and the moral implication of Sin. Barret Wendell, highlighting the quality of Puritanism in Hawthorne, points out that for Hawthorne Puritanism was no longer "a way of life but a subject for Literary Art. His novels The Scarlet Letter, The House of the Seven Gables, The Blithedale Romance and The Marble Faun would reveal the fact he was working with the inner recesses of the mind and soul. With this perspective at the back of mind, let us see how his characters in The Blithedale Romance face the guilt of their minds.

Let us see first Coverdale, the narrator of the novel. Coverdale whose voice and personality are central in The Blithedale Romance has a name which is suggestive of his character.
Although he has not committed any sin, he is guilty of some faults. So there is no expiation of sins in his character but as a sequel to his faults, he is punished accordingly.

Before coming over to Blithedale from the city, Coverdale was very enthusiastic. But when he actually comes here, he loses all his enthusiasm. The foremost fault of Coverdale is his skeptical indecision. And more than this, he does not want to take the trouble to help others. The Blithedale begins with a certain episode in which Coverdale displays an identical disinclination. In the first chapter, he meets old Moody who has heard of Coverdale’s impending departure for Blithedale. Mr. Moody requests Coverdale to do him a very great favour. At this Coverdale hesitates:

“A very great one; repeated I, in a tone
That must have expressed but little
Alacrity of beneficence, although
I was ready to do the old man
Any amount of Kindness involving
No special trouble to myself”. (7-8)

At the outset of the story, Coverdale has, thus, unintentionally refused Priscilla who is offered to him mysteriously in the form of ‘very great favour’ by Moody. Because he would not ‘trouble’ himself, Coverdale flings away the opportunity to take a Priscilla in his charge. As a consequence Priscilla accompanies him to Blithedale but now in charge of Hollingsworth.

After reaching Blithedale, Coverdale gets many chances to save Priscilla from the hands of Hollingsworth. But a Hamlet-like inaction prevents him from taking any step to protect Priscilla from the troubles of her life. Consequently, we see at the end of the romance, Priscilla is married to Hollingsworth. Although Coverdale was in love with Priscilla which he announces towards the end, he never does anything to win her love. As a consequence of this inaction, he is also punished, by not being united to the girl, whom he wanted to marry. Thus, like other characters, Coverdale is also justly punished.
The next character is Hollingsworth whose name suggests both holy and worthy. But in his name there is an irony, for he is egotist who is blind to all that is most holy and worthy of devotion.

In the opening chapters we are shown Hollingsworth as an admirable man. He is a great humanist. He desires to become a philanthropist. He extends his cooperation to Coverdale, Zenobia, Priscilla. But in the course of time, he says "Mortal man has no right to be so flexible as it is my nature and necessity to be." Actually, Hollingsworth lacks neither faith nor energy. But his faith is not the faith in a regenerate community and his energy drives him into a moral blindness of unique capacity. He has been described as a "true builder rather than a dreamer of schemes."

With the intention of social reform, he entered Blithedale. But the chapter 'A Crisis' reveals the fact that in his mistaken philanthropy, Hollingsworth sins against Blithedale, against Zenobia, against Coverdale and even against Priscilla. He is not prepared to accept Coverdale's suggestion that he should reveal his design to other members of the community. Hollingsworth repudiates the bond of personal friendship too. Hollingsworth says to Coverdale, "Be with me, or be against me! There is no third choice" (123). When he realizes that Zenobia is in love with him, he exploits her love for him, makes arrangements with her on morally dubious grounds, for the financial support of his reformist enterprise, then he judges her harshly and drives her to suicide. To further his purposes, he is ready to abandon Priscilla to Westerwelt, the mesmerist, and to Zenobia-an act which would have meant her spiritual ruin. However, he recalls the act in time.

Hollingsworth reveals in himself finally the same egotism, selfish principle, or ruthless individualism which the Blithedalean visionaries identified as the 'common evil' of the established system. Zenobia rightly observes him when she says "I am awake, disenchanted, disenthralled! Self, Self, Self."

Zenobia is another character who is the victim like Coverdale and Hollingsworth. Hawthorne has aptly selected her name. She bears the name of a queen both splendid and tragic. She contributes to the theme of 'Sin and expiation'.

Pride, the master sin, according to Hawthorne, is the tragic flaw of Zenobia. Zenobia's initial error was her union with Westerwelt who is a mesmerist. But as usual, Hawthorne gives Zenobia also a chance for moral escape. In Blithedale,
Zenobia could have escaped from the influence of Westerwelt if she wished. Thus she could have done something good for humanity and it would have very well helped her in the expiation of her initial sin. Hawthorne tries to test her character on two grounds. The first test is her treatment of the tender, sensitive Priscilla. The second test is her joining to Blithedale. She does not join Blithedale for any good purpose. She simply wants to enjoy life at the cost of others. The false flower she always wears in her hair is also symbolic of her true nature.

Towards the end of the novel, the disillusionment of Zenobia takes place. She comes to know that Mr. Moody is her father and Priscilla her half-sister. When she realizes that Hollingsworth prefers Priscilla to Zenobia, she is completely disillusioned and drowns herself.

All characters get their penance in accordance of the depth of their sins.

Q.2 Discuss The Blithedale Romance as a Satire.

The Blithedale Romance was published in 1852. The readers and the critics of Hawthorne approach the novel in different ways. Some point out the moral theme of the novel, and others its moral allegory. Yet some thought- The Blithedale Romance as a painted attack on the moral and intellectual pretensions of the day.

Hawthorne has satirized different aspects of Brook Farm, a social movement intends 'to make life better'. Hawthorne, with the help of his major and minor characters, satirises the human follies.

Hollingsworth, an ironical name, is one of the major characters of the novel. He is equipped with admirable traits and good intentions. But unfortunately he is unappreciative of artistic concerns. He has no "external polish" and "courtesy of manner" but more than makes up with, "a tenderness in his voice, eyes, mouth, in his gesture, and in every indescribable manifestation, which few men could resist, and no women. Hollingsworth is a reformer with a zeal, and his cherished project of establishing an institution for the reformation is laudable enough. But the zeal turns to fanaticism and intolerance of differences of opinion, his virtue becomes his vice. His compassion perverted by self interest. His solicitous attendance at Coverdale's sick bed appears in hindsight to be motivated by self-interest: Coverdale wonders whether he had attended on him with the sole purpose of making him "a proselyte to his views." Hollingsworth's rise, from toil and obscurity, while it helped him understand the labouring classes, it made him impatient with matters beyond his
understanding. He condemned Coverdale's poetry as idle frippery and Zenobia for her interest in matters beyond his comprehension.

Hollingsworth did not mix and mingle with Blithedale community. He did not share with the community members. Intolerant of interference, he contemplated turning his friends off Blithedale farm so that he could establish his pet project. He pretends to marry Zenobia so that her wealth could fund his projects. He did accept the equality of woman. He says: "Woman is a monster… without man as her acknowledged principal."

Hollingsworth’s blindness to every truth but his own version and his desire to force compliance makes him an ignorant zealot rather than true reformer. He casts off Coverdale, discards Zenobia when her wealth proves nonavailable to finance his schemes. He remains from first to last, in the words of Zenobia, "Self, Self, Self! You have embodied yourself in a project. You are a better masquerader than the witches and gypsies yonder; for your disguise is a self-deception."

Zenobia is a modern flapper. She wishes to be a feminist. Like Hollingsworth, she comes to a bitter end because unlike Hester Prynne whose "native energy of character" helped her overcome a traumatic history. Zenobia's passion betrays her, making her judgements untrustworthy. She had initially lavished her "dew drops" on the cynical Westervelt who was incapable of a spiritual response to her passion. Coverdale realizes that Zenobia's moral judgements have been perverted by her sexual aberrations. Since Zenobia is insincere she can not be an effective feminist. She even betrays her sister Priscilla into Westervelt's hands to be mesmerized as the veiled lady. Priscilla is one of Hawthorne's snow like Phoebe she is the incarnation of purity. Her physical frailty and spirituality are reinforced throughout the novel. In the proverbial clash of good an devil, the rivalry of the passionate and willful Zenobia with the feeble Priscilla, Hawthorne hands the laurels of victory to Priscilla, who achieves the marital felicity, her proud voluptuous sister contended for. Hollingsworth rejects Zenobia for Priscilla. The sexually experienced woman pays the price. In the ultimate analysis it is only the pure and innocent like Phoebe in the House of the Seven Gables and Priscilla in The Blithedale Romance who escape unscathed in Hawthorne's scheme of things.

The last character is Coverdale, the principal character of the novel, who has been satirised. He is shown as an old bachelor. When the novel opens, he is seen collecting events that have taken place in his youth. As a young man, Coverdale had
joined the Blithedale community fired by a desire for social reform. He was interested in the composition of poetry. As his name suggests, he covers up everything in his heart. He tries to see Zenobia secretly. He enjoys the dramatic conflicts between other people as unobtrusively as possible. He condones his wrong doing on the ground that he has sympathy for the people observed and sought to give the immutability of lives. Hollingsworth says that Coverdale is not earnest "either as a poet, or a Labourer."

Coverdale is a romantic type of man who is deeply interested in Zenobia. Zenobia did not appreciate his feelings. She rebukes him by saying "You know not What you do! It is dangerous, Sir, believe me, to tamper thus with earnest human passions, out of your own mere idleness and for your sport. I will endure it no longer!" Coverdale's relation with Mr Moody is not fair. We are shown in the novel that he has been turning slowly but immeasurably into a fiend-cold hearted beyond endurance. At the end, he confesses his love for Priscilla. Roy R. Male comments; "Coverdale is what Hawthorne feared he might have become if he had not given himself in love and marriage."

Hawthorne's satire is not as biting as Jonathan Swift's. He tries to satirise with a sense of humour. The major characters are exposed with humility.

Q.3 Discuss the use of symbolism in The Blithedale Romance.

The novel – The Blithedale Romance is interpreted on different levels. Some read on the satirical level; some pointed out its moral symbolism, and still some point out its moral theme, that is, the theme of sin and penance.

Hawthorne has largely made use of the imagery of masks, veils, and disguises. These mages are introduced in the earlier chapters of the novel. These images are present in 'The Veiled Lady', 'Old Moody' and even in the name of the narrator. Two kinds of imagery can be noticed- the fire imagery and the veil imagery. These two are carriers of the theme of 'sin and expiation' and they function symbolically.

The first chapter introduces the Veiled Lady, old Moodie and Zenobia all of whom wear masks. Although all these characters are related to one another, Hawthorne intentionally hides their identities and adds a great deal of suspense to his romance. The mesmeric show of the Veiled Lady conducted by Prof Westerwelt; Old Moody's wearing a patch over one eye; the white drapery of Zenobia are some of the noted masks used to hide their identities. When the unraveling takes place,
this mask imagery acts symbolically. Seeking out Old Moodie, Coverdale learns, how the old man had, in the past, been a wealthy prince, and as irresponsible. He had begotten a daughter, but having committed an unforgivable sin, had, as it were, disappeared from life and taken a new name and a new wife. The former 'Fauntleroy' became Old Moodie, living amidst the grinding penury of the modern city. The daughter is Priscilla. Priscilla knows her blood-relationship with Zenobia who is her half sister. Zenobia knows nothing about her relationship to Priscilla nor to Old Moodie.

Coverdale, realizing the reality, learns that Zenobia is the formal lover of Professor Westerwelt. With a view to escape from professor Westerwelt, both the sisters went to Blithedale. Westerwelt implicated Zenobia in his exploitation of Priscilla.

All the major characters wear masks, some by choice, and others by necessity. These masks are symbolical, in the sense, the theme of the romance itself is wearing a mask, for it is only towards the end of the story that the veils are dropped and the true relationship of the characters to one another is revealed. And by the dropping of these masks, the reader learns the entanglements of relationships among all the characters which ends all the confusions and leads to the denouement.

To conclude, Hawthorne has made use of symbolism in order to convey his deeper and inmost thoughts in regard to Christianity and its basic principles. The novel, apart from satire on Brook Farm, is rich in themes. The moral allegory, the moral symbolism are profusely pointed out with the help of the symbolism. The characters – Coverdale, Hollingsworth, Zenobia, Priscilla, Old Moodie leave lasting impression upon the readers.

4.8 Activities / Field Work:

1. Point out various transcendentalists and their respective contribution.
2. Make a separate study of Herman Melville and Edgar Allan Poe.
4.9 Further Reading:


Unit-5
'Billy Budd, Sailor'

Index
5.0 Objectives
5.1 Introduction
5.2 Herman Melville- Life and Career. (1819-1891)
5.3 Characters in the Novel
5.4 The Story of novel 'Billy Budd- Sailor'
5.5 Check your progress - I
5.6 Essay - Type Questions – Answers
5.7 Short Notes
5.8 Check your progress - II
5.9 Answers to Check Your Progress I and II
5.10 References for further study

5.0 Objectives :
After studying this unit, you will:

• Know about the life and works of Herman Melville.
• Know about the life and works of Herman Melville.
• Know about the characters in the novel.
• Know about the story of the novel.
• Learn the questions answers on the novel.
• Study the character-sketches in the novel.
5.1 Introduction:

This unit discusses the life and works of the eminent American novelist Herman Melville. It summaries the study of the novel. It has discussed the important questions and answers as well as the characters in the novel. The reading of this unit will help the learner to learn all the aspects of this novel. The most important factor is, it will certainly encourage the learner to read the original novel. Billy Budd, the sailor and even Melville’s other novels also.

5.2 Herman Melville- Life and Career. (1819-1891):

Herman Melville was born on the 1st August, 1819 in the city of New York. His father, Allan Melville was a rich merchant. But later on he suffered heavy business losses and became bank-rupt. At that time, Herman was only nine yeas old. He gave up his studies and started earning money to support a family. He worked as a clerk then as a book keeper in his brother's fur-business and then as a school-teacher.

Herman Melville had a great attraction for sea from his childhood. He fulfilled his wish of sea-voyage, becoming an apprentice on ship sailing for Liverpool. At that time, he was twenty. But his first sea-voyage-experience discouraged him. He found the life on sea very miserable just like a dog. In 1841, he sailed on a whaling ship to the South Seas. This sea-travel from 1841 to 1845 proved very fruitful in his life. It gave him rich material for many of his novels. He learnt a lot about life.

Herman Melville made the full use of his experiences as a sailor while writing - his novels. His novels are Typee (1846), Omoo (1847), Mardi (1884), Redburn (184Q), White Jacket (1850), Moby Dick (1851), Pierre (1852), Israel Potter (1855), The Piazza Tales (1857), The, Confidence Man (1857), and Billy Budd (1891). Billy Budd is the last novel by Melville, written in 1891 but published in 1924, some thirty years after his death.

5.3 Characters in the Novel:

A) Major Characters:

i) Billy Budd: - a handsome young sailor, The Hero of the Novel

ii) John Claggart: - The master-at-arms on the Bellipotent, The Villain.
iii) **Edward Fairfax Vere**: The captain of warship, 'Bellipotent'

**B) Minor Characters:**

i) **Lieutenant Ratcliffe**: An Officer on the Bellipotent

ii) **Captain Graveling**: The master of the merchantship named 'Rights of Man.'

iii) **The Old Dansker**: One of the sailors on 'Bellipotent'

iv) **Squeak**: A sailor on 'Bellipotent.'

5.4 The Story of novel 'Billy Budd- Sailor':

i) **Introduction** - 'Billy Budd- Sailor' is one of the best novels by Herman Melville. It was his last novel which was published after his death in 1924. In it, the novelist has described the inner-life of the battle-ship 'Bellipotent.' Especially, it tells the story of a handsome sailor, Billy Budd. He was very innocent and loving. But, one officer on battleship, Claggart was inimical with him. He made a charge of mutiny against Billy. Billy could not bear that false charge. In anger, he gave a fatal blow to Claggart. The blow was so forceful that Claggart died on spot. For this crime, Billy was hanged. Infact, he was innocent. But, for the sake of military discipline and social necessity, he was given death punishment.

Symbolically, the story is conflict between the good and the evil, the white and the black.

ii) **Historical Background** - The story of the novel, 'Billy Budd, Sailor' is based upon the mutiny which had taken place on the Somers in 1842. But, the actual events in the novel, take place in the year, 1797. Melville makes the use of a mutiny in the English fleet at Spithead on April 15, 1797 and another mutiny at the Nore on May 20 of the same year.

In the novel, the historical handsome sailor Elisha Small becomes the handsome sailor Billy Budd. The historical warship 'the Somers' becomes the Bellipotent. Captain Vere fills the historical role of Captain Mackenzie of the Somers. The historical character Elisha Small had exclaimed God bless the flag before he was hanged. The character Billy Budd too, uttered 'God bless Captain Vere' as his last words.
iii) Two mutinies in the British navy: Though, the seeds of the novel, we find, in the mutiny of American warship 'Somers' which had taken place in the year, 1842, the novelist had made the use of the two mutinies which took place in the British Navy in 1797.

In the last decade of the 18th century, Napoleon became very powerful in France. Britain was threatened by him. The condition of British navy was not satisfactory. Because the sailors were forcibly put in the navy. No citizen or youth was ready to join navy. Because, conditions of service on the battleships were horrible. The food served to the sailors was of low quality, totally unfit for human eating. The discipline was very harsh and unjust. Very harsh and cruel punishment was given for small offences to the sailors. So, there was discontent among the sailors.

The consequence (result) of this inhuman condition on British warships was two mutinies in 1797. The first mutiny took place at Spithead in April 1797. The recruits expressed their protest against bad conditions and other troubles on the battleships. The second mutiny took place at the Nore on May 20 of the same year. It is known as the 'Great Mutiny' in the history of English Navy.

iv) The Story in brief: The novel 'Billy Budd-Sailor' begins mentioning these mutinies in British Navy. It was at this time, a British warship named the 'Bellipotent' was sailing to the Narrow Seas under the command of Captain Edward Fairfax Vere.

At that time, the British naval ships were always short of manpower. So, the power of recruiting any citizen forcibly was given to the naval-commanders. Even the British commanders of warships used to stop merchantships on their way and select any sailor or sailors from such ships for their battleships.

It was in accordance with such regulations that the Bellipotent stopped a merchantship by the name of the 'Rights of Man' to select suitable men for service on the battleship. Lieutenant Ratcliffe, an officer on Bellipotent, selected a very handsome sailor from the merchantship for his battleship. The name of the sailor was Billy- Budd. The master of the merchantship Captain Graveling felt very sad for the selection of Billy Budd. Because, he loved Billy for his friendly nature and his help to maintain peace in his crew. He was the "Jewel" of his crew. He was called as
the 'peace maker' on the ship. Thus, Billy Budd took the leave of his merchantship and joined the warship 'Bellipotent.'

Billy was a happy-go-lucky man. He was always happy everywhere. He became very popular among the members of the crew on Bellipotent with no time. He was very friendly with everybody. He was simple minded and free from vices. He was a man of morals. The only fault in his personality was his stutter. Under any sudden emotional pressure, he would find very difficult to express himself. On such occasions, he was unable to utter words clearly and distinctly.

On the very first day, Billy saw a horrible scene on the warship. An officer was flogging cruelly a sailor for his negligence in his duties. Billy took a lesson from that, and decided not to give any chance to his officers to punish him. Soon, Billy became very popular on the warship for his loving nature, punctuality in his duties and for his innocence and simple-mindedness. All the sailors and even officers loved Billy much.

But, there was an officer named John Claggart who hated Billy Budd. He was the master-at-arms on the Bellipotent. He was an evil-minded man. He is described as a cynic, a man of natural depravity. He was born wicked and morally corrupt. He disliked the popularity of Billy among the crew. He started a secret hostility with Billy. He was impatient to find fault with Billy to punish him. But he couldn't do so. Then, he decided an evil plan to trouble Billy.

Billy was totally ignorant of Claggart's hostility towards him. He couldn't imagine even, that there can be such evil-minded persons as Claggart was. In fact, one old sailor, Dansker, told Billy that Claggart was secretly hostile to him. But Billy didn't believe in the words of Dansker.

Claggart sent an afterguardsman to Billy with an evil plan to trap him. The afterguardsman, as per Claggart's evil plan, offered a bribe of two guineas to Billy. In return of it, he asked him to join a conspiracy of revolting against the ship's officers. Claggart thought that, Billy would accept the bribe and perhaps talk of mutiny. Then, it was easy to Claggart to charge Billy for mutinous intentions and punish him. But, Billy was perfectly loyal to his country and his king. He refused the offer of the guardsman and rebuked him for his evil plan.

Now, Claggart was very restless as he couldn't trap Billy in his evil plan. So, he fabricates a charge against Billy. He goes to the commander of battleship Captain
Vere and tells him a made-up story. He tells Captain Vere that Billy is a dangerous character on a warship. He is growing discontent among the crew against the officers. He is thinking of mutiny against the officers. So a stern action should be taken against him.

Captain Vere was surprised with the charges against Billy made by Claggart, because he knew of well behaviour and simplemindedness of Billy. He was sure that Billy would not do such ungrateful thing against his country and his king. Again, he knew the evil nature of Claggart. But even though, he couldn't neglect the complaining by Claggart because, already two mutinies had taken place on other warships.

So, Captain Vere brings Billy Budd and John Claggart face to face in his cabin. Then he asks Claggart to repeat the charge against Billy, he made earlier. Claggart was so revengeful and inimical against Billy that he openly charged a false crime against Billy. Hearing such a horrible fabricated charge, Billy got shocked. His mind was so confused that he couldn't defend himself. He became emotional and couldn't speak out a single word. To prove his innocence, in anger, he knocked down Claggart. His blow was so powerful that Claggart died on spot. Infact, he didn't think of killing Claggart but it happened accidentally. Because of the death of Claggart, Billy comes into trouble. The situation became very grave.

Captain Vere knew well that Billy was innocent and he didn't kill Claggart with purpose. Even though, he couldn't help him, though he loved him much. On the contrary as a man of discipline and a dutiful officer, he set up a martial court to punish Billy. He insisted the members of the court to give death punishment to Billy as the crime demanded it.

The punishment for killing an officer was nothing but death. Infact, he agreed that Billy was innocent in the eyes of God but in the eyes of the law he was a criminal. To punish Billy was a social necessity at the cost of moral justice. So, the juries declared the death punishment to Billy for killing an officer.

Captain Vere was much troubled, at heart, because he was responsible for the death punishment given to Billy. He knew that he had done a grave wrong to Billy. But he was not sorry to have upheld the claims of legal justice, because it was necessary to maintain discipline in the British navy.
Billy was hanged in presence of all the crew. There were murmurings, grumblings discontent among the crew. The strange thing happened at the time of Billy's hanging. Billy was very calm and quiet. His body didn't shake at all when the noose was tightened. There was fleece of white vapour in the eastern sky. It suggested the lamb of god i. e. Christ and His Crucifixion.

Captain Vere passed his last days in agony. He always felt guilty for Billy's death punishment. At the time of his death, he was heard repeatedly mumuring the name of Bully Budd.

Unfortunately, we read that false report on Billy's death punishment which was published by Navy Office. They published that, Billy killed an officer John Claggart with knife and for that crime he was given death punishment.

But this false report doesn't harm the popularity, and greatness of Billy among the sailors. One of the sailors on Bellipotent wrote a ballad to commemorate the goodness and innocence of Billy Budd. They remember him as a martyr of military discipline.

5.5 Check your progress - I :

Answer in a word /phrase / sentence :

1. Which is the last novel by Herman Melville?
2. What is the name of the historical character on which the character Billy Budd is drawn upon?
3. From which merchantship Billy Budd, was selected for the service on Bellipotent, the battleship?
4. Why did Captain Graveling feel very sad for the selection of Billy Budd?
5. Who was the master-at-arms on the Bellipotent?

5.6 Essay - Type Questions – Answers :

1) Write a character- sketch of Billy Budd.

Ans : i) Introduction:- Billy Budd is one of the three major characters in the novel, "Billy Budd, Sailor" by Herman Melville. He may be called a hero of the novel. The following points shed light on his personality and his role in the novel.
ii) His Physique (His physical look) :- Billy Budd is a young sailor of godlike beauty. He is a handsome- sailor, like a historical Elisha- Small, on whom his (Billy's) character is drawn. He is a man of great strength and beauty. His personality is so striking that every passer by stands and looks at him. That is, his personality catches everybody's attention. He is blue-eyed. He is a white and pink coloured fellow.

iii) His Temperament: - Billy Budd is a man of morals. He is friendly with everybody. He is known for his innocence and simple-mindedness. He doesn't think that Claggart may be inimical with him. Infact, he is compared with lamb's innocence i.e. with Christ himself. He is called a peace-maker among the violent crew.

iv) His family-background: - Billy is an orphan. He doesn't know anything about his lineage. He didn't know who his parents were. He was totally unknown of his birth-place, and parentage. He was found as an infant at a good man's door in Bristol. But, his appearance and temperament showed that, he might be from a royal family.

v) Billy : -As a sailor on Rights-Of-Man (A peace-maker):- Earlier, Billy was a sailor on an English-merchantship named the "Rights-Of-Man". Captain Graveling was the master of that ship. He had very high opinion about Billy Budd. He regarded Billy as his best man, and as a "jewel" of his crew.

Captain Graveling said to Ratcliffe that before he had hired Billy Budd, the members of his crew used to quarrel often among themselves. But, when Billy came, the whole atmosphere on his ship changed altogether. Billy's personality and appearance had the effect of smoothing the tempers of the ship's crew. Even sour (quarreling, bitter) persons became polite to everybody. So Captain Graveling described Billy as a "peace-maker".

vi) His stutter-Only fault: - Though Billy was a stout and handsome fellow, he was suffering from one serious physical defect. When, he was under some emotional pressure, he could not speak fluently. He would begin to stammer and stammer. This fault in him proved fatal and caused his death punishment.

vii) Unaware of his own merits :- Billy was so simple-minded that he was unaware of his own merits. He was completely free from conceit or vanity. He didn't pay attention to his good looks even. The expression on his face was mobile and showed grace.
viii) His life on battle-ship:— Lieutenant Ratcliffe of the Bellipotent impressed Billy Budd into the service of the battle-ship. He joined it without making any fuss about it. On warship, also, he became very popular soon. In the mess, he showed himself to be more cheerful than anybody else.

ix) A dutiful, loyal man of integrity:— Billy was sincere and perfect in his duties. He never gave chance to his authorities to punish him. He was fully faithful to country and to his king. When an after guardsman offers him two guineas to join the mutiny, he rebukes him. We find, he joined the warship as his duty for country and devotion to king without making any complain.

x) Billy's unintentional murder of Claggart:— Billy was very simple-minded and good. He cannot understand the evil minded Claggart. But when Claggart charged a false crime against him, he can not bear it. He was so troubled and full of feelings that he couldn't utter word to defend himself. In that confused mood he hit a hard blow to Claggart, which killed him. Thus, he committed a murder, but it was totally unintentional. It was an act of without malice and forethought. But he was not forgiven for it. The naval laws gave him a death punishment.

xi) Billy—a Christ-figure:— Billy’s simple-mindedness and innocence is compared to Christ's lamb. He is Adam before his fall. He is loved and liked by all. His hanging is compared with Christ's crucifixion. At the time of his hanging, there was a vapory fleece in the sky. One critic says, Billy had Adam's innocence but hardly the knowledge and wisdom of Christ.

xii) Billy compared with Greek gods:— Melville while describing Billy, called him Apollo, Hercules, Achilles and a cheerful-sea-Hyperion.

xiii) Conclusion:— Thus, Billy was a perfect gentleman, a loyal and dutiful sailor. His death was an example of legal justice at the cost of moral justice. He died - went on stake for society-discipline. In a novel, Billy is a symbol of simplicity, goodness and innocence.

Q.2 Write a character-sketch of John Claggart

Ans. : i) Introduction :— John Claggart is one of the important characters in the novel, "Billy Budd-Sailor" by Melville. The writer himself says that the character of Claggart is very unusual and complex. So, he was not able to pinpoint Claggart's traits clearly.
ii) His physique and temperament:- John Claggart was a man about thirty-five. He was slim and tall. His figure was not pleasing. His hand was too small. His chin was cleanly cut showing his evil-nature. He was an evil-minded fellow. He can be called a villain in the novel.

iii) His Duty on "Bellipotent": - John Claggart was the master-at-arms on Bellipotent. His function was like a chief on police. His duty was to maintain order and discipline among the crew.

iv) His early life and family background: - Claggart's early life was a mystery. Nothing was known of his life before he joined the Bellipotent. It was not certain that he was a born Englishman. Perhaps he was only a naturalized Englishman. There was a rumour that he was a cheat, a swindler. It is said that he joined battle-ship to escape the legal matter.

v) An efficient officer: - Though, there were bad rumours about his early life, he proved himself a dutiful and efficient officer. He was a hard working man. He was able to win a rapid promotion with his hard work and winning the favour of his officers. When he joined the navy he was a simple coolie. But by his hard work, his sober ways, his respectful attitude towards his superiors and his talent he was able to win promotions and to attain the position of the master-at-arms. He had full command of the crew who gave him respect and quick obedience.

vi) His hostility to Billy: - For no reason, Claggart disliked Billy. He harboured feelings of hostility-towards Billy. For some strange reason, he developed a strong hatredness towards Billy. But, he kept his hatred secret. Outwardly, he made the show that he loved Billy. He used to call Billy as a sweet and pleasant young fellow.

The old Dansker was right to find this hatred of Claggart against Billy. But, Billy thought, there was no reason to Claggart to be hostile to him. But, we see he decides an evil plan to trap Billy in mutiny action. Further, he fabricates a story and charges Billy for growing dis-satisfaction in the crew. For this charge only, he gets death at the hand of Billy. The writer had suggested the innocence and harmlessness of Billy was the probable reason for Claggart's antagonism (hatred) towards Billy.

vii) His natural depravity: - Claggart was born-evil. The evil nature was born with him. The writer calls it, in the words of Plato, "natural depravity". Such a man
hates another and does damage to him without having any basis or reason. He is a
devil himself. We find Claggart hates and damages Billy's character for no reason.
The writer comments that there was some psychological reason for Craggart's
antagonism towards hatred. The author says that Claggart had become secretly
hostile to Billy because of Billy's handsome appearance.

viii) Claggart's evil plan to trap Billy:- Craggart was always thinking of
catching Billy for mistakes. But, he couldn't catch Billy for any negligence in duties or
any other guilt.

So, he sends an after guardsman to Billy with an evil plan. But, Billy rebukes
that person and proves his loyalty to country and king. Thus, Craggart's evil plot gets
foiled (unsuccessful). So, he becomes very uneasy and waits for further chance to
trouble Billy.

ix) Claggart's charge of mutiny against Billy and his death:- At last,
Craggart fabricates a story to trouble Billy. He tells Captain Vere that Billy is a
dangerous man in the crew. He arouses dissatisfaction and ill-will against officers.
He is growing mutinous feelings in the sailors.

When brought face to face by Captain Vere, Billy becomes very restless and
emotional. He strikes down Claggart and he fell dead. Thus, Claggart pays penalty
for his bad evil deeds. The writer calls it a death of satan in the hands of angel.

x) Conclusion - Craggart a symbol of Evil:- Melville has painted the character
of Craggart as a symbol of evil. He is called a Satan. But, there is an element of
goodness in him. When he looks at Billy we see him overcome with strong feelings
of sadness. Thus, Craggart is a villain in the novel.

Q. 3 -Write a character sketch of Edward Fairfax Vere

Ans. i) Introduction:- Captain Vere is one of the three major characters of the
novel "Billy Budd, Sailor", by Herman Melville. Edward Fairfax Vere is the captain of
the warship, 'Bellipotent,' on which the main events of the story take place. Some
critics regard Captain Vere as the hero on the basis of his superb role in the trial-
scene. The more light on his personality can be shed on his character with the help
of the following points.

i) His early life and family background :- Captain Vere was from
aristocratic family. He had a distinguished past before he became the commander of
the Bellipotent. He had won laurels victories (rewards) in several naval battles. Thus, he was a man of career by birth and his deeds. He had obtained his promotions more by merit than by family influence.

iii) His temperament: - Captain Vere's nature can be summed up calling him as "a man of gravity, modesty, dreaminess of mood and a strict discipline." As a captain, he was very strict and dutiful naval officer. He was kind and considerate to his sub-ordinates. But, he could never tolerate indiscipline. As a civilian, he was sober and appreciated little humour. Sometimes, he would show dreaminess of mood.

iv) An able naval officer: - As a captain of warship he was a strict disciplinarian. He showed his bravery in the west Indian Waters. He had number of victories, rewards on his credit. He was a well-versed in the science of naval warfare. He was strict follower of military law. So, he had earned the name as a starry naval officer.

v) Starry Vere: - In the navy, Captain Vere was popularly known as "Starry Vere." This title or epithet was given to him by one of his relatives. Because of his bright career like star, the title was attached to his name. And he was always called as "Starry Vere"

vi) A conservative man: - By nature, Captain Vere was moderate. He was on the side of keeping the things as they were. He did not readily accept new ideas and opinions in social and political matters. He thought new ideas and opinions in social and political matters. He thought new ideas disturb the peace of the world and undermine the welfare of mankind.

vii) A bookish gentleman: - Among officers of his rank, Captain Vere was regarded as a dry and bookish gentleman. He "used to give examples of some historical character or incident of ancient times. He used to read the books of a serious nature and books dealing with actual men and actual events. Mostly he liked books of history, biographies, and the writings of men like Montaigne.

viii) His fatherly love towards Billy: - He was having very good opinion about Billy Budd. Infact he showered fatherly love upon him. To him, Billy was an angel or God who killed Claggart. But he was a strict father, who didn't spare Billy for his crime.
ix) **His opinion about Claggart:** Captain Vere had been having a very low opinion about the character of Claggart. He compared Claggart to Ananias, a Biblical character, a liar and villain. When he called Billy Adam, he called Claggart Satan. To him Claggart's death in the hands of Billy was a death of Satan by the angel of God. When, Claggart complained against Billy, he didn't believe in him. Because he knew, Claggart was a cynic, a liar. So, he brings him infront of Billy and asks to repeat the charge. Thus, Captain Vere had rightly judged the character of Claggart.

x) **His role in Billy's death punishment:** Captain Vere was the only witness at the killing of Claggart by Billy. Again, he was a chief commander of that warship. So, as a strict, dutiful naval officer, he forced the martial-court members to give death, punishment to Billy. He was largely responsible for Billy's death-punishment. Though, he knew that Billy was innocent in the eyes of God, even, he didn't escape him or lower his punishment. He said, the Satan is killed by the angel of God, but the angel must hang. Thus, his mind was made-up from the very beginning of the trial to hang Billy.

xi) **His guilty feeling - his agony (disturbed state of mind):** After Billy's hanging he felt very sorry. His inner mind always troubled him for his hand in Billy's death punishment. He didn't give moral justice to Billy. We find him murmuring the name of Billy Budd at his last moments.

xii) **A tragic hero:** Some of the critics say, Captain Vere is a hero, a tragic hero of the play; because of his role in the death-punishment of Billy and repentance for it and his own tragic death.

xiii) **A symbol of officialdom:** Captain Vere symbolises a strict and dutiful officer. He is the wise father, terribly severe but righteous. Billy's last words "God bless Captain Vere" point that he was not a villain but a follower of a law.

xiv) **True to his name:** The name Vere is derived from the Latin word "Verite" which means truth. Indeed, Captain Vere stands for truth in the novel, but a one-sided truth.
Q. 4: The novel, 'Billy Budd, Sailor' is Herman Melville's "Testament of acceptance". Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

Explain, different approaches regarding Melville's 'Billy Budd, Suitor'.

OR

Billy Budd is neither Melville's testament of acceptance nor of protest, but his last parable of the human condition. Discuss.

Ans.:- i) Introduction: Most of the scholars and critics regard Billy Budd as Melville's "Testament of Acceptance." Some critics feel, Billy Budd is neither Melville's testament of acceptance, nor of protest but his parable of the human condition. While studying these remarks about Billy Budd, we remember Carlyle's Everlasting Nay and Everlasting Yea respectively.

While studying a novel, 'Billy Budd', I can find, Melville's a) Testament of acceptance (b) protest and even (c) a parable of the human conditions in it.

ii) Melville's literary career a travel from Negation to Affirmation: When we study, Melville's literary works from the beginning to the last, we find the principle of negation in the earlier works and the principle of affirmation in life, in the later works. Billy Budd may be called his full faith in the principle of affirmation in life. Negation means a denial of a faith. It means skepticism, doubt and disbelief. Affirmation means hope, belief and faith.

iii) His works of negation: Melville's novels 'Mardi', Moby-Dick', 'Pierce' are the works of negation. These novels try to find out and analyze the nature of truth, fate and virtue. But, they did not come to any affirmative answers. There is no note of hope at all. They point out Melville's disbelief and doubt in life.

iv) Clarel (a poem) by Melville: A Transitional work: His poem, Clarel shows change in his attitude to life. We find a little faith, belief and hope in life of Melville in it.

Melville could not experience any peace by studying different creeds and philosophies. The science also didn't give home peace at all. He was all in despair. To escape despair, he wrote a poem Clarel. In it, be turned from science to the faith
he found in his own heart. He found a belief in God in some form to be necessary to the peace of his soul.

Thus, we find, change in Melville's attitude in Clarel. There is some sort of affirmation which is absent in Mardi, Moby-Dick and Pierre.

v) **Billy Budd-A story of sacrifice for social-order and discipline:** Melville doesn't protest against fate's injustice in Billy Budd. He accepts it for social necessity. Billy Budd, though innocent, even in the eyes of God, is given death-punishment. He himself, accepts it without any protest, complain or argument. Instead, he prays God, to forgive and bless Captain Vere, who was largely responsible for that judgment. Thus, we find, Billy, like Jesus Christ becomes a willing sacrifice to social necessity. This is what, we call the belief, faith or acceptance in life.

vi) ‘Acceptance’-The message in Billy-Budd: The story of Billy Budd tells us that, sometimes society demands a sacrifice of an individual to maintain social order and discipline for general welfare of the society or mankind.

In Billy's death-punishment, we can find this message clearly. Almost all the juries and even Captain Vere knew the innocence of Billy in Claggart's murder. But, they killed that innocence for general discipline in navel-army. Billy became a sacrificial victim. Thus, Billy Budd ends with Melville's everlasting Yea of the full faith in affirmation in life.

vii) The protest- A theme of Billy Budd: Some readers do not find an affirmation or faith in Billy Budd but, they find doubt and protest in it.

Melville described the death-punishment given to Billy in terms of Christ's Crucifixion. But these readers do not think that the death, punishment was must. They believe, it could have been avoided. It was essential.

They do not accept the military justice or legal justice as supreme or the most important. From their point of view, a moral justice or a divine justice, a justice of heart is all important. The greatness of moral justice is sacrificed for certain lower values such as discipline and social-order.

So, these people or scholars feel that, the novel Billy- Budd- Sailor, expresses Melville's dismay and dissatisfaction, i.e. protest against worldly justice. Infact, he
wants that there should be divine justice in all cases. He protests the sacrifice of
goodness and innocence in Billy for legal or military discipline.

viii) Billy-Budd-A parable (A story with moral) of human condition :-
According to one of the critics, Billy Budd is neither Melville’s testament of
acceptance, nor of protest. It is his parable- a moral story of the human condition.
This opinion calls Claggart, a devil or a mad-man and Captain Vere also has
qualities of Claggart at some extent. Billy is innocent and good. But, he is unfit to live
in this world of hatred cruelty and injustice.

The critic doesn’t accept the reason given by Captain Vere for Billy's death
sentence. He says, both Captain Vere and Claggart suffer from a natural depravity.
They are after killing innocence (Billy) for the sake of Satan (Claggart) only for minor
reasons such as discipline in military and social order.

Infact, Captain Vere was aware of the falseness of Claggart's charge against
Billy. His heart, inner mind was shouting that Billy was innocent and not at all guilty
but he neglected it and gave importance to legal justice. The dilemma of Captain is
very critical. He was caught in between the fatherly love for Billy and his duty as an
officer.

Such critical situation come in the lives of human beings. There is no escape
from such situation. Man is thus a doomed creature. Man cannot avoid such
decisions in his life. Man is the slave of his nature.

Billy is good and remained good until his last breath. Claggart was an evil and
remained evil to the last. We find an occasional look of sorrow on his face. Captain
Vere was in between the good and evil. Infact, he was good but killed moral, divine
justice for dry military law. He cannot go away from his born-quality as a strict
follower of law. He observed the law in words. Thus, Billy Budd Sailor becomes a
parable pointing out that man behaves according to his born qualities.

Q. 5:- 'Billy Budd, Sailor' is a novel full of symbols. Illustrate.  OR
Find out the symbolism in the novel Billy Budd.  OR
What allegorical meanings do we find in the novel, 'Billy Budd-
Sailor?'  OR
'Billy Budd, Sailor' by Herman Melville depicts the conflict between
good and evil. Explain.
Ans. i) Introduction:- The novel 'Billy Budd, Sailor' can be studied on two levels. We have a plain, simple story of Billy Budd, an innocent and handsome sailor. Again, the story has a symbolic meaning. The characters Billy Budd, Captain Vere and John Claggart and the events in the story have symbolic significance also.

The novel presents a contrast between good and evil. Billy stands for good, Claggart stands for evil. Captain Vere is caught in between good and evil.

ii) Symbolism-allegory:- Symbolism is the representation of a thing (generally an idea, emotion or value) by means of a sign which stands for the thing. There is for always some kind of relationship or similarity between the symbol and the thing symbolized. In literature, symbolism is often used in the fable, allegory, and parable.

In allegory ideas such as patience, purity, truth, evil, innocence, goodness are symbolized by persons who are characters in the story.

iii) Three major characters and their symbolic significance:- Billy Budd, John Claggart and Captain Vere are the three important characters. In terms of colours they stand for white, black and grey respectively. Billy Budd is all good, John Claggart is all evil and Captain Vere is mixture of good and evil.

iv) Billy-a symbol of simplicity, goodness and innocence:- Billy stands for simplicity goodness and innocence. There is no touch of evil, wickedness or malice in him. He cannot even think that, there are men such of evil-minded as Claggart. He cannot understand and feel the hateful behaviour of Claggart towards him. He forgives Captain Vere praying God, "God bless Captain Vere", while taking his last breath. Though Captain Vere was largely responsible for his death-punishment.

v) Claggart- a symbol of evil:- Claggart stands for evil. He is all evil. The writer describes him a man of natural depravity. It means he was born wicked. Evil is innate in him. He hates innocence and goodness of Billy for no reason. He starts envying Billy and even takes his life by his evil-plan, but loses his own life too.

vi) Captain Vere a symbol of duty:- Captain Vere represents the grey area between the white and the black. Symbolically Captain Vere is the wise father, terribly severe but righteous.

He knows that Billy is innocent in killing Claggart. Claggart's murder is an accident by Billy. Vere’s conscious heart tells him not to punish Billy. But as a dutiful
officer he obeys military law. He sees the discipline and social order more important than a life of an innocent man. Thus Captain Vere is a symbol of officialdom.

**vii) Billy's killing Claggart and death-punishment:** There is the symbolic importance for Billy's killing Claggart and in his death-punishment. We read, Captain Vere refers to Claggart's death at Billy's hands as a death of satan by an angel of God. He calls Claggart a Biblical Ananias. Ananias like C'laggart was an evil and deceitful man.

Yet, Captain Vere says, 'The angel must be hanged'. Here, it reminds us the crucifixion of Christ.

**viii) Billy- A Christ figure:** The death-punishment to Billy suggests the crucifixion of Christ. Christ prayed God at the time of his going at stake, to forgive those ignorant people who killed him. Thus, Billy prayed for Captain Vere saying, 'God bless Captain Vere'. Again, the vapoury fleece was seen in the sky representing Chirst's lamb. The body of Billy was still at the time of his hanging. The birds symbolizing nature expressed their sorrow on Billy's death.

All these things showed Billy as a Christ-figure.

**ix) The novel Testament of Acceptance:** Symbolically the novel is Melville's testament of acceptance. It points out that an individual goodness should be sacrificed for the general good.

### 5.7 Short Notes:

1) **Lieutenant Ratcliffe**

   i) **Introduction:** Lieutenant Ratcliffe was one of the officers on the warship, the Bellipotent. Though, a minor character, he plays an important role in the novel. It is he, who impresses Billy into navy. Other way, he is responsible for further happenings in the life of Billy Budd.

   ii) **His selection of Billy on Bellipotent:** Before coming on the Bellipotent, Billy was in the service of Captain Graveling's merchantship called the 'Rights of Man.' But, Lieutenant Ratcliffe selected Billy Budd for service on the Bellipotent. Thus, he becomes responsible for Billy's coming on the warship and further happenings in Billy's life also.
iii) A great lover of drinks:- We find Lieutenant Ratcliffe enjoying drinks on the Rights of Man, in fact, without offer by Captain Graveling. He is a man fond of pleasures of life. Melville describes, on the warship the life is dry and hard, but this fellow always enjoys the sensuous enjoyment of drinking wine. He softens the dry life in liquor.

iv) A jovial man (A man of cheerful nature):- Lieutenant Ratcliffe is a man who likes to cut jokes. He is happy-go-lucky, jovial kind of man. We find he talks with Captain Graveling in a light mood when later (Graveling) was in the heavy (sorrowful) mood. He calls Billy-My beauty. Infact, the beauty, the handsomeness of Billy impressed him much.

v) A man of discipline:- Though, a jovial man, he was man of strong sense of discipline. He was a man of military discipline. We see, he doesn't allow Billy to take his box on the Bellipotent, because it was not allowed according to navy law. He asks Billy to put his things into a bag, because a sailor on a warship is allowed to lake a bag and a hammock (hanging bed of canvas or rope network). Again, he rebukes Billy for his manner of bidding good-bye to his old ship the Rights of Man, and his ship-mates,

vi) His role in the novel:- Infact, Lieutenant Ratcliffe comes in the first chapter of novel only. Later on he has no part to play at all. But, he plays very important role of bringing Billy Budd on the warship, the Bellipotent.

2) Captain Graveling

i) His physique and temperament: - Captain Graveling was a man of fifty or thereabouts. He was rather fat. He had an attractive face. He was intelligent. He had a musical voice which indicated his essential honesty. He was a respectable man and known for his duties as a master of merchantship.

ii) A master of merchatship:- Captain Graveling was an honest, dutiful and prudent ship-master. The name of his merchant ship was the Rights of Man. He was always very serious about his duties as a shipmaster,

iii) A well judge of persons :- (His love for Billy): It is Captain Graveling, who felt sad for Billy's selection on the warship. Because, he knew losing Billy means loss of peace on his ship. He called Billy 'a jewel' of his crew. He told Lieutenant Ratcliffe that before Billy came to his ship, the members of his crew used
to quarrel constantly. But, after Billy's joining the ship all quarrels ceased. All the sailors started living as the members of one family. Thus, he judged goodness in Billy's character. So, he felt very sad to lose Billy from ship.

iv) His role in the novel:- Infact Captain Graveling has no role to play in the novel. We meet him only once while Billy's impressment on the Bellipotent. "Even though, his short appearance on the scene sheds more light on the character of Billy Budd. He calls Billy a jewel, a peace maker, a catholic priest. He raised Billy's character in our regard.

3) The Old Dansker

i) Introduction:- Old Dansker was one of the sailors on the battleship called the 'Bellipotent.' He is one of the important minor characters in the novel. It is he, who first makes a reader aware of Claggart's evil nature. Again, Dansker is an (relief) outlet from the sad, gloomy atmosphere in the novel,

ii) His physique and temperament:- Dansker was a man of few words, many wrinkles and some honourable scars. His face was full of wrinkles due to old age. He had a cut-scar on his face. Because of that scar mark and blue pepper colour, he was called by the crew as 'Board Her in the smoke.' He was very shrewd and careful of his talk and actions.

iii) An experienced sailor:- He was an old sailor with a good record and many years service on his credit. He had originally served under the great Captain Newson. He served on the great historical ship 'Agamenon.' He had experienced the hard life on the battleship. So, he feels sorry for Billy's impressment on warship. As an experienced sailor, he is never loose in his talk. He knows the danger of open talk, so he is often cautious of talk and actions.

iv) His love and interest in Billy:- Dansker was very curious (eager) of Billy, when he came on the warship- Because he found Billy rather unfit for warship service. But, he started loving that handsome sailor. He would call Billy, 'Baby.' He was quite fond of Billy. Billy, too, used to show him a lot of respect salutating him and asking his advice in every matter.

v) A good judge of situation and of human character:- His reading of Claggart's hostility to Billy is a concrete proof of his understanding of character. He rightly judges that Claggart is secretly hostile to Billy. Again, he is right to suspect
Caggart's hand in an after-guardsman event and the sailor rebuking Billy for no reason. His intelligence and his vast experience of life gave him a capacity for judging human actions and human motives.

vi) A cautious man:- His experience of life made him a cautious man. He hints Billy that coming of afterguardsman to Billy is an evil plan by Claggart. But, when Billy asks more about it, he keeps mum. He refuses to say anything more. His behaviour appears mysterious in the beginning but it is not so. His caution and precaution in his talk and behavior in general makes him look mysterious. Experience had taught him not to become too candid (frank, straight forward) and outspoken.

vii) A Source of humour in the novel:- The novel has pathetic story. It paints gloomy and solemn picture of Billy's life and Captain Vere's death. The old Dansker is the only character which lessens his gloomy, pathetic atmosphere. The description of his face, his complexion is amusing. His nick-name, 'Board-Her-in-the-smoke 'is funny. The author compares him to Merlin, a magician and to the oracle at Delphi. These comparisons are humorous.

vii) His Role in the Novel:- Old Dansker plays very important role in the novel. He sheds light on the character of Claggart. He is interesting in himself.

4) Squeak
   i) Introduction:- Squeak is a nickname of one of the sailors on Bellipotent. He is one of the minor characters., He is a back biter and the talebearer.

   ii) His physique and temperament:- Squeak is a grey-haired little man. He is given a nickname Squeak for his squeaky voice and sharp face. He is compared to a rat in the cellar. He is evil-minded. He mars the character of Billy to win favour of Claggart. He is a liar.

   iii) His reports against Billy:- He comes to know that the master-at-arms, John Claggart is inimical towards Billy. He takes disadvantage of it. He prejudices the mind of Claggart against Billy by reporting made-up stories. He tells that he overheard Billy talking ill of him (John Claggart). Thus, he is the cause behind Claggart's growing hatred against Billy.
iv) His role in the novel: Squeak plays an important though minor role in the story of the novel. He adds to Claggart's natural depravity against Billy. He becomes an external cause of Claggart's hating Billy. Thus, he is the tale-bearer in the novel.

5) News from the Mediterranean

OR

An Official (Government) Report On Claggart's Death and Billy's Hand in it.

i) Introduction: A few weeks after the execution of Billy Budd, the government published the report on the event. The Govt. gave fully different report. The fact was suppressed.

ii) The contents of report: The report of Billy's attack on John Claggart and his death was published by the government under the head of "News from the Mediterranean"

According to report, John Claggart, the master-at-arms of the Bellipotent had discovered conspiracy among the sailors. The main conspirator or the mind behind the mutinous thinking was Billy Budd. He was bringing a criminal (Billy) in front of Captain for trial. On the way, Billy stabbed Claggart to death with a knife. For this capital crime, the criminal was sentenced to death. The death punishment given to Billy proved effective. It brought the mutinous situation under control. At last, the report paid a tribute to the loyalty and efficiency of Claggart.

iii) Remarks on report: When we read the report, we come to know that it is a misrepresentation of facts by the Government. It points out how the historical facts are twisted, distorted and falsified by government agencies to suit their own purposes, political and military. We see, that a government publication represented Claggart as a hero and Billy as a villain. It is a complete misrepresentation of truth by the government. It is a little amusing but more disgusting and depressing.

6) The Two Mutinies in the British Navy

Ans:- Please read The Historical Background to the Novel' given in the story of novel in the beginning part of the notes on Billy Budd, Sailor.
Ans.: i) Introduction - Tragedy: A tragedy is a tale of human suffering and misfortune. It paints a heroic character with virtues, happiness and prosperity. The fate of hero changes to adversity misery and in the end it takes the life of the hero. The death of hero takes place because of some fault or defect in the hero some outer agencies, a part played by destiny and even chance events in the life of the hero. Such story is full of pathos. It means it arouses a feeling of pity and sympathy for the sufferer.

ii) Billy Budd A tragic hero: (Pathos in Billy's death-sentence): Herman Melville calls Billy Budd as a hero of the novel. He is a young, handsome sailor. He is a man of no enemy at all. Everybody loves him. He is all simplicity and goodness. He is called as a peace-maker. He is called as Adam before his fall. Infact, he is a Christ-figure.

But as every tragic hero suffers from some tragic-flaw (defect), he also suffers from a certain vocal defect. Under the pressure of some failing, or under some emotional stress, he would find himself unable to express clearly. He would stammer on such occasions. This drawback in him is responsible for the death of Claggart by his hands. Thus, this tragic-flaw becomes responsible for Billy's downfall and death.

The clash is in between him and Claggart. Infact, it is a one-sided hatred by Claggart. Billy is totally unaware of Claggart's inimical behaviour with him. Thus, Claggart in the form of outer agency brings Billy's death.

The chance event also quickens the death of hero, Billy. Billy, unable to defend himself gives a hard blow to Claggart which kills that man. Infact Billy didn't mean to kill him. But, it happens accidentally and he is proved guilty for it.

Thus, his tragic-flaw, a villain in the form outer agency and chance event lead Billy's death quickly. The death punishment given to Billy arouses pity and fear in our mind. It is full of pathos. We are sorry for the killing of innocence and goodness for the sake of social order and military discipline. We feel sorry because the moral, divine justice is rejected for the illegal justice.
iii) Captain Vere – Tragic Hero: The novel, 'Billy Budd, Sailor' has two tragic heroes. One is Billy and another is Captain Vere.

Though, Captain Vere is largely responsible for the death, punishment given to Billy, he himself is painted as a tragic hero by the novelist. Infact, his wounded mind, repenting for the injustice done on Billy arouses pity for him.

Captain Vere is a man of rank. He showers fatherly love on Billy. He calls Billy as an angel of God who killed Claggart. But, he adds that the angel must be hanged. He knows Billy is innocent in the eyes of God. The divine moral justice would free Billy for his killing Claggart. But he is a man of strict discipline and a loyal officer, loyal to country and king. So, he chooses military, legal justice and condemns Billy to death.

But, after Billy is executed, he loses his peace of mind. He always feels sorry for the injustice done on Billy. He cannot achieve any mental peace. At the last moments of his life he was heard repeatedly murmuring the name of Billy Budd. He certainly does not die a happy man.

Captain Vere's death too arouses pity and fear in our mind. His death is also a tragic one. Captain Vere's anguish and agony after Billy's death sentence make him a tragic figure.

Thus, the present novel paints two tragic characters, who make a novel tragic one and full of pathos.

8) The imagery in "Billy Budd, Sailor"

Ans.: i) Introduction: The novel 'Billy Budd, Sailor' contains vivid and varied imagery, Herman Melville had made the use of imagery to paint vivid pictures of persons, things, events and situations. We find the use of historical, Biblical and mythological imagery in the novel.

ii) Historical Imagery: The novel describes certain historical events, characters and create background to novel. There is a description of two mutinies which took place in the British navy at Spithead and at Nore in 1797. Then the novelist talks of impressment of sailors, citizens into British navy, the discontent among the sailors because hard life on battleship. Further, it gives a vivid picture of Nelson and his heroism and heroic death. The evil character in the novel Claggart is
compared to historical characters Titus Oates and Guy Fawkes, known for their evilness, Thus we have historical imagery in the novel.

iii) Biblical Imagery:- Another source of imagery is Bible. The writer has made the ample use of Biblical imagery. Billy is Adam before his fall and a Christ figure near his death. Then there is a reference of Jonah, a Biblical character. He was thrown from a ship's deck into the sea by his fellow passengers,. Because of his sins, he was swallowed by a whale and afterwards vomited out by that whale on the shore.

Captain Vere is compared to Biblical father Abraham who sacrificed his son Isaac in obedience to God. In the novel Captain Vere stands for Abraham and Billy stands for Issac. Then, Claggart is compared to Biblical treacherous and deceitful Aganiais. Billy is called an angel of God. The hanging of Billy suggests the crucifixion. He becomes a Christ figure in the end.

iv) Mythological Imagery:- The Mythological imagery adds the painting of characters in the novel. Billy is compared with the mythological characters Apollo, Hercules and Achilles. The old Dansker is described as the old sea Chiron. The image of Billy is heightened because of his comparison with mythological figures Hercules and Achilles.

v) Animal Imagery: - More light is shed on Billy's character with the use of animal images. Billy's singing is compared to the nightingale; his noble family background is suggested comparing him to a blood horse. His loyalty to his country, his king and comrades is suggested comparing him to a dog of theist. Bernard's breed Billy's impressment in the British navy is called a goldfinch pushed into a cage.

vi) Colour- Imagery:- The colour white has special significance in 'Billy Budd, Sailor.' The white is contrasted with the black. The white colour in Billy Budd stands for purity and innocence and the black colour suggests evil-nature and destruction.

Billy is seen in his white jumper, and white duck trousers near black guns. His clothes are like discolored snow. The officers make use of silvery white whistles to summon the sailors. The fleece of lamb is white, which is seen in the sky at Billy's execution. It compares Billy to Chirst- figure. Thus, the white- colour imagery is dominant in the novel.
Thus, we find the generous (ample) use of a variety of imagery to shed more light on the characters and situations in the novel.

9) The Title of the novel, 'Billy Budd- Sailor'

Ans: - i) Introduction: - A title of any literary work, i.e. of a drama, novel or, a poem is given generally after the main character painted in it. Sometimes, the title is based on two important characters in it, or it points out the theme or themes discussed in it. Most of the times the title is striking or rather thought provoking.

ii) Sub-title of the novel: - Melville had given a subtitle to this novel. It is "an inside narrative." The critics found that this novel is "Melville's own inner spiritual conflict and its ultimate resolution. Again, the novel describes the inner life of a ship and this description is a microcosm of the world outside. Both the interpretations are vivid and complement to each other. Thus the subtitle may be called an apt and befitting to the subject matter of the novel.

iii) Billy Budd, Sailor a present title: - The title, "Billy Budd, Sailor" is given after the name of the hero Billy. The novelist himself had called Billy as a hero. We find, Billy is the main character and everything what happens in the novel is related to Billy. Claggart's jealousy, evil plan, a false charge, and death, all these things are directly related to Billy Budd. Captain Vere's strict decision and agony afterward, all these also prove Billy as a main character. So, we can say the title is an appropriate and befitting to the subject matter in the novel.

iv) Conclusion: - Perhaps, some readers may feel, Captain Vere is also the hero of the novel. But Captain Vere is not as good as a hero should be. He is rather cruel or say a strict official who sacrifices divine, moral law for the military law. So, we can say the present title is apt.

5.8 Check your progress - II :

Complete the following sentences choosing the correct alternative from the brackets.

1. Captain Graveling regarded Billy as a .......... of his crew. (jewel, peace-breaker)

2. In the navy, Captin Vere was populary known as .......... (Starry Vere, Forgetful Captain).

4. The official report published on Claggart’s death and Billy’s hand in it was titled…………….. (News from the Mediterranean, Report on Bellipotent)

5. The subtitle of the novel ‘Billy Budd, Sailor’ was .......... (‘An inside narrative’, ‘The narrative of Billy’)

5.9 Answers to Check Your Progress I and II :

★ Answers Check Your Progress I :

1. Billy Budd, the Sailor
2. Elisha Small
3. Right of Man
4. Because, he loved Billy for his friendly nature and his help to maintain peace in his crew.
5. John Claggart.

★ Answers Check Your Progress II :

1. jewel
2. Starry Vere
3. evil
4. News from the Mediterranean
5. An inside narrative

5.10 References for further study :

Unit-6
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN
-- Harriet Beecher Stowe

Index
6.1 Objectives
6.2 Introduction
6.3 Text - *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
   6.3.1 Part I
   6.3.2 Self-Assessment Questions
   6.3.3 Part II
   6.3.4 Self Assessment Questions
   6.3.5 Part III
   6.3.6 Self Assessment Questions
   6.3.7 Part IV
   6.3.8 Self Assessment Questions
6.4 Glossary
6.5 Model Answers of Self-Assessment Questions
6.6 Summary
6.7 Exercises
   6.7.1 Broad Questions with Answers
6.8 Activities/ Field Work
6.9 Further Reading
6.1 Objectives:

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

- know that the novel is a powerful indictment of slavery
- examine the message of the novel
- design to motivate America to act on a major issue of the day
- probe the historical and literary significance of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- know the accuracy in its portrayal of the slave experience
- find out feminist implications
- know that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was the first novel by a woman
- trace racism, sexism and classism

6.2 Introduction:

Harriet Beecher Stowe is best known for her anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852). Towe was born in 1811 in Litchfield, Connecticut, into a distinguished and strongly Calvinist family; her father was the renowned minister Lyman Beecher. She was a pupil at her sister's school, at which she later taught, in Hartford, Connecticut, and in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1836 she married a clergyman, Calvin Ellis Stowe. She visited Kentucky before living in Maine, where she began writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, her first novel, in 1850. This was followed by the factual *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1853) in which Stowe presented documentary material to support her representation of slavery. Her second novel, *Dred: A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp* (1856), was based on Nat Turner's Revolt. The enormous success of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* made Stowe an international celebrity. Her later novels and short stories are primarily regional and in the domestic tradition. They include the satirical *The Minister's Wooing* (1859) and *Oldtown Folks* (1869). She also published the controversial *Lady Byron Vindicated* (1870), in which she detailed the infidelities of Lord Byron and stated that he had committed incest. Stowe lived partly in New England and partly on a Florida plantation. She died in Hartford in 1896.

Critical opinion of Stowe has been sharply divided. The importance of her first novel to the Abolitionist movement is undeniable, but their influential representation of African Americans been considered unfortunately stereotypical. The later work
has been considered conservative by some because of its representation of women in the domestic sphere, while others have praised its attention to realist detail and have considered Stowe an important precursor of later women writers, especially those of the local colour tradition.

To conclude, she was a remarkably prolific writer of both books and articles in many genres and styles. She wrote children's books; travelogues; purely theological works; temperance tracts; and practical articles about housekeeping, decoration, and the "servant problem". Throughout her career she was both celebrated and financially successful.

6.3 The novel has four parts.

6.3.1 Part – I (pages 1 to 134 )

6.3.2 Self-Assessment Questions

a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/ sentence each :

1. Who received Harriet Beecher Stowe in England?
2. What is the sub title of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
3. In what type do you classify the novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
4. What was the name of the president of America who said about Stowe "the little lady who wrote the book that made this great war?"
5. Why did Mrs. Shelby detain the trader?
6. What was the reaction of the crowd when Tom was departing?
7. What was the reaction of George when Haley said about buying men and women?

b) Choose the correct alternative :

1. *The Mayflower* was published in ____.
   a) 1843   b) 1952   c) 1951   d) 1936

2. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in ____.
   a) 1952   b) 1852   c) 1936   d) 1834
3. *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in ____.
   a) 1853  
   b) 1934  
   c) 1852  
   d) 1936

c) **Fill up the blanks:**
   1. The Stowe had _____ children.
      a) seven  
      b) ten  
      c) six

   2. The Stowes had twins _____.
      a) Harriet and Eliza  
      b) Frederick and Henry  
      c) Georgiana and Samuel

   3. In Russia, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was welcomed by _____.
      a) Leo Tolstoy  
      b) Turgener  
      c) Anton Chekhov

6.3.3 Part II (pages 135 to 329)

6.3.4 Self-Assessment Questions

a) **Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each:**
   1. What is the full name of Eva?
   2. Who was Augustine St. Clare?
   3. Who was Tom Loker in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
   4. What was the effect on Eva when she listened to the history of Tom's wife?

b) **Choose the correct alternative:**
   1. George was the son of ____.
      a) Tom  
      b) Wilson  
      c) Simeon  
      d) Arthur Shelby
   2. Arthur Shelby was from ____.
      a) Kentucky  
      b) New Orleans  
      c) Louisiana  
      d) Washington

c) **Fill up the blanks:**
   1. The slave centre depicted in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is _____.
      a) New Orleans  
      b) Mississippi  
      c) Kentucky  
      d) Louisiana
   2. The mother of Augustone was _____.
      a) an English  
      b) a Huguenot French  
      c) Russian  
      d) Canadian
3. All take objections for Topsy, but not ______
   a) Miss Ophelia   b) Miss Freely   c) St. Clare   d) Miss Marie

6.3.5 Part – III (pages 330 to 437)

6.3.6 Self-Assessment Questions

a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/ sentence each:
   1. What did Mr. Shelby say of business of women?
   2. What did Mrs. Shelby say about the marriages of slaves?
   3. Who taught Topsy to read and write?
   4. Why did Eva express so much love for Topsy?

b) Choose the correct alternative:
   1. Miss Ophelia comes from
      a) New England   b) Louisiana   c) New Orleans   d) Kentuck
   2. Tom was auctioned, and bought by
      a) Mr. Legree    b) Mrs. Shelby    c) St. Clare    d) Wilson

c) Fill up the blanks:
   1. Miss Ophelia was skilful in ______
      a) nursing   b) telling lies   c) evasion of duty   d) deceiving others
   2. Eva loves deeply Topsy because ______
      a) she is a young girl   b) she is her relative
      c) one has no mother and father   d) she is very beautiful

6.3.7 Part – IV (pages 438 to 589)

6.3.8 Self-Assessment questions

a) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/ sentence each:
   1. Who was the second master of Tom?
   2. What was the nickname given to the slave?
   3. Why did Legree hate Tom?
4. How did Legree receive George?

b) Choose the correct alternative:

1. George Shelby was in search of Tom
   a) because he wanted to see him
   b) because he wanted to re-purchase him
   c) because George's father wanted him

2. George met Tom but Tom refused to accompany him because
   a) George was too late
   b) Tom was nonwilling
   c) Legree was troubling Tom
   d) Heaven is better than Kintuck

c) Fill up the blanks:

1. When George met Tom, Tom was found ____
   a) dead
   b) alive
   c) unhealthy
   d) indecent

2. "I don't sell dead nigger" who said this?
   a) George Shelby
   b) Legree
   c) Wilson
   d) Mrs. Shelby

3. George Shelby did not want to write to his mother about the death of Tom because ____
   a) he had no pen
   b) he had no paper
   c) he had no courage
   d) he had no heart to write

4. The novel – *Uncle Tom's Cabin* – closes with the message ____
   a) All is right with the world, and God is in His Heaven
   b) God loved the slavery system
   c) People should read the Bible
   d) Injustice and cruelty shall bring on nations the wrath of Almighty God!
6.4 Glossary

Part – I

1. scamper : run quickly
2. hobble : walk lamely
3. drudgery : hard, boring work
4. marauding : moving about in search of plunder or pray
5. indignation : feeling of anger and scorn
6. Abolitionist : one who is going to stop slavery by way of law
7. cuss : curse
8. dizzy : giddy, confused
9. spur : sharp device fixed to a rider's heels
10. fetters : prisoner's chains
11. exhortation : the actor process of exhorting

Part – II

1. aforesaid : mentioned or named before or already
2. amble : move in an easy space
3. scripture : the holy scriptures, the Bible
4. Quaker : (a member) of a Christian religious group which opposes violence
5. pussy : cat or kitten
6. inherit : receive as heir
7. intrude : thrust into
8. languidly : languidness, lacking in energy
9. piquant : pleasantly sharp to the taste
10. fiddlesticks : nonsense
Part – III

1. hobgoblin : a Goblin that plays tricks on people
2. adroitness : quick and skilful in using mind or hand
3. dazzling : very strong light shining in the eyes
4. recline : lie back or down
5. agony : very great pain or suffering of mind or body
6. lineament : a typical quality
7. vociferate : shout loudly or forcefully
8. callous : unkind
9. exquisite : extremely beautiful
10. expatiate : speak or write a lot

Part – IV

1. apportionment : divide
2. debauchery : excessive intemperance
3. pantaloon : foolish character upon whom the clown plays tricks
4. saunter : walk in leisurely way
5. mulatto : a person who has one parent of black race and one of white race
6. guttural : produced in the throat
7. gal : girl
8. taunt : upbraid
9. Groane : deep moan
10. stimulate : arouse interest or excitement
11. swamp : exchange by barter
12. carouse : drink heavily and be merry
13. tousle : disarrange
14. pish : exclamation of impatience or contempt
6.5 Model Answers of Self-Assessment Question.

Sub-Section 6.3.2 :

a) 1. Harriet Beecher Stowe was received by queen Victoria in England.
   2. The subtitle is Life Among the Lowly.
   3. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was a regional novel.
   4. It was Abraham Lincoln who said these words.
   5. Mrs. Shelby detained the trader because Mr. Shelby was disposing of Tom, the son of Eliza, a faithful creature.
   6. The crowd expressed their deeper sorrow for Tom.
   7. George was quite unhappy when he noticed selling of men and women.

b) 1) a  2) a  3) a

c) 1) a  2) a  3) a

Sub-Section 6.3.4 :

a) 1. The full name of Eva is Evangeline St. Clare.
   2. Augustine St. Clare was son of a wealthy planter of Louisiana.
   3. Tom Loker was a cruel slave hunter.
   4. When Eva listened to the history of Tom's wife, her cheeks grew pale, and a deep, earnest shadow passed over her eyes.

b) 1) d  2) a

c) 1) c  2) b  3) c

Sub-Section 6.3.6 :

a) 1. Mr. Shelby says that women do not understand business, women never do, and never can.
   2. According to Mrs. Shelby, marriages of slaves are as sacred as ours.
   3. Miss Ophelia taught Topsy to read and write.
   4. Topsy had no mother and father; no friends and relatives
b) 1) a 2) a  
c) 1) a 2) c  

Sub-Section 6.3.8:

a) 1. The second master of Tom was Simon Legree.  
2. The nickname given to the slave was Sambo.  
3. Legree hates Tom because he was faithful and valuable servant.  
4. Legree received George with a kind of surly hospitality.  

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

6.6 Summary  
Part – I (1 to 10 Chapters)

Uncle Tom's Cabin opens with a Kentucky farmer named Arthur Shelby facing the loss of his farm because of debts. Even though he and his wife, Emily Shelby, believe that they have a benevolent relationship with their slaves, Shelby decides to raise the needed funds by selling two of them—Uncle Tom, a middle-aged man with a wife and children, and Harry, the son of Emily Shelby's maid Eliza—to a slave trader. Emily Shelby hates the ideas of doing this because she had promised her maid that her child would never be sold; Emily's son George Shelby, hates to see Tom go because he sees the man as his friend and mentor.

George Harris, Eliza's mulatto husband, is introduced. George is very clever, and invents a machine for cleaning hemp at the factory where his master hires out his slave labourers. When the jealous master learns of George's success, however he relegates him to the most menial farm work. We are introduced by way of flashback that Eliza and George fell in love with and married in the Shelby's parlour, and lost two infants before Harry was finally born.

The circumstances never co-operate Eliza and George. George married Mina because of his master's order, and Eliza was separated. The couple part in tears, and Eliza reminds George to "be good" so that they may see one another in heaven. George left for Canada.
The family of Uncle Time is introduced. Chole, wife of Tom, is the head cook on the plantation. Tom and Chole had two young sons who are teaching the new baby Polly to walk. George praises Aunt Chole's cooking and Uncle Tom plays with his baby.

The canbin is full of slave, engaged in pray. They halt about a slave trader's visit to the plantation. Shelby disposes Tom and Harry to Haley, taking promises from him that he would not sell Tom to any cruel master. Mrs. Shelby makes as long inquiry about the deal that Shelby carried out. Meanwhile Eliza learnt about all the deal, and wishes Tom run away with her so that he should not be disposed of. Aunt Chole begs Tom to go, but he strongly refuses to "break trust" with his master and resigns himself to his fate.

The next day, it is noticed that Eliza ran away. Shelby is angry and Haley is furious. Mrs. Shelby is, however, glad and says "the Lord be thanked". Haley, with the help of the slaves, set out for searching Eliza and Harry. The slaves outwitted the slave trader and bought much precious time for Eliza. Eliza, along with her son, runs from Uncle Tom's Cabin in the general direction of the North. Eliza faces all natural calamities and reaches the North. In the meantime, Mrs. Shelby has convinced Haley that he must have dinner before setting out to find Eliza. The slaves are in search of Eliza. Tom prays God for her health. Haley used all his strength to find out Eliza. He failed in his mission. On the other hand, the slaves enjoyed much.

The scene now shifts to the home of the Ohio senator Bird. Upon the inquiry of her husband, Mary, the wife of the senator, found that the bill has been voted for the law. Many did not agree with her husband. She thought that it was unchristian. Eliza was taken care by the senator and his wife. She was given all kinds of help. Even their children were ready to defend Eliza and her child.

Haley returns to the Shelby plantation to collect his second purchase, Uncle Tom. The slaves encircle Tom in grief as Haley shackles Tom's ankles. Tom's last words to the plantation, as Haley drives away, are "give my love to Mas'r George". Haley stops at a blacksmith's to have handcuffs adjusted to fit Tom's wrists. The blacks with laments that Tom will be sold down south. Back on the road, Haley and Tom meet young George Shelby accidentally. Crying, the boy bows to one day find Tom.
Part – II (11 to 20 Chapters)

Eliza's husband, George Harris, is the focus of this chapter. Disguised as a Spaniard, he stops at a tavern where he meets his old boss at the factory, Mr. Wilson. Wilson is fooled until George reveals himself to him. Mr. Wilson becomes very nervous upon discovering that George has fled and quotes the Bible to urge him to return to his master. Wilson then tells him that he runs to great a risk of getting caught, but George replies that he is armed with pistols and a knife, and that he is determined to "fight for liberty with his last breath".

Tom was taken to New Orleans by Haley. On his way to Louisiana, he bought more slaves. He bought a woman, and a child. Tom felt deep when he saw 'unutterably horrible and cruel transaction'.

Eliza and Harry are now living in a Quaker settlement at the home of an old couple, Rachel and Simeon Halliday. George, Eliza and Harry are reunited. For the first time, George feels like he has found a home in togetherness with his family.

Haley and Uncle Tom are traveling. Haley learnt the goodness of Tom, and therefore he lets Tom sleep without his chains. Aboard the ship are a rich gentleman from New Orleans, Augustine St. Clare and his angelic daughter Eva. Eva is angelic and she secretly brings Tom and the slaves Candy, oranges, and other snacks. It was Tom who saved Eva when she fell in the water. Tom was bought by St. Clare. Tom was very happy to have such a kind new master. Eva was equally happy to have tom.

The next chapter opens with the history of the St. Clare family. Eva was the daughter of St. Augustine St. Clare who was the son of a wealthy planter in Louisiana. Tom found comfortable people in his life. We have been introduced Miss Ophelia who came from the north and decided to restore order to the chaotic plantation with her "missionary zeal".

Mrs. St. Clare feels that Eva and St. Clare's kindness to Tom is not right. She says that slavery is justified in the Bible. However, Mrs. St. Clare wanted that the slaves should not be treated more harshly.

At the Halliday's, the reunited George and Eliza discuss what their new life of freedom in Canada will be like. George gives Eliza many promises. Realising that the slave hunters are looking for Harry, George and Eliza, all of them leave the
Quaker in the night. The fight takes place between the slave hunters and George and Harry. The result is that Loker was wounded in the fight. The Quakers take Loker into their home to heal him.

In Chapter 18, we notice that Tom is telling all his past life to St. Clare. Tom is also worried about St. Clare because he attends too many drinking parties. Miss Ophelia acts according to her New England background. She does not tolerate Eva's relation with Tom, and St. Clare showing too much sympathy for Tom. She is quite critical about her cousin who develops relation with Tom. In the next chapter, the condition of Prue is narrated. Being a slave, she never gets any help from the whites. She lost her baby and addicted to drinking. Tom advises to give up her habits, Eva is saddened while listening to Prue's sad tale. Later, we are told that Prue was dead. Miss Ophelia did not like slavery. St. Clare wanted to stop slavery. Eva, too, was affected by the sad news of Prue. St. Clare buys a young slave Topsy who is expert in dancing. Miss Ophelia takes care of Topsy. Stowe has given us a comparative picture of Topsy and Eva, and their family backgrounds. Topsy never understands either duty or religion. She has no good background. She learns anything quickly, but she never performs. On the other hand, Eva is quite fascinated by Topsy's ill-behaviour.

**Part – III (21 to 30 Chapters)**

With the help of Eva, Tom writes a letter to Shelby. Aunt Chloe informs the news to Shelby about Tom's desire to return to his "real home". Mr. Shelby has still been plagued by debt. Mrs. Shelby offers to help raise money, especially so that they can buy Tom. Mr. Shelby becomes angry and his wife lets the unlikely hope drop for the present.

The scene now returns to the St. Clare plantation two years later. Tom has just received a letter from young George Shelby telling him of Aunt Chloe's success in the pastry store. The relationship between Eva and Tom developed, and tom talks of religious matters to Eva. Marie St. Clare criticizes Eva's constant association with the blacks, and tries to stop her from teaching them to read the Bible. In the next chapter, we are given the story of Alfred, the brother of St. Clare, who comes to the plantation with his family. The plays, the activities of the black children and the white children are shown. Eva plays a central role in bridging their relations.
When, in the next chapter, Alfred and Henrique depart from the plantation, we see the decline of health of Eva. Eva is going to die and leaves behind her the dream of setting free all the slaves. Tom is quite broken; her father took the decision of setting free all the slaves.

Miss Ophelia tells Mr. St. Clare and Marie that she can no longer try to educate Topsy. According to Topsy, "Nobody love niggers". Miss Ophelia never loves Topsy, whereas Eva loves her truly. Miss Ophelia realizes her mistake by admitting that she felt racially superior.

Eva's delicate health is described. Her religious talks, her relation with the slaves, and how Topsy and Tom come to help her – all these are described emotionally. Eva dies. Marie mourns melodramatically, St. Clare is lost in pain. Tom inculcates about God, heaven and other things to St. Clare. But he never believed in these things.

In the next chapter 27, we are told that St. Clare sets all his slaves free. He reads the Bible, and asks Miss Ophelia to take care of Topsy. Tom tries to pacify St. Clare. Tom tries to convert him. Tom refuses to leave his master – St. Clare. St. Clare wishes him to set free, and send him to Kentuck. Miss Ophelia wishes to take the responsibility of educating the slaves. St. Clare is accidentally wounded, when he is trying to pacify the gangsters. He comes home and Tom tries to heal him. At the end, we see that St. Clare is happy to die. He says he is "coming home, at last." Before he dies, he cries out for his mother.

St. Clare died. Marie did not set free the slaves. She sold them. Miss Ophelia took objection for this. Tom is sent to slave auction at the market. Tom is treated cruelly. Tom is purchased by Simon Legree, a harsh man who moved South seeking his fortune in the slave trade and cotton farming. In chapter 30, the focus is on Simon Legree who is merciless, and pays no respect to human beings. Tom tries to hide everything about the Bible etc. Legree says "I don't show no mercy."

**Part – IV (31 to 45 Chapters)**

Tom and other slaves arrive on the Legree plantation. The plantation is quite unhealthy place. The living quarters of the slaves are quite dismal. Tom feels very lonely and desperate, but when the slaves return from the fields, he takes out his Bible and reads to them. None of the slaves have ever seen the Bible, and Tom shares his favourite passages and prays for them all. However, Tom is good, Legree
feels a "secret dislike for him." Legree is shown as cruel and merciless man. When Tom was helping Cassy, the woman, Legree objected and began to beat Tom till he falls unconsciously. Through Cassy, Stowe tries to teach the lesson of love, mercy, and benevolence. Women alone can bring salvation. Legree, who did not believe in religion, began to doubt anything. Stowe wishes to appeal to her readers to believe, just as they believe in Christianity, that slavery is indeed a moral wrong that should be stopped.

Cassy comes to tend to Tom's wounds. In spite of harsh cruelty and hardships, Tom did not give up his Bible and his God. Tom asks Cassy to bring him the Bible and she reads to him about the passion of Christ.

Cassy tells Tom her life story. She tells him her personal life, her marriage with a handsome man, bore two children, Harry and Elise. Cassy's children were sold to pay master's debts. She went mad. Her next master was Mr. Stuart, whom she also bore a child. When Stuart died, Legree bought Cassy. Cassy hates Legree. She tries to help Tom before fleeing the shed.

Legree's character is described. He hates Cassy and calls her a "she-devil". Legree begins to sweat and grow fearful. Because of drinking, the shed of Legree was in chaos. Sambo and Quimbo began to spoil the atmosphere. The past life of Legree is shown.

Cassy tries to free Tom from his chains. Legree is not ready, he is full drunken. Legree and Tom talk about religion etc. Cassy requests at the end, but yet she fails in her mission.

In chapter 37, we come to the story of George, Eliza, and young Harry. The Quakers help disguise the family and Mrs. Smith, a woman from Canada, helps them board on a ship that takes them to a village called Amherstberg in her country. When they arrive, the couple kneels and sings to God in thanks for their freedom.

Tom, though still injured, is sent to the fields. Tom is religious minded. He never forgets his Bible. Legree taunts him to join his "church" of liquor and cruelty as Sambo and Quimbo have done. Tom holds firmly to his faith.

Cassy tried to free Tom. She has drugged Legree. Tom feels he cannot go, but rather must stay with the rest of the slaves and "bear any cross still the end". He urges Cassy to go. Then, Cassy tries to convince that the garret is haunted. Legree
falls exhausted from his search into bed and vows revenge. The next day, Legree questions about the runaway slaves. Tom remains faithful to Legree. In spite of faithfulness, Tom is beaten by Legree throughout night. Tom's piety touches all the slaves. Sambo and Quimbo beg forgiveness while the others was his wounds and prepare a place for him to rest. The slaves want to know more about Jesus, who inspires such strength and faith in Tom.

In Chapter 41, we are told about Shelby plantation. Miss Ophelia learnt about the selling of Tom after St. Clare's death. Mrs. Shelby is on her death bed. George is now a man and decides to go to New Orleans to find Tom. George learnt about Tom's whereabouts, and fall out with Legree who is responsible for the death of Tom. Tom is buried on a shady knoll. George wants Legree to be punished.

Chapter 42 opens with descriptions of the "ghosts" that have been haunting the Legree plantation. These phantoms are really Cassy and Emeline, who are still hiding in the attic. George tries to free these women. Cassy tells all her story of life to George. It is discovered that George Harris's wife, Eliza, is Cassy's daughter.

In Chapter 43, we notice that Cassy, Emmeline, and Madame de Thoux travel to Montreal, where George and Eliza are living. George has a new daughter, little Eliza. Madame do Thoux is a wealthy widow and gives money to the family. They sail to France from Canada. George tries to found a colony of the free slaves in Liberia. The family travels there, and Cassy's son is also found and sent to Africa.

In Chapter 44, we notice that George Shelby tells Chloe about Tom's death. Chloe has prepared him a welcome home dinner, and afterwards George frees the slaves in Uncle Tom's name. When he gives the slaves their free papers, they beg him not to be sent away. George tells then they can work for him for wages and enjoy their freedom upon his death. George reminds the newly free men to think of their freedom when they gaze upon Uncle Tom's Cabin.

In the concluding chapter, Stowe remarks on the topic of slavery. She wishes to inculcate:

1. to think and ponder over the race that has undergone deep agony
2. to think of mothers, especially slave mothers who so often lose their children to the slave trade
3. to reprimand the North for condoning slavery
4. to ponder over the notion that all the slaves should be sent to Liberia. She says that the slaves are not prepared to go to Africa because they are "an ignorant, inexperienced, half barbarized race, just escaped from the chains of slavery." Instead, the Christian northerners should help the slaves attain "a moral and intellectual maturity". She says that it is the responsibility of the church to educate the slaves. She goes so far to say that if the church does not address slavery, its "heavy account to answer", "the wrath of Almighty God" will punish America.

6.7 Exercises

1. What was the impact of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* on the American President, Abraham Lincoln?
2. What is the major theme of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
3. What are the subthemes of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
4. Write a note on the conversation between Tom and Evangeline.
5. What kind of message was given by Eva to her people?
6. Write a note on the emotional meeting between George Shelby and Tom at the end of the novel.
7. Write a note on the message given by Stowe at the end of the novel.

6.7.1 Broad Questions with Answers:

Q.1 "The Fugitives are safe in a free land". Illustrate.

OR

What is the major theme of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?

OR

Discuss the theme of the evil and immorality of slavery.

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* is the outcome of various reasons. The most important reason is her proximity to Kentucky, a slave state, made her and her family increasingly aware of the horrors of slavery, which they protested vehemently. The other reasons such as reading of books available during her time, instilled in the
mind of Stowe. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* became popular; 3,000,000 copies of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* were sold. The book was translated into all major languages, and eventually became the second best selling book after the Bible.

The book received different reactions from the readers and critics. Readers enjoyed its melodramatic style. The critics like Jane Tompkins, Richard Posner, William Gilmore Simms pointed out its merits and demerits. Despite all these, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* remains one of the popular and influential novels of the 19th century fiction of slavery. With this perspective at the back of mind, let us see *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and how the critics have interpreted the novel.

A host of critics opine that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is the novel dealing with the theme of the evil and immorality of slavery. There are other critics who point out that the underlying theme of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is the moral power and sanctity of women. While later critics have noted that Stowe's female characters are often domestic clichés instead of realistic women, Stowe's novel "reaffirmed the importance of women's influence and helped pave the way for the women's rights movement in the following decades. Still others persist that the novel deals with the exploration of the nature of Christianity, and how she feels Christian theology is fundamentally incompatible with slavery. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* offers a "critique of American society far more devastating than any delivered by better known critics such as Hawthorne and Melville. Taken in view all the opinions and interpretation of the critics, it is to be noted that the novel is about anti-slavery.

The book opens with a Kentucky farmer named Arthur Shelby facing the loss of his farm because of debts. Even though he and his wife, Emily Shelby, believe that they have a benevolent relationship with their slaves, Shelby decides to raise the needed funds by selling two of them – Uncle Tom, a middle-aged man with a wife and children, and Harry, the son of Emily Shelby's maid Eliza – to a slave trader. Emily Shelby hates the idea of doing this because she had promised her maid that her child would never be sold; Emily's son, George Shelby, hates to see Tom go because he sees the man as his friend and mentor.

When Eliza overhears Mr. and Mrs. Shelby discussing plans to sell Tom and Harry, Eliza determines to run away with her son. Eliza departs that night, leaving a note of apology to her mistress.
While all of this is happening, Uncle Tom is sold and placed on a riverboat, which sets soil down the Mississippi River. While on board, tom meets and befriends a young white girl named Eva. When Eva falls into the river, Tom saves her. In gratitude, Eva’s father, Augustine St. Clare, buys Tom from the slave trader and takes him with the family to their home in New Orleans. During this time, Tom and Eva begin to relate to one another because of the deep Christian faith they both share.

During Eliza’s escape, she meets up with her husband George Harris, who had run away previously. They decide to attempt to reach Canada. However, they are now being tracked by a slave hunter named Tom Loker. Eventually Loker and his men trap Eliza and her family, causing George to shoot Loker. Worried that Loker may die, Eliza convinces George to bring the slave hunter to a nearby Quaker settlement for medical treatment.

Back in New Orleans, St. Clare debates slavery with his Northern Cowin Ophelia who, while opposing slavery, is prejudiced against black people. St. Clare, however, believes he is not biased, even though he is a slave owner. In an attempt to show Ophelia that her views on the black are wrong. St. Clare purchases Topsy, a young black slave. St. Clare then asks Ophelia to educate her.

After Tom has lived with St. Clare for two years, Eva grows very ill. Before she dies she experiences a vision of heaven, which she shares with the people around her. As a result of her death and vision, the other characters resolve to change their lives, with Ophelia promising to throw off her personal prejudices against blacks, Topsy saying she will better herself, and St. Clare pledging to free Uncle Tom.

Before St. Clare can follow through on his pledge, however, he dies after being stabbed while entering a New Orleans tavern. Marie, wife of St. Clare did not follow her husband. She sold out Tom to Simon Legree in the auction. Tom was taken to the rural plantation of Louisiana where he meets other slaves like Emmeline. Legree used all his means either to beat Tom or to affront him. Despite Legree’s cruelty, Tom did not give up reading the Bible. While at the plantation, Tom meets Cassy, another slave of Legree. Cassy was previously separated from her son and daughter when they were sold; unable to endure the pain of seeing another child sold, she killed her third child.
At this point, we notice that Loker, the slave hunter, returns from the Quakers after healing his wound. George, Eliza, and Harry got their freedom after crossing into Canada. Uncle Tom, because of hardships, broke down his health. He was always carrying two visions – the vision of Jesus and Eva. He was faithful to his religion, observing all the tenets of Christianity. He encourages Cassy to escape taking Emmeline with her. When Tom refuses to tell Legree where Cassy and Emmeline have gone, Legree orders his overseers to kill Tom. As Tom is dying, he forgives the overseers who savagely beat him. Humbled by the character of the man they have killed, both men become Christians. Very shortly Tom's death, George Shelby arrives to buy Tom's freedom, but finds he's too late.

On their boat ride to freedom, Cassy and Emmeline meet George Harris' sister and accompany her to Canada. Cassy discovers that Eliza is her long-lost daughter who was sold as a child. The family was reunited. They travel to France and eventually Liberia. There they meet Cassy's long-lost son. George Shelby returns to the Kentucky farm and frees all his slaves. George tells them to remember Tom's sacrifice and his belief in the true meaning of Christianity.

To conclude, it is to be noted that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is dominated by a single theme: the evil and immorality of slavery. Stowe pushed home her theme of the immorality of slavery on almost every page of the novel.

**Q.2 Discuss the theme of the moral power and sanctity of women.**

If the evil of slavery is the major theme of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, no one can deny that women had the moral authority to save the demon of slavery. The critics observe that the moral power and sanctity of women is another major theme of the novel. Stowe observes that the negro families are separated on account of slavery system. Hence, she feels that the moral power and sanctity of women alone could save the families of the United States. This major theme has been illustrated in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Through characters like Eliza, who escapes from slavery to save her young son (and eventually reunites her entire family), or Little Eva, who is seen as the "ideal Christian", Stowe shows how she believed women could save those around them from even the worst injustices. While later critics have noted that Stowe's female characters are often domestic clichés instead of realistic women. Stowe's novel
"reaffirmed the importance of women's influence" and helped pave the way for the women's rights movement in the following decades.

**Q.3 Discuss the religious theme of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.**

OR

How was the theme of Christianity been explored in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* has layers of meanings. That is, the novel contains a number of major themes. If evil affects of slavery and the moral power and sanctity of women are the major themes, the exploration of Christianity theme is also underlying theme of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Stowe expresses her puritanical religious beliefs in this novel. She has tried to explore the nature of Christianity. She feels that Christian theology is fundamentally incompatible with slavery. This theme is most evident when Tom urges St. Clare to "look away to Jesus" after the death of St. Clare's beloved daughter Eva. After Tom dies, George Shelby eulogizes Tom by saying "What a thing it is to be a Christian". Because Christian themes play such a large role in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* – and because of Stowe's frequent use of direct authorial interjections on religion and faith – the novel often takes the 'form of a sermon'.

**Q.4 Write short notes :**

1. Uncle Tom
2. Eva
3. Simon Legree
4. Augustine St. Clare
5. Topsy
6. Miss Ophelia

1) **Uncle Tom**:

Uncle Tom is the major and the title character. Tom is initially shown as a noble, long-suffering Christian slave. In more recent years, however, his name has become an epithet directed towards African-Americans who are accused of selling out to whites. Stowe intended Tom to be a "noble hero", and praiseworthy person.
Throughout the book, far from allowing himself to be exploited, Tom stands up for his beliefs and is grudgingly admired even by his enemies. (see Summary)

2) **Eva**:

Eva’s real name is Evangeline St. Clare. She is the daughter of Augustine St. Clare. Eva enters the narrative when Uncle Tom is traveling via steamship to New Orleans to be sold, and he rescues the 5 or 6 years old girl from drowning. Eva begs her father to buy Tom, and he becomes the head coachman at the St. Clare plantation. He spends most of his time with the angelic Eva.

Eva constantly talks about love and forgiveness, even convincing the dour slave girl Topsy that she deserves love. She even touches the heart of her sour aunt, Ophelia.

Eventually Eva falls terminally ill. Before dying, she gives a lock of her hair to each of the slaves, telling them that they must become Christians so that they may see each other in Heaven. On her deathbed, she convinces her father to free Tom, but because of circumstances the promise never materializes.

3) **Simon Legree**:

Simon Legree is shown as the most evil character in the novel. He is a cruel slave owner. He hails from North. His name has become synonymous with greed. His goal is to demoralize Tom and break him of his religious faith. He eventually orders Tom whipped to death out of frustration for his slave's unbreakable belief in God. The novel reveals that, as a young man, he had abandoned his sickly mother for a life at sea, and ignored her letter to see her one last time at her deathbed. He sexually exploits Cassie, who despises him, and later sets his designs on Emmeline.

4) **Augustine St. Clare**:

Uncle Tom has two masters – Arthur Shelby and Augustine St. Clare. He has an angelic daughter by name Eva. Of the slaveowners in the novel, St. Clare is the most sympathetic character. St. Clare is complex, often sarcastic, with a ready wit. After a rocky courtship he marries a woman he grows to hold in contempt, though he is too polite to let it show. St. Clare recognizes the evil in chattel slavery but is not willing to relinquish the wealth it brings him. After his daughter's death, he becomes more sincere in his religious thoughts, and starts to read the Bible to Tom. He plans
on finally taking action against slavery by freeing his slaves, but his good intentions ultimately come to nothing.

5) **Topsy**:

Topsy is a "ragamuffin" young girl in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. When asked if she knows who made her, she professes ignorance of both God and a mother, saying "I s'pect I growed. Don't think nobody never made me." She is transformed by Little Eva's love. During the early-to-mid 1900s, several doll manufacturers created Topsy and Topsy-type dolls. The phrase "growed like Topsy" (later "grew like Topsy") passed into the English language.

6) **Miss Ophelia**:

Miss Ophelia is the cousin of Augustine St. Clare. She comes from Vermont. She is pious and hard-working woman. She displays the ambiguities towards African-Americans felt by many Northerners at the time. She argues against the institution of slavery yet, at least initially, feels repulsed by the slaves as individuals.

### 6.8 Activities/ Field Work

1. Try to collect the novels written on slavery.
2. Make a brief review of slavery fiction.
3. Make an interview with a black man, asking him the plights of the Negro-slaves.

### 6.9 Further Reading:

Unit-7

Short Stories

O. Henry

Index

7.1 Objectives
7.2 Introduction
7.3 Subject Matter
   7.3.1 A Retrieved Reformation
   7.3.2 An Unknown Romance
   7.3.3 The Gift Of The Magi
   7.3.4 The Last Leaf
   7.3.5 An Unfinished Story
   7.3.6 The Prisoner of Zembla

7.1 Objectives :

After studying this unit you will be able to :

- acquaint with a creative talent of O. Henry as a short story writer.
- appreciate the thematic and technical accomplishment of O. Henry.
- get an exposer to the significance of human relationship and the values in life.
- have comprehensive understanding of the twisting end as a typical of O. Henry.
O. Henry (1862-1910)

7.2 Introduction:

O. Henry, one of the prolific American literary craftsmen, specifically recognized and appreciated for his contribution to the writing of short stories. Along with his thematic accomplishment he is known for his peculiarity of technique. O. Henry’s short stories are remarkable for their wit, word play, characterization, optimism and clever twist endings. Typical of O. Henry’s stories is a twist of plot, resulting into an irony giving strong humane message. His conscience observation of the life of common ordinary man and the course of human life in general situations makes him to trace the significance of genuine human relationship amidst the complexities of human nature and behaviour. O. Henry effectively uses the brevity of short stories to emphasis the larger human values. For him, beyond worldly pleasures, still there lies the world of emotions, principles and values where adversities cannot be excuses.

In fact, O. Henry is a pseudonym of William Sydney Porter, was born on September 11, 1862 in Gransboro, North Carolina. His parents were Dr. Alegmon Sydney Porter, a physician and Mary Jane Virginia Swain Porter. At his early childhood O. Henry lost his mother. Throughout the life, O. Henry encountered hardships and adversities. He took number of different jobs like pharmacist, draftsman, bank teller and journalist. While working as a clerk at National Bank, Austin, he started a humorous weekly ‘The Rolling Stone’, which provided certain platform to make his stories public. Despite good deal of circulation, O. Henry could not run the weekly longer. Later on, he started to work as a columnist and cartoonist for ‘Houston Post’. Meanwhile, when his literary endeavours were getting proper pace and shape, he was sentenced for five years imprisonment for an embezzlement at National Bank. During his imprisonment too he continued his writing.

O. Henry, during his life time wrote more than 600 short stories, published in ten collections. Most of his stories are included in his collections like:

a. Cabbages and Kings (1904)
b. The Four Million (1906)
c. The Trimmed Lamp (1907)
d. The Heart of the West (1907)
e. Whirligigs (1910)
f. Sixes and Sevens (1911)
g. Rolling Stones (1912)
h. Waifs and Strays (1917)

The stories like –

1) A Retrieved Reformation
2) An Unknown Romance
3) The Gift of the Magi
4) The Last Leaf
5) An Unfinished Story
6) The Prisoner of Zembla

are prescribed to study under the course. The stories are the representative of O. Henry's thematic and technical excellence for which he is known.

7.3 Subject Matter

7.3.1 A Retrieved Reformation

Summary:

‘A Retrieved Reformation’ is a story of a young safecracker, Jimmy Valentine who is pardoned from his imprisonment and given a fresh opportunity to have an access to the society. Through the representative concern of protagonist's surprising fate, O. Henry emphasizes the significance of human fate. The story is set in American Midwest during the early 1900’s, particularly in Arkansas a small town of backwoods.

The story was published in 1909 in O. Henry’s collection of short stories, ‘Roads of Destiny’. An unexpected surprising end as a typical of O. Henry is featured in the story.

The story begins in a prison a little before the protagonist Jimmy Valentine is pardoned and set free to continue his social life. At the beginning of the story Jimmy
is called to the warden's office. The warden informs him that for his good behaviour in the jail the governor has pardoned him, furthermore, he advises him hereafter not to indulge in any burglary and stay out of the trouble. But Jimmy, a skilled safecracker still denies his involvement in any robbery and cunningly shows surprise about his imprisonment.

On the next morning, the warden, registering in his record, ‘Jimmy Valentine, 9762, pardoned by Governor’, relieves him to open world with a railroad ticket and a five-dollar bill.

Jimmy after celebrating his liberty, takes a train to another town where his friend and confederate, Mike Dolan was running a Cafe. He takes his key of room where he was living before going to jail and wherefrom he was arrested by the detective Ben Price. Jimmy finds out his safe cracking tools still hidden where he left them.

A week later, with the series of bank burglaries in the Midwest, Ben price, realizes that Jimmy Valentine is back in his business and sets himself to catch him again. Jimmy carrying his safecracking tools comes to a small, remote place Elmore in Arkansas to commit one more crime. Incidentally, while walking to the hotel, he encounters a young lady and dramatically undergoes into the entire reformation. From a street boy he comes to know about her that she is Annabel Adams, a daughter of Mr. Adams who runs a bank at Elmore.

Jimmy registers his name as ‘Ralph D. Spencer’ and continues to live in the hotel. Jimmy, from a hotel-clerk comes to know that Elmore does not have any decent shoe-store. Now it is a complete reformation of Jimmy Valentine as 'Ralph D. Spencer' who is now, instead of burglary, making money in profitable shoe-business. It brings him respectable social status to make an acquaintance with Annabel Adams.

A year later, Jimmy Valentine alias Ralph Spencer, cutting off all his ties with the past, was leading a peaceful and prosperous life. His business was flourishing, he was getting good respect of the community and above all he was going to get married in two weeks. Annabel’s father has approved their marriage. Now he was almost the member of Adam's family. His possession of self-cracking tool is only connection to his past. He writes a letter to one of his old friends, Pal and calls him to collect the tools that he does not want to indulge in his past, full of burglaries.
Jimmy taking his tools in his suitcase comes to the Adams house. It was his nice experience to feel homely with Annabel, Annabel's sister and her two daughters May and Agatha. Mr. Adams has recently installed a burglar-proof safe in his bank in Elmore, he wants to show it off to his family. They all come to bank. In fact, Ben Price, the detective, who is continuously watchful about the activities of Jimmy, follows them to the bank.

Mr. Adams very proudly shows them the burglar-proof safe. All of them admire the safe mechanism of the vault. Meanwhile, May playfully looks Agatha in the vault and as her grandfather did with the safe, she, too operated the bolts and gear of the vault. But still the timer and combination of locks were not set. Agatha was getting breathless and crying from inside, her life was in danger.

It was not possible to open the vault, and save Agatha. It creates an atmosphere of panic and horror. Annabel urges to Jimmy to do something to save innocent child.

Jimmy looks at her with a meaningful 'soft smile' and asks for a rose she was wearing. Decisively, Jimmy puts off his coat and takes back his shirt-sleeves. The act is symbolic to show that 'Ralph Spencer is taking the place of Jimmy Valentine.'

A skillful safecracker, Jimmy Valentine deals with the vault and opens the safe in record time. Agatha is safely rescued. Jimmy knows that Ben Price is watching all this and realizes that he has trapped him red-handed.

Jimmy puts on his coat and starts walking away. Annabel calls him repeatedly but without responding her he moves ahead. When Jimmy encounters Ben Price, tells him, “Let’s go”. But it is surprising to see that Ben Price who has seen all the incident and despite he was all the way attempting to trap Jimmy, deliberately ignores the act of safe-cracking and denies to recognize Jimmy Valentine. He knows that Jimmy has used his special skill of criminal to save a little girl’s life.

★ Self Assessment Questions:

A) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/sentence each:

i) Who is the protagonist of the story, ‘A Retrieved Reformation’?

ii) What is the profession of Jimmy Valentine?

iii) When was the story, ‘A Retrieved Reformation’ published?
iv) What was the roll number of Jimmy Valentine in prison?

v) Who was Ben Price?

B) Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative:

i) The story ‘A Retrieved Reformation’ was published in O.Henry’s collection ……
   a) Sixes and Sevens b) Waifs and Strays
   c) The Rolling Stone d) the Four Million

ii) The story is set in American town……..
   a) Washington b) New York c) Arkansas d) Gransboro

iii) While relieving from the jail, the warden gave Jimmy a railway ticket and a bill of ……
   a) five dollar b) ten dollar c) electricity d) lodging

iv) Relieving from the jail, Jimmy Valentine, adopting the name …….. continued to live a decent life.
   a) Ben Price b) Mike Dolan c) Mr. Adams d) Ralph D. Spencer

v) Jimmy Valentine was dreaming to lead a peaceful and prosperous life with ……..
   a) Mr. Adams b) Annabel c) Agastha d) Mary

★ Answers to the self assessment questions:

A) i) Jimmy valentine ii) Self cracking iii) 1909 iv) 9762 v) the detective

B) i) –a , ii) – c, iii) – a, iv) – d, v) – b.

7.3.2 An Unknown Romance

Summary and Appreciation:

‘An Unknown Romance’ is one of the remarkable stories of O. Henry glorifies the genuineness and attraction for the true peasant life.

The protagonist of the story, Pelham Winkler a rich businessman, out of his genuine attraction for truthfulness and simplicity of rustic life comes to spend his
holidays in beautiful snowy valleys of Alps. It shows his disgust for the complexity and superfluous nature of urban life. To console himself, he, though temporarily, changes himself as a tough and strong hunter wandering in the valleys of Alps. He, even, has dressed as a hunter. All his disguise, in fact, shows his longing for the truthful and honest life in the midst of the enchanting nature.

Miss Augusta Vance, a beautiful daughter of a millionaire, too, has arrived at the same place to celebrate her vacation. She too has dressed herself as a typical rustic girl fetching water. Coincidentally, they meet one another, in a romantic setting of the Alps valleys. Their meeting turns into a deep love for one another.

But as their holidays over, they go back to their urban culture and the life of rush. Now they have to follow the norms of their family prestige. According to their high-class family reputation, their marriage is arranged. The millions of dollar are spent in a wedding ceremony.

In fact, for both of them, the identities of one-another which they adored in the snowy valleys of Alps, are disappeared in the complexity of the urban life and the so called social status. Pelham had to marry a beautiful peasant girl, which he saw in Augusta during his holidays. And Augusta had an infatuation for a rustic hunter when she saw in Pehlam.

★ Self Assessment Questions:
A) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each:
   i) What is the name of the protagonist of the story?
   ii) What made Pelham to visit the valleys of Alps?
   iii) How did Pelham disguise himself?
   iv) To whom does Pelham marry?
   v) What is the twist in the end of the story?

B) Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative:
   i) .......... is a daughter of a millionaire.
      a) Augusta Vance b) Johnsy c) Sue d) Mary Vance
   ii) Miss Augusta disguised herself as .......... 
      a) a fashionable girl b) the queen c) a rustic girl d) the princess
iii) Pelham was disgusted of the ……… of the urban life.
   a) complexity b) chaos c) glitter d) noise

iv) Pelham has an attraction for the …… of the rustic life.
   a) poverty b) truthfulness and simplicity c) atmosphere d) illiteracy

v) Pelham and Augusta married in ………
   a) the valleys of Alps b) the urban life c) the church d) the village.

★ Answers to the self assessment questions:

A) i) Pelham Winker
   ii) His attraction for true peasant life
   iii) as a tough rustic hunter.
   iv) Pelham and Augusta’s love for peasant life brings them together but finally they are compelled to accept their attachment to the urban culture.
   v) Augusta Vance

B) i) a, ii) c, iii) a, iv) b, v) b.

7.3.3 The Gift Of The Magi

Summary:

James Dillingham Young known as Jim and his fiancée Della are the young couple. Despite their meager earning they are quite happy and comfortable with one another. Basically, they are rather poor, Jim’s earning of 20 dollars a week is too little to bring them the material pleasure. Their house appears too congested, the door-bell is not working, the name-plate is faded even the mirror does not give clear reflection. Despite all these adversities, the couple are quite happy as they have sincere love for one another.

However, their financial inabilities bring sad moments to their life, that they don’t have the means to buy present for one another even on the occasion of Christmas. Della has beautiful, long hair which Jim ever appreciates but he is unable to buy a pair of combs for her. On the other hand, Jim has inherited a gold-watch from his
forefather for which he longs to buy a chain but his financial state does not permit him.

Della effortfully tries to save money, putting away some cents from her daily expenses. On a Christmas eve, she is counting her savings, hoping to buy a chain as Christmas present for Jim. But when she finishes the counting, she is quite disappointed to see the amount only of one dollar and eighty seven cents is not worth to buy a desired gift for Jim. She begins crying in despair. As it is Christmas eve so close she has no time to save more money. In a gloomy mood, thinking about how she thought about buying a chain for her Jim, she appears in front of a mirror. She realizes the beauty of her long, lovely hair. With certain decision there appears a smile on her pale face. She decides to cut and sell her hair. She does it and earns 20 dollars, from which she buys a beautiful platinum fob chain to give a Christmas present to Jim. But on getting back at home she feels rather shocked and uneasy to see her hair gone.

Della is eagerly waiting for Jim. She is quite excited to see the pleasure on the face of Jim when he receives the present. Jim comes in, but looking at Della he is shocked. He forgets to move and speak. His peculiar expression makes Della worried and frightened, she begun to doubt whether Jim will accept her without long hair. But Jim’s love for Della is so deep, in fact the reason of his dismay is that he has brought a pair of combs by selling his dearest possession, the golden watch. Though both of them have bought the present by sacrificing their most valuable possessions, are now meaningless. However, their love and sincerity for one another is more precious than anything else. The gifts they offered to one another is of more worth than even the gifts given by the three wisemen, the Magi, to new born Jesus.

★ Self Assessment Questions:

A) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/sentence each:

i) What is the name of James Dillingham’s fiancée?

ii) What was Jim’s weekly income?

iii) What Jim decided to buy as a Christmas gift for Della?

iv) What gift Della gave to Jim?
v) What precious object does Jim inherit from his forefathers?

B) Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative:

i) …… was the mark of outstanding beauty of Della.
   a) Her long hairs b) Her fair complexion c) Her possession d) Jim’s love

ii) Della sold her long at the price of……
    a) 25 dollars b) a pair of combs c) a golden watch d) 20 dollars

iii) Jim sold his …….to buy a Christmas gift for Della.
    a) long hairs b) golden watch c) platinum fob chain d) pair of combs

iv) The magi are the three wise men who offered a gift to ……..
    a) Della b) Jim c) new born Jesus d) clergy.

v) Jim was shocked to see Della because she had lost …….
    a) all her savings b) her long hairs c) a pair of combs d) his golden watch

★ Answers to the self assessment questions:

A)  i) Della
   ii) 20 dollars
   iii) a pair of combs
   iv) a platinum fob chain for the wrist watch.
   v) a golden watch

B)  i) a , ii) d, iii) d, iv) b, v) b.

7.3.4 The Last Leaf

Summary and Appreciation:

‘The Last Leaf’ is one of the most popular short stories, universally read and appreciated for its message in which O. Henry glorifies the worth of art, in human life. Specifically, art is meant for life.

The story has its setting of Greenwich village, one of the suburbs of New York. Sue and Johnsy two girls from State of Maine and California respectively meet at a
restaurant in Greenwich village. Sue is a painter draws pictures for the stories in the magazines and Johnsy, too, is a painter who wants to go to Italy. It is her dream to paint a picture of the Bay of Bengal.

Their common likings made them good friends. Now they are living together in a studio apartment.

In the month of December, it was snowfall and bitter cold in New York. Many people turned ill. There was an epidemic of pneumonia all over the city. Many people died of the disease. Johnsy too had pneumonia. Her condition was worst, she was unable move. The doctor visited her every day. But there was not any improvement in her health.

One morning, after visiting Johnsy, the doctor quietly spoke to sue that Johnsy does not want to live, somebody should make her happy and feel confident. She tried to make her happy by singing song. Finally she took her drawing beard and started to paint a picture for magazine.

Sue heard a pale murmur and suddenly went into the room of Johnsy. She saw that Johnsy looking out of the window and in a low voice counting backward.

Outside the window, there was an old vine grew against the brick wall. There were very few leaves on the branches of vine. With wild stroke of wind the leaves were falling down.

In fact with the fall of the leaves, Johnsy has associated her living. She feels that as the leaves from the vine are falling down, she too is going closer to her death. Keeping her eyes open, Johnsy is waiting for falling of the last leaf. She says, “I want to watch the last leaf, It will fall soon. The leaves are tired, I am tired too. I want to die.

Sue somehow makes her quiet and asks her to sleep. For her picture, Sue needs a model. An old Behrman, lives downstairs works as a model for her. He too is an artist, who has decided to make a master-piece in the life. He is passing sixty, and still his master piece is awaited.

Sue tells to Behrman about Johnsy’s illness and her counting down of vine leaves. Behrman is angry to know the foolishness of Johnsy. Behrman works as a model for Sue.
That night it was horrible cold and fierce wind flow. Johnsy expected the fall of the last leaf of Ivy vine, but surprisingly it was still there. It made Johnsy confident to feel well.

Next day doctor appreciates both Sue and Johnsy, and goes downstairs saying that Behrman too is suffering from pneumonia. There was no hope of his survival. In the afternoon it was the news of the death of Behrman.

It was seen that despite an illness Behrman was out of his room at night, his shoes and clothes were wet of icy cold. They found a lantern and a ladder by the brick wall against which there was that vine. In fact sacrificing own life Behrman has painted a leaf by the vine and saved the life by Johnsy. It proved his life-time achievement and the masterpiece of his life.

O. Henry in the present story applying his technique of ‘twisting end’ surprises readers. In fact, Henry cherishes his outstanding attitude towards arts and artists.

★ Self Assessment Questions:

A) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/sentence each:
   i) What are the names of the two friends in the story?
   ii) What is the dream of Johnsy?
   iii) What was the disease Johnsy suffering from?
   iv) What has Johnsy associated with her life and death?
   v) What master piece was finally drawn by Berhmn?

B) Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative:
   i) The story, ‘The last Leaf’ has its setting of the village………
      a) Greenwich b) Marlboro c) Arkansas d) Texas
   ii) Johnsy was counting the leaves of the……
      a) the grape vine b) plat of cherry c) ivy vine d) apple tree
   iii) Johnsy wants to go to ……
      a) India b) Italy c) France d) England
   iv) Berhmn died of ……
      a) Tuberculosis b) Cancer c) Mental disorder d) Pneumonia
v) Berhmn worked as .......... for Sue.
   a) a model b) a caretaker c) an assistant d) a guide

★ Answers to the self assessment questions:

A) i) Sue and Johnsy
   ii) to paint a picture of Bay of Bengal.
   iii) Pneumonia
   iv) the falling leaves of ivy vine
   v) by painting a picture of a leaf Berhmn painted a life saving master piece.

B) i) a, ii) c, iii) b, iv) d, v) a.

7.3.5 An Unfinished Story

Summary and Appreciation:

‘An Unfinished Story’ is one of the most sensible and touching stories of O. Henry attributing sympathy to the poor souls having close confrontation between dream and reality.

O. Henry begins the story with his satirical comments regarding so called rational and scientific set up of mind still somewhere in the corner of the wind nourishing ‘the old, goodly terror of orthodoxy’. He further proceeds saying that there can be two topics which can be discussed without any controversy. Just go on talking about your dreams and another is talking about the parrot’s prediction of the future. In both the cases as there is no any competent witness, the listener cannot raise the doubt.

Alongwith this introductory comments, O. Henry shifts to his story describing a semi-urban girl, Miss Dulcie working in a shop for 6 dollars per week. In fact, it is quite difficult for her to satisfy her needs. Her life is turned joyless and pitiable. Though she has an attraction for glitter and glow of city life, her financial state always makes her to be a poor creature of deprivation.

It was Friday and Dulcie had only fifty cents remained with her for the expenses of the week-end. In such a condition, Piggy’s inviting her on date was the pleasant surprise for her. As part of preparation to go on date with Piggy, she purchases an
imitated lace collar with her fifty cents, actually the amount was meant for her weekend expenses.

Hurriedly, Dulcie comes to her rather furnished room. Her room is decorated with the pictures of great personalities like, General Kitchener, William Muldon, the Duchers of Marlborough and Benvenuto Cellini – who are, in fact, ideals of her.

On the other hand, Piggy, though girls call him the ‘Spender’, was never a gentleman. O. Henry describes him as, ‘he was fat; he had a soul of a rat; the hobbits of a bat, and the magnanimity of a cat’.

But Dulcie’s attraction for fancy and decent moments in the life makes her to accept the dating with Piggy. Putting on the best dress she had, she is ready for outing. At last the moment comes when Piggy Wiggins arrives there to take her with him. Dulcie takes a glance at the photograph of her ideal – General Kitchener and realizes his sad and stern look towards her. Suddenly she gives up her decision to go on dating.

Despite Dulcie’s wretched financial state and her attraction for fanciful city life, finally prefers to honour her ‘self’ and chastity by rejecting the temptation.

★ Self Assessment Questions:

A) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/sentence each:
   i) What, according to O. Henry, are the two topics can be discussed without any conversation?
   ii) Why was Miss. Dulcie feeling her life joyless and pitiable?
   iii) Who did propose Dulcie for date?
   iv) Who were the ideals of Dulcie?
   v) How is Piggy described?

B) Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative:
   i) Miss Dulcie was working in a shop on a salary……. per week.
      a) 10 dollars b) 5 dollars c) 6 dollars d) 20 dollars
   ii) Miss Dulcie purchased …… for fifty cents.
      a) a new dress b) an imitated lace- collar c) a pair of stockings d) a gift
iii) The girls always called Piggy the …..
   a) miser b) spender c) happy-go-lucky boy d) prince

iv) Looking at the photograph of ……, Dulcie changed her mind.
   a) William Muldon b) Benvenuto Cellini c) General Kitchener d) Piggy

v) By rejecting the proposal of Piggy, Dulcie prefers to honour …..
   a) Piggy b) her chastity c) her ego d) her pride

★ Answers to the self assessment questions:
A) i) talking about dreams and prediction of the future.
   ii) her poor financial state made her to feel her life joyless.
   iii) Piggy Wiggins
   iv) William Muldon, Benvenuto Cellini and General Kitchener
   v) Piggy is described as:
      he was fat, he had a soul of a rat, the habit of abat and the magnanimity of a cat.

B) i) c, ii) b, iii) b, iv) c, v) b.

7.3.6 The Prisoner of Zembla

Summary and Appreciation:

‘The Prisoner of Zembla’ is a short narrative piece, presents twisting end as a typical of O. Henry. O. Henry effectively uses traditional medieval romance for his satirical comment on insignificant value of love in the world of trade and business.

The story begins with the whim of the King that as the Princess Ostta has disobeyed him; he proclaims that the knight who will prove his greatest gallant in a duel, he will be offered the hand of the Princess.

As proclaimed earlier, the day of the duel comes. The king and the princess Ostta are in a grandstand to watch the duel. The princess Ostta is looking pale and beautiful her mournful eyes are in fact waiting for ‘a poor student’ with whom she is in love.
Looking the royal beauty of Ostta, the knights arrived there for the joust have determined to win the fight and as a result the princess too.

The knights riding on zealful horses, honouring tribute to the king arrive at the grand stand. Among them, the poor student, the lover of the princess arrives riding on a worst horse and with worst weapons. The king stops him and enquires about his armor and the weak horse. But the poor student shows his confidence and wit in his retort and he was allowed to take part in the Joust.

Realizing the love of the princess for the poor student, other knights feed their horses and quit the place. Still out of 217 knights, there remained two fighter including the lover of Ostta ready to duel.

The poor student fights bravely for two hours and defeats his opponent. The princess is happy to see her lover winning. The victorious fighter made his horse coracle before the king as a sign of respect and salute:

The King appreciates the victorious fighter. The king is ready to grant any boon that the winner craves for. The princess is impatient to hear the words of her lover.

Surprisingly, the lover, instead of asking for the hand of his beloved princess, demands a letter, endorsing the patent rights for Schneider’s famous money wrench. The king approves his demand adding that there is no monkey the kingdom. The victorious fighter rides away in a rage.

The king is shocked to see that the duel winner regarding patent of money wrench as more significant than the beloved princess.

★ Self Assessment Questions:

A) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/sentence each:

i) What did the king proclaim?
ii) What is the name of the princess?
iii) Whom with the princess is in love?
iv) How was the horse of the poor student?
v) Who did win the duel?
B) **Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative:**

i) In a story, O. Henry effectively uses the tool of the ------
   a) personification  b) medieval romance  c) narration  d) blank verse.

ii) The princess Ostla is looking ------
   a) young and enthusiastic  b) pale and beautiful  c) worried  d) restless.

iii) The knights are supposed to take part in ------
   a) a riding competition  b) a joust  c) boxing  d) running

iv) There were …… knights present to take part in the duel.
   a) 217  b) 200  c) 216  d) 317

v) The lover, instead of asking for the hand of Ostla, demands ……
   a) the palace  b) the kingdom
   c) the treasure  d) the patent of monkey wrench

★ **Answers to the self assessment questions:**

A) i) The winner in a duel will be given the hand of the princess.

ii) Ostla

iii) She is in love with a poor student.

iv) The horse was weak.

v) The poor student (the lover)

B) i) b, ii) b, iii) b, iv) a, v) c
Unit-8
POETRY
R. W. Emerson Emily Dickinson

Index
8.1 Objectives
8.2 Introduction
8.3 Subject Matter
   8.3.1 The Problem
   8.3.2 The Snow-Storm
   8.3.3 Hamatreya
   8.3.4 Brahma

8.1 Objectives:
After studying this unit you will be able to
- get acquainted with the poems of Emerson and Emily Dickinson respectively.
- Know the significance of Transcendental movement as an influential force for Emersonian ideology.
- Realize the greatness and peculiarity of Hindu philosophy, largely influenced and reflected in the poems of Emerson.
- Know the theme of death and immortality and mysticism as a typical of Emily Dickinson.
- Appreciate an extreme sensitivity and the spiritual ecstasy in the poems of Emily Dickinson.
8.2 Introduction:

A) Emerson: (1803-1882) : Ralph Waldo Emerson the pioneer of the transcendental philosophy ever honoured as a prolific writer in American literature. He is regarded as the champion of individualism and American spirit. His speech entitled ‘The American Scholar’ is always remembered as America’s “Intellectual Declaration of Independence.’ His philosophy proved vital in shaping America, as a ‘city upon a hill’. More than an essayist, an orator and a poet, he is deservedly recognized as a philosopher. In his poems and philosophical lectures he sings the glory of nature and cherishes spirituality, by establishing relationship between the soul and nature.

Emerson was profoundly influenced by Hindu philosophy. His close acquaintance with ‘Katha-Upanishad, the Bhagvad-Gita, the Vishnupurana and the ‘Laws of Manu gives oriental colour to his philosophy. The titles of his poems like, ‘Hametraya', ‘Brahma' are indicative of his deep trust in Hindu philosophy. In his poems, he sincerely advocates the concept of self-hood and fundamental unity as the core of Hindu philosophy which leads to the spiritual oneness.

8.3 Subject Matter

8.2.1

The Problem

(A) Text

I like a church; I like a cowl;
I love a prophet of the soul;
And on my heart monastic aisles
Fall like sweet strains, or pensive smiles;
Yet not for all his faith can see
Would I that cowled churchman be.
Why should the vest on him allure.
Which I could not on me endure?
Not from a vain or shallow thought
His awful love young Phidias brought
Never from lips of cunning fell
   The thrilling Delphic oracle;
Out from the heart of nature rolled
   The burdens of the Bible old;
The litanies of nations came,
   Like the volcano’s tongue of flame,
Up from the burning core below, –
   The canticles of love and woe;
The hand that rounded Peter’s dome
   And groined the aisles of Christian Rome
Wrought in a sad sincerity;
   Himself from God he could not free;
He builded better than he know; -
   The conscious stone to beauty grew.
Know’st thou what wove you wood-bird’s nest
   Of leaves, and feathers from her breast?
Or how the fish outbuilt her shell,
   Painting with more each annual cell?
Or how the sacred pine-tree adds
   To her old leaves new myriads?
Such and so grew these holy piles,
   Whilst love and terror laid the titles.
Earth proudly wears the Parthenon,
   As the best gem upon her zone;
And Morning opens with haste her lids,
To gaze upon the Pyramids;
O’er England’s abbeys bends the sky,
    As on its friends, with kindred eye;
For out of Thought’s interior sphere,
    These wonders rose to upper air;
And Nature gladly gave them place,
    Adopted them into her race.
And granted them an equal date
    With Andes and with Ararat.
These temples grew as grows the grass;
    An might obey, but not surpass.
The passive Master lent his hand
    To the vast soul that ’er him planned;
And the same power that reared the shrine
    Bestrode the tribes that knelt within.
Ever the fiery Pentecost
    Girds with one flame the countless host.
Trances the heart through chanting choirs.
    And through the priest the mind inspires.
The word unto the prophet spoken
    Was writ on tables yet unbroken;
The word by seers or sibyls told,
    In groves of oak, or fanes of gold,
Still floats upon the morning wind,
    Still whispers to the willing mind.
Ione accent of the Holy Ghost
The heedless world hath never lost.
I know what say the fathers wise, –
The Book itself before me lies,
Old Crysostom, best Augustine,
And he won blent both in his line,
The younger Golden Lips or mines,
Taylor, the Shakespeare of divines.
His words are music in my ear.
I see his cowled portrait dear;
And yet, for all his faith could see,
I could not the good bishop be.

Difficult words and phrases:
- **Cowl** – the gown and hood worn by clergyman
- **Monastic aisles** – music heard from the rows of devotees in a church.
- **Pensive** – sad
- **Phidias** – He was most renowned sculptor of ancient Greece.
- **Delphic Oracle** – The prediction of Apollo at Delphi.
- **Litanies** – hymns and prayers sung in the church.
- **Crysostom** - John of Antioch, a fourth century Greek clergy. He was known as Crysostom meaning “Golden Mouthed”, because of his golden eloquence.
- **Shakespeare of divines**- Jeromy Taylor was a 17th century English religious writer and clergyman, known as the “Shakespeare of the church”

**Summary**:
The narrator in the poem has close liking and association with the church. He is always attracted towards the hood put on by the clergy. It seems a crown worn by
the clergy having outstanding spiritual power. He likes to listen the sweet music emerging from the satisfaction of devotees and the pensive smile on their faces as well. Still he firmly declares that he cannot wear the gown of clergy; he denies to be a clergy.

The divine inspiration alone could make Phidias, the reputed Greek sculpter, to carve a beautiful statue of Jupiter. The oracles of Apollo and the verses from the Bible cannot flow out the cunning lips. It flows out from the heart divinely inspired. The intensity of the hymns like lava from the volcano can be realized only from the prayers of deep emotional zeal and sincere belief. Michelangelo, an Italian sculptor could design St. Peter’s Cathedral only because of his outstanding sincerity and deep devotion. He could impart long lasting beauty to the stone not merely because of the skill but the divine inspiration was his true energy.

The earth herself feels proud of the structures like Parthenon in Athens as they are most artistic designs emerged from the divine inspiration and solemn love which can be compared with the spirit of love and inspiration in the blossoming of ever laden holy pine tree and wood bird’s nest made of the feathers plucked from its own breast.

The sun, too, is tempted to gaze at the majestic pyramids and the sky has sympathetic view at the churches and abbeys in England as they are the noble achievements deep dedication and divine inspiration. These artistic creations are winning eternity for their beauty. The divine thought offers them the permanence that can be compared with the mountains of Ancles and Ararat.

In fact, the architects who designed the monumental places of beauty are just passive instruments. The creations are the products of great inspiration of divinity and over-soul. The Divine spirit obliges even to the tribal to worship and feel the holiness in the oracles of Bible; because it is a ever-burning flame of inspiration. It echoes in nature, the miracle of God and His majestic mystery.

The narrator also recalls the greatness of the great church fathers like Crysostom, the golden mouthed Greek Church father known for his musicality of orations and fathers like St. Augustine and Jeromy Taylor, remembered as the Shakespeare of the church for his eloquence.

Despite all his faith in the greatness of religious institutions, he firmly denies to be a professional clergy.
Appreciation:

Emerson, a poet of high intellect and ideology, belonged to a priestly family, who was formally trained for the profession of clergy. In fact, during 1829 to 1852 he worked as a professional clergy. During these days, he sincerely realized undue importance of rituals and dogmas in institutional religion which subdues the true spirit and nobility of the religion.

The poem, ‘The Problem’ is, in fact, a restlessness and dilemma emerged from the his sincere realization of practical implication of religion and his ideological set up of mind. It is a conflict raging within the mind and heart of the poet. Emerson believes that devoid of ideological implication of religion and undue importance to dogmas are the obstacles and makes him unjust towards his profession. Of course, he has great honour and pride for the profession, still he realizes that it lacks the divine inspiration. For him, institutional religion is an outward show that affects spiritual purity ad an appeal of over-soul. In a ‘Journal’ written in August 1838, he registers his decision that the profession of clergy holds high function and institutional religion has something wrong in it which becomes an obstacle for him to give justice to the profession so he does not want to remain the clergy.

The poem, ‘The Problem’ written in 1840, is an autobiographical lyric, remarkable for its logical and well-sustained thought development. Giving great examples of architectural beauty and referring the great religious authorities, Emerson, emphasizes the significance of divine inspiration and deep dedication and tries to justify his decision of denial of holding the position of the clergy as the contemporary practice of institutional religion lacks the spiritual purity and divine inspiration.

★ Self Assessment Questions:

A) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each

i) Who did carve a beautiful statue of Jupiter?

ii) What is the dilemma of the narrator in the poem?

iii) What is with an intensity of hymn compared?

iv) Who did design the St. Peter’s cathedral?

v) Who was regarded as Shakespeare of the church?
B) Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative.

i) The permanence of the majestic beauty of the pyramids is compared with the mountains of ……
   a) Alps and Himalaya b) Andes and Arahat  
   c) Mckinley and Logan  d) Popocatepetl and Ranier

ii) The poem is written in the year ……
   a) 1860  b) 1840  c) 1838  d) 1845

iii) For his highly intellectual orations, ………, the Greek church father regarded as a man of golden mouth.
   a) Crysostom  b) Michelangelo  c) Jeromy Taylor  d) Phidias

iv) The narrator appreciates both satisfaction on the faces of the devotees and their ……
   a) dedication  b) pensive smiles  c) clothes  d) sincerity

v) In a ‘Journal’ written in …….., Emerson wrote about his decision of giving up the profession of clergy.
   a) May 1840. b) June 1832 c) August 1838 d) May 1838

★ Answers to the self assessment questions:

A) i) Phidias
   ii) Though he belongs to the religious legacy of the clergy family, hereafter is not going to undertake the responsibility as the clergy.
   iii) the lava flowing from the volcano
   iv) An Italian sculptor Miachelangelo
   v) Jeromy Taylor

B) i) b, ii) b, iii) a, iv) b, v) c
8.3.2 The Snow-Storm

The text

Announced by all the trumpets of the sky,
    Arrives the snow, and, driving o’er the fields,
Seems nowhere to alight: the whited air
    Hides hills and woods, the river, and the heaven,
And veils the farm-house at the garden’s end.
    The sled and traveller stopped, the courier’s feet
Delayed, all friends shut out, the housemates sit
    Around the radiant fireplace, enclosed
In a tumultuous privacy of storm.
    Come see the north wind’s masonry.
Out of an unseen quarry evermore
    Furnished with tile, the fierce artificer
Curves his white bastions with projected roof
    Round every windward stake, or tree, or door.
Spending the myriad-handed, his wild work
    So fanciful, so savage, naught cares he
For number or proportion. Mockingly,
    On coop or kennel he hangs Parian’ wreaths;
A swan-like form invests the hidden thorn;
    Fills up the farmer’s lane from wall to wall,
Maugre — the farmer’s sighs; and at the gate
    A tapering turret overtops the work.
And when his hours are numbered, and the world
    Is all his own, retiring, as he were not,
Leaves, when the sun appears, astonished Art
To mimic in slow structure stone by stone,
Built in an age, the mad winds nightwork,
The frolic architecture of the snow.

Difficult words and phrases:
- **Parian** – the finest marble used by Greek sculptors, noted for its brilliant whiteness.
- **Tumultuous** – uncontrolled, violent.
- **Bastions** – something that is strong, especially a fort or a building.
- **Masonry** – an act of making walls of stones or bricks.
- **Coop** – a small cage or building.
- **Kennel** – a place where dogs are kept.
- **Maugre** – in spite of.

Summary:
The narrator, in the poem, solemnly sings the glory of Nature. An arrival of the snow-storm has a majestic beauty. It is celebrated and intimated by the sky by beguiling the trumpets. The snow storm by its brilliant whiteness covers the fields, hills and the words also. The narrator imagines to the extent that the snow-storm covers even the rivers and the heaven too. It offers a beautiful veil to the farmhouses and gardens. The snow storm makes the sledges and the travellers to stop and delays the feet of courier. Moreover, it imparts an opportunity and privacy to enjoy the radiant warmth of the fireplace.

The narrator regards the snow storm as fierce architect and invites to watch the masonry constructed by the north wind. The fierce north wind with all its artistic proportionate curves covers the huge fortifications trees and doors. The snow-storm appears so fanciful and savage, offering bright and brilliant whiteness to the things it comes across.
Self Assessment Questions:

A) Answer the following questions in one word/phrase/sentence each

i) How is an arrival of the snow-storm celebrated?
ii) What does the poet invite to see?
iii) What does a word ‘kennel’ mean?
iv) What makes the sledges and the travelers to stop?
v) What does the word ‘masonry’ mean?

B) Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative.

i) The poem sings the glory of the ……
   a) universe  b) nature   c) privacy   d) constructions
ii) The snow-storm imparts an opportunity to enjoy……
   a) the warmth of the fire place b) the cold c) the music d) an isolation
iii) The poet regards the snow storm as a fierce……
   a) architect  b) painter   c) musician   d) traveller
iv) The snow storm offers the brilliant …… to the things coming across.
   a) shine  b) whiteness   c) future    d) appearance
v) The snow storm is a beautiful ……..covers the farmhouses and gardens.
   a) drapery  b) gardener   c) veil     d) mask

Answers to the self assessment questions:

A) i) by beguiling the trumpets.
ii) to see the masonry
iii) its a place where dogs are kept.
iv) the snow storm
v) its an act of making the walls.

B) i)  b,   ii) a,   iii) a,   iv) b,   v) c
8.3.3 Hamatreya

The Text

Bulkeley, Hunt, Willard, Hosmer, Meriam, Flint,
Possessed the land which rendered to their toil
Hay, corn, roots, hemp, flax, apples, wool and wood.
Each of these landlords walked amidst his farm,
Saying, “Tis mine, my children’s and my name’s
How sweet the west wind sounds in my own trees!
How graceful climb those shadows on my hill!
I fancy these pure waters and the flags
Know me, as does my dog; we sympathize;
And, I affirm, my actions smack of the oil.”
Where are these men? Asleep beneath their grounds;
And strangers, fond as they, theirs furrows plough.
Earth laughs in flowers, to see her boastful boys
Earth-proud, proud of the earth which is not theirs;
Who steer the plough, but cannot steer their feet
Clear of the grave.
They added ridge to valley, brook to pond,
And sighed for all that bounded their domain;
“This suits me for a pasture; that’s my park;
We must have clay, lime, gravel, granite-ledge,
And misty lowland, where to go for peat.
The land is well, -- lies fairly to the south.
‘Tis good, when you have crossed the sea and back,
To find the sitfast acres where you left them.’
Ah! the hot owner sees not Death, who adds
Him to his land, a lump of mould the more.
Hear what the Earth says:—

**Earth – Song**

Mine and yours;
Mine, not yours.
Earth endures;
Stars abide—
Shien down in the old sea;
Old are the shores;
But where are old men?
I who have seen much,
Such have I never seen.
The lawyer's deed
Ran sure,
In tail,
To them, and to their heirs
Who shall succeed.
Without fail,
Foreevermore.
Here is the land,
Shaggy with wood,
With its old valley
Mound and flood.
But the heritors?
Fled like the flood's foam.
The lawyer, and the laws,
And the kingdom,
Clean swept herefrom.
They called me theirs,
Who so controlled me;
Yet every one
Wished to stay, and is gone,
How am I theirs,
If they cannot hold me.
But I hold them?
When I heard the Earth-song
I was no longer brave;
My avarice cooled
Like lust in the chill of the grave.

Difficult words and phrases:

- **Bulkeley... Flint** – names of early settlers of Concord, Massachusetts.
- **Hemp** – a plant used for making rope or the drug marijuana.
- **Mound** – a raised piece of earth.
- **Heritops** – heirs, inheritors.
- **Hamatreya** – Emerson had copied into his 1845 Journal a long passage from the *Vishnu Purana*, Book IV. The passage includes a Song of the Earth, recited to a disciple name Maitreya, of which the name ‘Hamatreya’ is a variation.
- **Avarice** - greed.
Summary:

The first settlers like Bulkeley, Hunt, Willard Hosmer, Meriam, flint who proudly settled in the rich provinces of Concord and Massachusetts possessed land to produce hay, corn, hemp, flax, apples, wools and wood, felt proud of their possession. While boastfully walking amidst the rich land of fertility, they proudly declared that this land belongs to me, to my children and as I am a legal owner, my name is mentioned there in the documents. They realize sweetness of soothing west wind through the trees they cultivated. For them the fluttering of the plants are flags intimately honouring them as their dogs have affection for them.

They themselves feel a kind of close harmony with their possession and they consider their actions have the flavour of the belonging.

But the narrator raises the question that where are all these owners, proudly claimed the earth as their possession. In the course of the time, they passed away and are buried in the graves. They, too, with their identity and proud are the part of the earth. The narrator feels regret about the new settlers, they too, like their ancestors are doing the same, without learning any lesson from the, they are feeling proud about their land and claiming their ownership. The Earth, in the form of blooming flowers laughs at their foolishness. The narrator, rightly predicts that though they are cultivating the land, feeling proud of their possession; the land cannot be their forever as the ancestor could not possess the land forever. They can steer their ploughs but it is impossible for them to protect themselves from the clutches of the death.

The new generation of settlers added new glory to their possession by adding ridge to valley and brook to the pond. They regreted for the obstacles which were confined their domain with certain limitations. Still they aspire for clay, lime, grave, peat for fuel and so on. They wish for more land to bring under cultivation. But these enthusiastic possessors of the land do not know the death is waiting for them which can change them into lump of clay.

Now the Earth herself sings the glory and greatness of her own. The Earth has seen many old things as the ever shining stars and old shores of the sea but not the everlasting men. The death takes them all away. Of course the deeds of the lawyers are there to pass on the possession from generation to generation but these inheritors are not seen who they proudly claimed their belongings and possessions.
passed away in the course of the time. The King and their dynasties, the lawyers and their laws all are swept away from the Earth.

Finally, the Earth says that though these men call me theirs, they all are passed away. In fact, I am not their possession, they all belong to me and after death they all mingle in myself.

**Appreciation:**

Transcendental ideology and influence of Hindu philosophy, are the vital features of Emerson's poetry to rank him as high standard literary craftsman.

‘Hamatreya’ a beautiful lyric composed in 1847 and later on, in 1876 included in his collection ‘Selected Poems’ signs the glory and greatness of Mother Earth. Everybody claims that he possesses the land as his possession but finally he himself becomes the possession of the Earth.

In the poem, Emerson, emphasizes the mortality and momentariness of Man which he forgets in the course of time and leads the life with wrong notion that the earth belongs to him. But the fact is that nobody can possess the earth forever, with the stroke of death everyone passes away leaving behind all his belongings which he claims as his own.

In the form of blooming flowers, Emerson imagines the Earth laughs at the fake proud of Man. The Earth and Nature the powerful entity of the universe has seen many everlasting things like stars, seas and shores, but not seen any eternal man.

Emerson, in the poem, comments on power and permanence as the outstanding values of Nature and Earth and with contrasting the temporariness of the human life glorifies the greatness of Earth.

Emerson, in his one of the Journals written in 1845 clearly mentions the words from ‘Vishnu Purana’ (wherefrom, he has received an inspiration to entitle, the poem ‘Hamatreya’ the variation of ‘Hai Maitreya’) that the Kings who possessed the dynasties and had a proud for their possession, all passed away in the course of time, and are mingled in the dust of the earth. They themselves are now the possession of the Earth.
★ Self Assessment Questions:
A) Answer the following questions in one word/ phrase/sentence each
B) Complete the following sentences by choosing correct alternative

8.3.4 Brahma

The Text
If the red slayer think he slays,
Or if the slain thinks he is slain,
They know not well the subtle ways
  I keep, and pass, and turn again.
Fat or forgot to me is near;
  Shadow and sunlight are the same;
The vanquished gods to me appear;
  And one to me are shame and fame.
They reckon ill who leave me out;
  When me they fly, I am the wings;
I am the doubter and the doubt.
  And I the hymn the Brahmin sings.
The strong gods pine for my abode,
  And pine in vain the sacred seven,
But thou, meek lover of the good!
  Find me, and turn thy back on heaven.

Difficult words and phrases:
- **Brahma** – Emerson in his essay on Plato wrote, “In all nations there are minds which incline to dwell on the conception of the fundamental unity … This tendency finds its highest expression in the religious writings, particularly in the Indian scriptures. Ideas and images in Brahma reflect
had copied into his journals from the *Vishnu Purana*, the *Bhagavat Gita* and the *Katha Upanishad*.

- **Sacred Seven** – the seven highest saints of the Brahmins. (*The Sapta Rishis*)
- **Reckon** – calculate, plan out.

**Summary**:

Brahma, the narrator, in the poem says that even if the blood-stained slayer thinks that he has killed his enemy or even the victim thinks that he has been murdered by the enemy, both are wrong. In fact, I, myself (Brahma) is the omnipotent, the great doer of all things, I am the creator and destroyer as well. They do not know the mysterious and subtle ways of mine.

Nothing is away from Brahma, the things in the past seem to him as they are taking place in the present. The shadow and sunlight, shame and fame are the same things, nothing has distinct significance.

As the Brahma is the doer of all things, they live with wrong notion that they are escaped from Brahma. In fact, Brahma himself is the wings which make them fly away. He himself is the doubt and doubter. Moreover, he himself is the hymn that Brahmín sings to please him.

As the Brahma is the God of gods, the gods, too yearn to go to heaven and the seven saints of Hindus indulge in futile attempt to please Brahma. To believe in goodness is the only way to please Brahma.

**Appreciation**:

‘Brahma’ is one of the most popular poems of Emerson, indicative of his studies and influence of Hindu Vedantic philosophy. Brahma is the supreme power that governs the universe, Emerson was highly impressed and influenced by Hindu Vedantic belief that Brahma as the supreme governing power which resides in everyone and himself is the divine creator and origin of all the things. It is ultimate destination of the soul. The theory of ‘Nirvana’ appeals lot to Emerson.

In fact, the opening lines of the poem are taken from ‘Katha Upanishad’. In which Brahma is treated as the over-soul as the source of all energies which exists beyond time and space.
Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) :

Emily Dickinson, a poet of extreme sensitivity and sharp sensibility, was born on December 10, 1830 in Amherst – a small town of America. She had a close concern to her father, Edward Dickinson, a renowned lawyer and a congressman. Of course, the death of her father brought deep obscurity and lament in her life. Her poems dedicated to the theme of death are indicative of her sincere contemplation over death.

Though Dickinson has lived her life full of emotional crisis and hardships, she has deep interest in living. The mystical element in life and death always appeared as a ‘finest secret’ for her. The uniqueness of her poetry lies in the unpredictability and her microscopic imagination dealing with mysteries and grandeur of life, death and nature.

In her peculiar way, she dealt with the mysticism and morality of experience. Her poems are marked with an honesty and singularity of the description. Through her poetic creations, it is apparent that her belief in self-sufficient individualism makes readers to regard her as a just mixture of the puritan ideology and free thinking. A genuine human in her always made her to deal with the problem of good and evil, life and death, the nature and destiny of human soul.

Dickinson regards Nature as a quite obvious and a beautiful evidence of spiritual divinity. Her simplicity and delicacy, in a true sense glorified the significance and an inevitability of Nature. Her meditation over Nature is remarkable for the brilliance, brightness and clarity of thought.

During her life-time thousands of her poems remained unpublished. After her death in 1890, her poems were published posthumously in series of volumes, to rank her one of the major poets of America. Her poems are included in the volume ‘The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson’ published by her niece, Martha Bianchi, in 1924. In the year 1955, Thomas Johnson published Dickinson’s 1775 of her known poems in three volumes as ‘The Poems of Emily Dickinson’.
Because I Could Not Stop For Death

Because I could not stop for Death –
He kindly stopped for me –
The Carriage held but just Ourselves –
And Immortality.

We slowly drove – He knew no haste
And I had put away
My labour and my leisure too,
For His Civility –
We passed the School, where Children strove
At Recess – in the Ring –
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain –
We passed the Setting Sun –
Or rather – He passed Us –
The Dews drew quivering and chill –
For only Gossamer, my Gown –
My Tippet – only Tulle –

We paused before a House that seemed
A Swelling of the Ground –
The Roof was scarcely visible –
The Cornice – in the Ground –

Since then – ‘tis Centuries – and yet
Feel, shorter than the Day
I first surmised the Horses’ heads

Were toward Eternity –

Difficult words and phrases:

- **Gossamer** – an object that indicates something very light and delicate.
- **Quivering** – shaking of the body because of rage or excitement or of chill.
- **Cornice** – a strip of plaster or wood or stone which goes top of the earth.

Summary:

The poem, ‘Because I Could Not Stop For Death’, is widely appreciated poem of Emily Dickinson for its treatment of ‘Death’. In fact, it is a sincere and conscious celebration of Death. The poetess never forgets that the death is always accompanying her calmly and quietly. She too has no any fear or unrest in the realization of an arrival of Death. The realization does not make her to haste or disturb her daily routine. She regards, it is a courtesy of Death that he stops for her, permitting her leisure and comfort. It is his special politeness that she is allowed to carry on her task leisurely.

The life, in a true sense, is a journey towards eternity always escorted by death. The poetess describes the course of life starting with innocence to the realization of the days of experience. But in all the moments death is always accompanying her.

After describing the playful days of school, she realizes the sense of motion or the haste. She, with death walking ahead through the cycles of the days and the seasons of the year. She is aware of dampness of dew which makes her clothes wet, but still she is marching ahead. They come closer to a house, in fact, which metaphorically represents the final destination, the grave.

The poem is an acceptance of death as a final destination of the life. It is, in fact, a song of triumph over the death, which Dickinson sings with calm and civility. The poem is a funeral song of reconciliation. It is remarkable for the restraint which gives poignancy to the last ride of the mortal life. In many other poems, dealing with the theme of death, she personifies death and dramatically presents as an inescapable fate and doom of all mankind.
A Wounded Deer

A wounded deer leaps highest,
I've heard the hunter tell;
'T is but the ecstasy of death,
And then the brake is still.
The smitten rock that gushes,
The trampled steel that springs:
A cheek is always redder
Just where the hectic stings!

Mirth is the mail of anguish,
In which it cautious arm,
Lest anybody spy the blood
And "You're hurt" exclaim!

Difficult words and the phrases:

- **To leap** – to jump from one place to another.
- **Smitten**- find someone so attractive or to be in love with.
- **Gushes** – large, noticeable flow of a fluid.
- **To trample** – to step on something.
- **Hectic** – very active or exciting.
- **Mirth** - pleasure

**Summary and Interpretation:**

‘A Wounded Deer’ is yet one more poem of Emily Dickinson where she realizes an ecstasy in approaching to the death.

She opens the poem, with an imagination that a dying deer has always a highest leap not because of the pains of the wound but in fact there is an ecstasy in
dying. It is a final leap of the deer towards the death and after that everything is cold and still.

More than even life, the death has an outstanding power and an ecstasy in it that makes the smitten rock to gush and even ignored steel to spring. All the solidity and cruelty melts at the death. the death is an hectic sting which makes the cheeks redder than the sting of a normal pain. To Emily Dickinson, wherever there is intense pain and anguish there lies the ecstasy. In fact an outstanding pleasure comes from the dire anguish. But it depends upon how one welcomes it. If someone welcomes the anguish in the death as if it is an arrival of the beloved, then the death becomes a pleasant experience and an ecstasy enjoyed never before.

Emily Dickinson in a short poem of three stanzas sings the overwhelming grace and glory of death.

I Like a Look of Agony

I like a look of Agony,
Because I know it’s true –
Men do not sham convulsion,
Nor simulate, a Throe –
The Eyes glaze once – and that is Death –
Impossible to feign
The Beads upon the Forehead
By homely Anguish strung.

Difficult words and phrases:

- **Agony** – an intense, deep pain in the mind or the body.
- **Convulsion** – an uncontrollable, violent jerking of body.
- **Simulate** – to show the nature or effects of something
- **Feign** – to pretend something
- **Bead** – to form into droplet
Summary and Interpretation:

‘I Like Look of Agony’ is one of the typical poems of Emily Dickinson focusing on the theme of death – as an inevitable truth in the life. Dickinson personifies Death and presents it as an Agony, and as it is an ultimate truth concluding the course of the life, encourages readers to face it with normalcy.

Of course, the fear and hopelessness is always associated with the death, but Dickinson encourages to the strugglers of the death convincing that the death is the truth and the honest, that in welcoming when nobody can pretend or simulate. It is the ultimate stage where one cannot pretend and control over the feelings. ‘I Like a Look of Agony’ is one more poem of Emily Dickinson which exhibits her typical searching for something to admire even in the matters of fear. In the poem, Dickinson’s approach towards death is quite positive because to her, it is most trustworthy truth.

Naturally, the words like ‘convulsion’, ‘a There’, ‘Beads upon the Forehead’ indicate the general fear and pain in approaching the death; but the truthfulness in death is more appealing to her than the fear and pain.

In a small poem of two stanzas, Emily Dickinson, using the tool of personification shows her outstanding psychological insight and uncommon power of observation. As in many other poems, in the present poem, too, Dickinson glorifies the truthfulness of the death, and despite it is an experience fall of agony. She adores it lot.

I Felt A Funeral, In My Brain

I felt a Funeral, in my Brain,
And Mourners to and fro
Kept treading – treading – till it seemed
That Sense was breaking through –
And when they all were seated,
And Service, like a Drum –
Kept beating – beating – till I thought
My Mind was going numb –
And then I heard them lift a Box
A creak across my Soul
With those same Boots of Lead, again,
Then Space – began to toll,
As all the Heavens were a Bell,
And Being, but an Ear,
And I, and Silence, some strange Race
Wrecked, solitary, here –
And then a Plank in Reason, broke,
And dropped down, and down –
And hit a world, at every plunge,
And Finished knowing – then –

Difficult words and phrases:
* Treading – walking slowly and cautiously.
* Numb – unable to sense anything.
* Plank – a long, flat, rectangular piece of wood

Interpretation and Appreciation:

Unlike an earlier poem, ‘Because I could not stop for death’, the poem “I felt a funeral, in my Brain’, though portraying an account of ritual of funeral, is remarkable for the sense of pain and despair in meeting with death. An extremity of pain and sense of trance from conscious regime of life to an unconscious numbness of death makes the poem a serious awareness and acceptance of death as an ultimate destination.

The poem opens with the poetess’ realization of death and the mourners’ preparation for funeral with the feeling of dissociation from life as well. The dramatic
presentation of the ritual of burial, makes the poetess feel numb and sinking herself into the depth of unconsciousness.

In fact the poem is a dramatic description of a ceremony of burial, which the victim of death herself realizes and expresses her own responses. When the dead is placed in a coffin box the space shrunk from infinity to close limit. All the rush and sound shifted to deep valley of silence when the coffin box drowned deep into the depth of the grave, it is a trance journey from the life to unconscious valley of death; it is a journey from known to unknown.

Rather than the divinity of death, the poetess emphasizes the dreadful isolation of death.