

LESSON NO 1

AFTER TWENTY YEARS

Theme of the story 'AFTER TWENTY YEARS'

The story 'After Twenty Years' by 'O Henry' revolves around two themes. These themes grow side by side as the story develops. One theme is about the performance of one's duty honestly and the second is how an individual's character, personality and aspirations grow over a period of twenty years.

To perform one's duty honestly should be the utmost priority of everyone. The two friends about whom the story is, were supposed to meet at a place decided twenty years ago. This was the place from where they had parted company with each other twenty years before.

Jimmy Wells, one of the two friends and now a policeman, came to meet his friend Silky Bob, who was already there at the decided place and fixed time. But once Jimmy Wells saw his friend's face in the light of the match stick, he realized that his friend was the same man who was wanted by Chicago Police. He did not allow his feelings to overcome his sense of duty and got him arrested.

The second theme reflects the growth of an individual's personality, character and aspirations. Two friends moved to their own worlds of aspirations. When Bob and Jimmy Wells were in New York, they were good friends and both were ordinary people. But once Bob went to Wild West, his aspirations & ambitions grew and to satisfy his aspirations and ambitions he started making money by every means. He got involved in underworld activities. He had become the most wanted criminal. Chicago Police was after him. The time had turned him into a criminal. On the other hand Jimmy Wells continued to stay in New York. He joined the police force. But with the passage of time he grew into a 'guardian of law' and performed his duty honestly. Thus the time led the two childhood friends to two extreme directions.

Sensational and dramatic arrest of Silky Bob

By Staff Reporter

Jammu _____ Silky Bob, the most criminal and notorious underworld character in Chicago was arrested in New York, late last night. His arrest was more dramatic than a perfectly executed police operation. His sensational arrest was made near a Hardware Store in New York. He was waiting there to meet his boyhood friend, Jimmy Wells.

Keeping the promise made twenty years ago, Bob was waiting to meet his friend. It was dark and the roads were deserted. Just then a policeman on petrol duty, walked up to him. Realizing that he might have been suspected, Bob told the policeman that he was waiting for his friend with whom he had made a promise twenty years before. It was then that Bob lit a match stick to light the cigar he was holding in his hand. This proved fatal for him as the light of the match stick exposed him to the man in uniform. The latter recognized Bob being the person wanted by the police in Chicago. Bob, who could not see the policeman as it was dark, could not guess the real identity of the policeman.

In fact, the man in uniform was none other than Jimmy Wells who keeping his promise had also come there to meet his friend. Jimmy's loyalty towards his profession and country encouraged him to hide his identity.

Jimmy wells could not arrest Bob himself but being a devoted and duty conscious citizen, he went away and sent a plain clothes policeman to arrest him. The sensational arrest was made by the policeman in plain clothes who approached Silky Bob in the disguise of Jimmy Wells

Q How will you characterize the story 'After Twenty Years' – Comic or Tragic?

The story 'After Twenty Years' is a tragic in nature and content. There is no element of fun or humour in the story, even then, the story keeps the interest of the readers alive because of its

exciting, unexpected and surprise ending. It does not make us laugh at all. It is a tragic story with an unexpected ending and an anti climax. The ending touches the readers at their hearts. Bob travels a thousand miles to meet his childhood friend Jimmy Wells. He keeps the promise given to his friend twenty years ago. He comes to the decided place at decided time. The Story takes a U-turn and becomes tragic. In order to make it big in the underworld and being over ambitious, Bob turns into a criminal. He is being chased by the police in Chicago. His friend Jimmy Wells grows into a 'guardian of peace'. He is an honest and responsible policeman, dedicated to his duty. When two friends, keeping their promise, meet each other after twenty years, Jimmy Wells comes to know that his childhood friend Bob is the same person who, for his involvement in the underworld activities, is wanted by the Chicago Police. He, therefore, as a responsible citizen and duty conscious fellow gets him arrested. He himself could not arrest him, so he sent a plainclothes man to arrest him. A long awaited happy meeting turns into a tragic moment and ends with the arrest of Bob. This makes the story a tragic one.

Q. Do you approve of Jimmy Wells' action?

Ans: - Yes, I approve of Jimmy Wells' action of getting his friend Silky Bob arrested. By doing so Jimmy Wells on one hand shows his loyalty, sincerity and devotion towards his duty and on the other hand ensures the safety of his friend's life. Had he not got Bob arrested the latter would have been killed by the police that was on his trail. Even his rivals and enemies in the underworld would have killed him. This would have reduced his chances of reforming him. By arresting him Jimmy not only ensures the safety of his friend's life but also gives him a chance to reform himself and become a good citizen. Jimmy would never have been able to do so if he had allowed Bob to run away & would have not arrested him.

TEXTUAL QUESTION

Q1. How impressive was the policeman? How would you justify your answer?

Ans :- The policeman, 'the guardian of peace' was really very impressive. He was well-built, strong and walking along the street in a manner not to show off. As he went along he moved his club or stick in a complicated and skillful manner. He also cast his watchful eyes down the wide street as went along. This showed that he was very impressive.

Q2. Why did the man tell the policeman 'it's alright officer'?

Ans The man standing at the doorway of a hardware store spoke these words to the policeman to assure him that there was nothing to worry as he (the man) was waisting for a friend with whom he had an appointment. In fact cold outside had made the roads empty. The man was standing all alone. It was natural for an alert policeman to smell something fishy. When the policeman walked up to the man standing in the dark doorway, he felt that he might have been suspected. That is why he told the policeman that it was alright and there was nothing wrong or suspicious

Q3. Were the two friends in the regular contact with each other during twenty years? Why? Why not?

No, the two friends were not in regular contact with each other. When they parted company with each other twenty years ago and Bob went to the West to make his fortune, the two did keep in touch with each other as they corresponded for a year or two but after that they lost contact with each other as Bob kept moving from one place to another in Europe.

Q4. How did Jimmy's friend prosper in life? How do you know?

Jimmy's friend prospered very well in life. He had become very rich. This is evident from his dress and outlook. His scarf pin was made of a large diamond. He had a beautiful watch lids of

which were set with small diamonds. But all his wealth was earned through unlawful and illegal activities.

Q5 When a tall man in a long overcoat walked up to Bob, what made him think that it was Jimmy and not anyone else.

.Ans :- Bob was waiting for his friend Jimmy Wells. So when a tall man in long overcoat walked along the deserted road in chilly cold and came straight to Bob, and asked if he was Bob, he naturally could only think that the tall man in raincoat was none other than Jimmy Wells.

Q6. Why was Bob arrested?

Ans:- Bob was involved in unlawful and illegal activities. For that he was wanted in Chicago. Jimmy Wells recognized that his friend was the same man wanted by Chicago police. So he got him arrested. He sent a policeman in plain clothes to arrest Bob.

Q7. Why did Bob's hand begin to tremble as he almost finished reading the note?

Ans:- Bob's hand began to tremble, when he finished reading the note because he realized that the man, he was talking to earlier was Jimmy wells. He trembled with the thought that his friend had recognized that he was a criminal. His hands trembled because he had been arrested.

OR Bob's hands began to tremble as he almost finished reading the note because he could not believe that his own friend could bring about his arrest. It was for this friend that he had come across a long distance just to keep a promise made twenty years ago. He loved his friend a lot and to him his friend was the 'truest, staunchest, old chap in the world'. When he read the note he could not believe that it was the same friend who got him arrested.

Q8. Jimmy did not arrest his friend because

D) He could not bring himself to arrest his friend.

Q9. Why is this story titled 'After Twenty Years'

Ans :- The title of the story 'After Twenty Years' reflects the main content of the story and is the most appropriate one. The story is about two childhood friend, Bob and Jimmy, who part company with each other to make their individual fortune and meet each other at Joe Brandy's restaurant after 20 years on the same day and same time, when they parted twenty years ago. Twenty years is a long gap of time. Drastic changes take place in their lives. Bob who is over ambitions and seeks his fortune in Wild West, makes his fortune using his sharp wits and by hustling his way through the world of crime and unlawful activities. Jimmy sticks to New York and he earns an honourable position for himself in the society as a policeman. After 20 years two friends came face to face with each other. Twenty years is a big time to change a man, his life, his behaviour and even change his fortune. It is this time that is an important factor and that ultimately decides Bob's fortune. Had he not made a promise to meet his friend, he would not have been arrested.

Q10. If you were in Jimmy's shoes, what would have been the best thing to do from the following points of view?

Ans :- Part c.

EXTRA QUESTIONS

Q1. Why were the streets deserted?

Ans:- The streets were deserted because it was 10'o clock at night. It was the month of December and chilly gusts of wind with rain were blowing.

Q2. Who was the man at the doorway of the hardware store waiting for?

Ans:- The man, Silky Bob standing at the doorway of the Hardware Store was waiting for his friend Jimmy Wells. Bob and Jimmy Wells had promised each other twenty years ago that they would meet each other at that very place at 10'o clock, in the night. So, Bob was waiting for Jimmy.

3:- Did Bob notice any change in his friend Jimmy?

Ans:- Yes, Bob did notice the change in the height of his friend Jimmy Wells. He noticed that Jimmy had grown taller by two or three inches.

Q4. What was the real identity of the man in the overcoat? Why had he gone there? Who had sent him?

Ans:- The real identity of the tall man in the overcoat was that he was a policeman in plainclothes. He had gone there to arrest Bob who was involved in illegal and unlawful activities in the West. He was wanted in Chicago. Jimmy Wells had recognized that Bob was the man who was being chased by the police. But he could not arrest Bob himself. So, he sent a policeman in plain clothes to arrest him.

Q5. How was Jimmy able to recognize the man in the dark?

Ans:- Jimmy Wells was on his patrolling duty. He saw a man standing in the doorway of a darkened hardware store. The man was holding an unlighted cigar in his mouth. The man told Jimmy that he was waiting for his friend. When the man struck a match to light his cigar, Jimmy Wells saw his face and was able to recognize that the man in the doorway was the one wanted in Chicago.

RTC

'You are not Jimmy Wellsa Roman to a pug.'

a. 'He' in these lines is Silky Bob

b. He was shocked and surprised when he realized that the man he was walking with was not Jimmy wells. He had spilled beans and told everything about himself to the man who in fact was a policeman in plain clothes and had come to arrest him.

c. He recognized him from his nose. His friend Jimmy Wells had a Roman nose where as the man who was with him had a pug nose

The man was there to arrest Silky Bob who was wanted by Chicago Police. Silky Bob's friend Jimmy Wells had sent him to arrest Bob.

RTC

Reference :- These lines have been taken from the story, 'After Twenty Years', written by 'O' Henry', a writer known for his stories based on first hand experience.

Context:- The story is about two friends who move out in opposite directions to try their destiny after promising each other to meet after twenty years at a fixed place at an appointed time on a particular day. Bob , one of the two friends who grows into an underworld character and is being haunted by the police, travels a long way to meet his friend.

When about midwayan appointment made 20 years ago.

Explanation – in the lines under reference the writer tells us about Bob who is waiting for his friend. A placeman on the patrolling duty happens to come along that way. Bob is leaning against the doorway of a darkened hardware store. On seeing the policeman approaching him realizes that he might be suspected as some dubious character, immediately reacts by telling the officer that there is nothing wrong in his being there at that odd time of the evening. He makes it clear that he is waiting for his friend with whom he had an appointment some twenty years before.

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VOCABULARY

1	Inspect	inspecting	inspection	inspector
2	Advertise	advertising	advertisement	advertiser
3	Introduce	introductory	introduction	introducer
4	Support	supportive/ supporting	support	supporter
5	Impose	imposing	imposition	imposer
6	Compose	composite	composition	compositor
7	Oppress	oppressive	oppression	oppressor

GRAMMAR

1. [it](#) is the nicest room in the hotel. 2. it is the cheapest watch in the shop.
3. She is the most intelligent student in the class. 4. It is the most valuable painting in the gallery.
5. It was the happiest day of my life. 6. Which is the longest river in the world.
7. What is the quickest method of reaching the station? 8. What is the most popular sport in your school?
9. That is the most boring film I have ever seen. 10. Mr. and Mrs, Das have three sons. The eldest is 16 Years

STUDY SKILL

- a. Get out. b. Get through c Got away with d Get behind e Getting up .

1. CHARACTER SKETCH OF SILKY BOB

Bob is one of the main characters of the story, 'After Twenty Years', written by 'O Henry'. He has been presented as an over ambitious character. His ambition takes him to the world of crime & he becomes 'Silky Bob'.

He is introduced in the story standing in a dark corner in front of a hardware store and waiting for his friend to whom he had given a promise to meet at the place where once stood, 'Big Joe Brady's restaurant. His conversation with the policeman, who, later on, turns out to be his friend, Jimmy Wells, and whom Bob could not recognize in the darkness, reveals his character. His character can be drawn as under:-

An Ambitious Young Man:-He is about 38 year old and has a big scar on his right eyebrow. He is an over ambitious character. Twenty years ago, he made a promise to his friend Jimmy Wells to meet him at the place where he is standing now and where once stood 'Joe Big Brady's restaurant. He himself says,

'I'm just waiting for a friend. It's an appointment made twenty years ago.'

An Underworld Character:- He left his childhood friend Jimmy Wells 20 years ago and tried to make it big in the Wild West. He becomes an underworld character and indulges in all kinds of illegal activities. He earns money and fame in the underworld and becomes a target for law-enforcing agencies that are after him now.

A Man of Words:-He competes with the sharpest wits in the underworld activities and survives. He travels over a thousand miles to make it to the place and keep his promise. He is badly involved in his ambition of making money and in the process loses contact with his friend yet he keeps his promise showing that he is a man of words. He says,

'I came a thousand miles to stand in this door tonight and it's worth it if my old partner turns up'.

Has Sharp Memories:-The span of twenty years doesn't make him forget his friend and he remembers how tall he was. That is why, at the very outset, he asks the man in the plainclothes, who approaches him in the disguise of Jimmy Wells, how he has grown taller during the period. He remarks,

'..... you've changed lots, Jimmy. I never thought you were so tall by two or three inches.'

Prosperes in life:- His dress and costumes show that he prospered well in the Wild West and has become worth his name ,that is why, the police in many countries is after him. He has a great ego and shows it in his conversation and behavior. A big diamond tiepin and diamond studded watch shows how well Bob has prospered after he left New York.

Over Confident But True Friend:- He is over confident and this makes him spill the beans to the man whom he takes as his childhood friend. His coming back to New York, against all odds and at the cost of his life, speaks of his sincerity in friendship.

Though, a bad character, he earns love and sympathies of the readers.

2. CHARACTER SKETCH OF JIMMY WELLS

Jimmy Wells is one of the main characters in the story 'After twenty Years' writer by 'O Henry'. He has been presented as a noble, duty bound and duty conscious fellow. His character sketch can be drawn as under.

Guardian of Peace:- Jimmy Wells is about 40 years old. He is a responsible policeman by profession. He leads a life of a responsible citizen. He is the man whose conduct and behaviour are exemplary. He is an upright man devoted to his duty. On his patrolling duty he moves up and down the venue as a 'guardian of peace'. His alertness is habitual and part of his behavior and what he does. He moves his club with artful movements. He is very conscious as he casts his watchful eyes on the surroundings every now and then, while performing his duty.

Law abiding citizen:- His behaviour and conduct show that he is a law abiding citizen. He not only earns a name and fame for himself but also brings credit to his department by performing his duties sincerely. His sincerity and sense of duty encourage him to arrest a criminal. His sense of duty and loyalty towards his profession is stronger than his love for his friend.

Mentally strong:-He is a strong fellow and is not carried away by the emotion. Though he has great regards and emotional feelings for his friend, yet these don't come in the way of his duty.

'Somehow I couldn't do it myself. So I went around and got a plain clothes man to do the job'.

The statement shows that he is not over powered by his emotions.

True and Sincere Friend:- According to Bob,

'.....my best chum and the finest chap in the world.'

Jimmy wells is a true and sincere friend and values his friendship. He keeps his promise of meeting his friend after twenty years. Bob remarks about him,

'But I know Jimmy will meet me here if he is alive ; for he always was the truest, staunchest old chap in the world.'

But when Jimmy finds that Bob, his friend, is the same person who is wanted by Chicago Police, he changes his mind. He finds himself in an awkward position but he gives preference to his duty. Taking the advantage of darkness and realizing that Bob has not recognized him, he moves away and sends a plainclothes man to arrest him. He does what an honest and good policeman should have done.

Though it may appear that Jimmy Wells cheats his friend who facing all odds travels a thousand miles to meet him, yet he is a true citizen, a true friend, an honest policeman and above all a good human being.

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OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

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After Twenty Years

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1. The story 'After Twenty Years' has been written by _____
a. A G Gardiner b. Robert Frost c. O' Henry d. H G Wells
2. Jimmy had sent a man in _____ clothes to arrest Bob.
3. Superlative is a) Noun b) Verb c) Adjective_ d) Adverb.
4. Bob very well remembered that his friend had a _____ nose
i) Pug ii) flat iii) Roman iv) short
5. _____ was the pen name of William Sidney Poster.
6. O' Henry spent 5 years in _____ prison.
7. Bob and Jimmy were raised in a) Chicago b) Florida c) New York d) England.
8. Bob was an underworld character where as Jimmy Wells became a _____ Of law
a) Manager b) guard c) custodian d) general.
9. Bob praises his friend Jimmy wells as his _____
a. best chum b. best class mate c. best policeman d. best colleague.
10. Bob made a lot of wealth by indulging in _____ activities
a. Legal b. unlawful c. big d. many

Answer 1 c. 2. Plain 3. C 4. C 5. O' Henry 6. Ohio 7.c 8. C 9. a 10. b.

LESSON NO 2

FORGETTING

Q1: Why is the writer astonished by the list of articles lost by railway travelers?

Ans 1: The writer is astonished by the list of articles lost by the railway travelers because modern man has usually a good memory. He remembers so many things like the telephone numbers, addresses of friends and relatives, the names of actresses and actors, dates of good vintages and so on. But the writer is astonished at the absent mindedness of the common people. He is unable to understand how people could forget things.

Q2: What does the list speak of the travelers? Why do you think the London railway station published the list?

Ans 2: The list of articles lost by travelers speaks volumes about their memory. It shows how people, in spite of their good memory, are usually forgetful to some items or things in the routine of life. The London railway station published the list probably to boost up the sale of these goods or perhaps, so that, rightful owners can come and claim them.

Q3: List the objects that most men remember?

Ans Most men remember many things in their day to day life. The following is the list:-

- 1 Addresses of friends and relatives.
- 2 The telephone numbers.
- 3 Names of actors, actresses and sportsmen
- 4 Shutting the front door when leaving the house
- 5 Turning off the lights before going to bed
- 6 To put on every single item of clothing while getting dressed.

Q 4: Why does the writer feel that it should be easy for people to remember to take their medicines?

Ans The writer feels that it should be easy for most people to remember to take their medicines because these are required to be taken before, during or after the meal. The meal itself is a reminder to take medicine with it.

Q 5: Does the writer agree with theory that many people fail to remember to take their medicine at the appointed hours because of their antipathy to pills and potion. Give reasons for your answer.

Ans The writer does not agree with the theory put forth by some psychologists that many people fail to remember to take their medicines at appointed hours because of their antipathy to pills and potion. The writer cites his own example to support his opinion. He considers himself to be a lifelong devotee of medicines and likes to take them but he is as forgetful of them as those who take them most unwillingly.

Q 6: What kind of people tend to forget things on trains?

Ans 6: The list of the articles lost in trains, shows that the young people especially sports persons tend to forget things more on trains. The writer is of the view that the sports persons while returning from the games are still pre-occupied by what transpired in the playing field. Either their heads are among the stars if they played well or their hearts are in the boots if they did not play or lost the game. So, they are abstracted from the world outside and often forget their playing gear on the train.

Q 7: Why does the writer consider the absent mindedness in people such as anglers and poets a virtue?

Ans 7: A poet or an angler is rather absent minded. But the writer considers the absent mindedness in poets and anglers as a virtue because their forgetfulness shows how such people have no time to think about dull and ordinary things in life. The writer goes on saying that an absentminded man is often a man who is making the best of life and therefore has no time to remember the mediocre (ordinary) things.

Q 8: How are writers and composers different from statesmen?

Ans According to Robert Lynd, Great writers and composers of music, on the whole have been men with very solid memory. In fact, the author is of the view that memory is half the substance of their art. But statesmen have very bad memory. If two statesmen attempt to recall the event say, at some cabinet meeting, each will accuse the other with totally inaccurate versions either because of very bad memory or deliberate attempt to twist the facts to his purpose.

Q9. 'most of us, I fear, are born with prosaically efficient memories'. Is the writer appreciative of the kind of the memory most ordinary men have?

Ans. Robert Lynd appreciates the fact that routine of our family life does not allow us to forget things. If it were not so, the institution of the family could not survive in any great modern city. So we can say that good memory is a great gift of God.

RTC

1. Yet even if I I ought to swallow it.

Q. What is 'the stuff' being referred to?

Ans. The stuff being referred to here is 'medicines'.

Q. What are writer's feelings towards the stuff in his pocket? (tick the correct answer)

1. Antipathy 2. Delight 3. Devotion

Ans. Devotion

Q What are the two terms the writer uses to describe men who do not forget to swallow the stuff?

Ans. The two terms the writer uses to describe men who don't forget to swallow the stuff are:-

- a. Devotees
- b. Moral giants

2. They are abstracted.....when they leave the train.

a. Who are the 'they' the writer is speaking of

Ans. The word 'they' in these lines has been used for 'sportsmen'

b. Why are they abstracted from the outside world?

Ans. They are abstracted from the outside world because they are either lost in pleasant thoughts of their victories or in a state of unhappiness over their errors in the field, resulting in their defeats

c. What is the author's attitude towards them? (Tick the correct answer.)

- a. Reproachful
- b. indulgent
- c. annoyed

Ans. Indulgent

3 'weary of holding.....from my pocket.

Q1. What is the writer referring to as 'it'?

Ans. The thing that the writer is referring to as 'it' in these lines is 'the letter' which is given to the writer for posting.

Q2: How does the writer regard his own memory as so far the posting of letters is concerned?

Ans : The writer confesses that his own memory in the matter of posting letter is very poor and who so ever trusts him in this matter is a poor judge of his character.

Q3: How does the writer carry the letter?

Ans The writer carries the letter first in his hand and then in his pocket.

Q3 (a): 'weary of' means 'tired of'.

Q4. How does he feel when asked about the letter?

Ans He feels embarrassed and guilty for having forgotten to post the letter given to him.

4) I am no great delinquent.....fear of losing it

Q:- who is 'I' in these lines?

Ans:- 'I' in these lines is the writer himself.

Q:- In which matters is the writer 'delinquent'?

Ans:- The writer is delinquent, that is, an irresponsible person in the matter of leaving things in trains and taxis.

Q:- What does the word 'keep' in the clause 'impossible to keep' mean?

Ans It means retain or keep with or hang on to.

Q:- What are the things the writer often forget?

Ans He often forgets books and walking sticks. He does not carry an umbrella for the fear of losing or forgetting it.

Q:- Where does he usually forget them?

Ans He usually forgets them at some friend's house or in a train.

Q:- What did he not take with him, for the fear of losing it?

Ans He did not take an umbrella with him for the fear of losing it.

Q:- What did he buy frequently and why?

Ans He bought walking sticks frequently. He bought them because he had a deep taste for walking sticks.

RTC

Reference:- These lines have been extracted from a thought provoking essay 'Forgetting' written by 'Robert Lynd', a great essay writer. Robert Lynd is known for his high level of elegancy and fluency.

Context Forgetting is considered to be a vice but why people forget things is an open and debatable issue. Robert Lynd is of the opinion that everyone has got a remarkable memory; since people get deeply involved in one or the other activity; they are abstracted from other things. It is then that forgetting becomes a virtue for people.

1. There are it must be admitted.....things to remember.

Explanation:- In the lines under reference the writer confesses that there are some matters in which human memory is not very good. In such matter memory works with less than its usual perfection. Citing an example in the matter of taking medicines, the writer says that only a very methodical man remembers to take medicines prescribed by the doctor whereas it should be easiest thing to remember as these are prescribed to be taken before, during or after meals. Yet it is surprising to note that many people forget to take medicines at fixed time and a very few people remember to take them at fixed time.

Main idea of 'FORGETTING'

The thought provoking article 'Forgetting' has been composed by '**Robert Lynd**'. Forgetting is a vice but why people forget things is an open & debatable issue. The writer is forced to think about the topic when he sees a list of articles lost by the railway travelers and published by the railway authority. The list forces the writer to think why people are so absentminded as to forget their things. He then concludes that men are not absentminded & all absentminded people don't forget everything. Sometime people with excellent memory also forget things & forgetfulness becomes a virtue with many.

Man has a great power of remembering. He remembers many things like telephone numbers, birthdays, marriage dates, names of great men & so on, yet people with a sharp memory, forget things & this surprises the author. He is of the opinion that there are some matters in which memory fails man. The psychologists are of the opinion that people simply forget things because they wish to forget. Mostly people forget taking medicines because they don't like them. People forget to post letters despite the reminders they have for posting them. Walking sticks, books & umbrellas are the other things which people forget at the place of their work or on buses & trains. But writer does not agree with the opinion of the psychologist. For him, people forget things simply because they get lost in some other world of imagination or dreams. Giving the examples of the players, the writers, poets & the artists, the author makes it clear that these people are preoccupied with their imagination & hence forget many things. Such forgetfulness becomes a virtue with them. The author concludes his article with the remark that man has got an excellent memory & but for this the institution of family and other human relations would have never existed. Thus, forgetting is such a virtue that yields great creations.

Theme of Forgetting

Thought provoking essay 'Forgetting' has a definite theme to convey to its readers. The writer has tried to convey that forgetting is not a vice. In fact, it is a virtue. It is like a blessing in disguise. Modern man has a wonderful memory yet he is forgetful in several things. He forgets taking medicines & posting letters. Young people, especially sports men forget things on trains simply because they are distracted from some ordinary things and are lost in things more important & necessary. Genius & extra ordinary brains like poets, thinkers, musician & philosophers forget things because they have no time to remember ordinary things. They have always their minds fixed on something great & creative. The writer is also of the opinion that human beings have a very good memory. It is because of this memory that the institutions like family & society exist on the earth.

VOCABULARY

HOMOPHONES

1. **Whether:** I asked her whether she would befriend me.
Weather: The weather may change today.
2. **Principle:** He is a man of principles
Principal: The principal of this school is a European.
3. **Deer:** Black deer is an endangered species.
Dear: He is very dear to me.
4. **Berth:** Please book a berth for me in Jhelum Express.
Birth: What is your date of birth?
5. **Alter:** This program cannot be changed now
Altar: Many patriots laid their lives at the altar of independence.
6. **Fair:** Free and fair elections are very important for democracy.
Fare: The taxi fare has been increased.
7. **Here:** I shall wait for you here.
Hear: I can't hear what you say.
8. **There:** Keep these books there on the table.
Their: They have sold their old house.

NOTICE
CHARING CROSS STATION, LONDON

Date _____ 20__

Jumble Sale

General public is informed that 'Lost and Found' section of Charing Cross Station, is putting on sale the large collection of unclaimed articles at throw away prices in the Station Community Hall, between 9am to 5pm from _____ 20__ to _____ 20__ every day. Entry to sale area is free.

For further detail feel free to contact

Simon Albright

Station Master, Charing Cross Station.

GRAMMAR

The, the, x, a, an, the, a, the, the, an, a, a, x, the, a, an, the.

Study Skills

1. **One who is unable to pay his/her debts:** insolvent
2. **One who leaves his country to settle elsewhere:** emigrant
3. **One who plays a game for pleasure and not as a job:** amateur
4. **One who knows many languages:** polyglot