

UNIT 6

THE HUNDRED DRESSES-II

LET'S BEGIN

In the texts 'The Hundred Dresses-I and II', Wanda was seen as different by other girls. But in the dresses game she proved her talent and got recognition. We are all unique and we have our strengths. Have you ever met a person who is very different than you, who thinks and enjoys doing things differently? Conduct a survey in the class to find out the different talents that your classmates have and discuss these so as to appreciate each other.

READING COMPREHENSION

TEXT I

You have read how Wanda was passionate about her talent and pursued it in spite of so many hurdles. Wangari Mathai, the Nobel Prize winner, is another person who fought a battle to save the environment. She had a humble start but she dreamt big and succeeded.

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

When we said we wanted to plant fifteen million trees, a forester laughed and said we could have as many seedlings as we wanted because he was convinced that we could not plant that many trees. Before too long, he had to withdraw that offer because we were collecting more trees than he could give away free of charge. But we didn't have the money. We decided that we could produce the seedlings ourselves. We would go and collect seeds from trees, come back and plant them the way women planted other seeds—beans, corn, and other grains. And so the women actually developed forestry management techniques, using "appropriate technology" to fit their needs. Here is the basic method—take



1076CH06

LOOK UP AND UNDERSTAND

forestry
inventive
ordaining
seedlings
transformation

a pot, put in the soil, and put in the seeds. Put the pot in an elevated position so that the chickens and the goats don't come and eat the seedlings.

Ordaining all the inventive techniques that the women developed, for example, sometimes trees produce seeds carried by the wind. These germinate in the fields with the first rain. It was very interesting to see a woman cultivating a field with a small container of water. But, she was cultivating weeds! She had learned that among these weeds were also tree seedlings and that she could pick the seedlings and put them in a container. In the evening, she went home with several hundred seedling trees! These techniques developed by the women became extremely helpful. We planted more than twenty million trees in Kenya alone. In other African countries, we have not kept records.

Trees are alive, so we react to them in very different ways. Quite often, we get attached to a tree, because it gives us food and fodder for our fires. It is such a friendly thing. When you plant a tree and you see it grow, something happens to you. You want to protect it, and you value it. I have seen people really change and look at trees very differently from the way they would in the past. The other thing is that a lot of people do not see that there are no trees until they open their eyes, and realise that the land is naked. They begin to see that while rain can be a blessing, it can also be a curse, because when it comes and you have not protected your soil, it carries the soil away with it. And this is rich soil in which you should be growing your food, then they see the immediate relationship between a person and the environment. It is wonderful to see that transformation, and that is what sustains the movement!

(Source: 'Speak Truth to Power' Wangari Mathai)

Q.1. A forester laughs when Wangari Mathai says that they wanted to plant 15 million trees. Why did the forester react in this manner?



Q.2. What role does money play in the given extract?

Q.3. “When you plant a tree and you see it grow, something happens to you.” Explain what do you understand by the above quote.

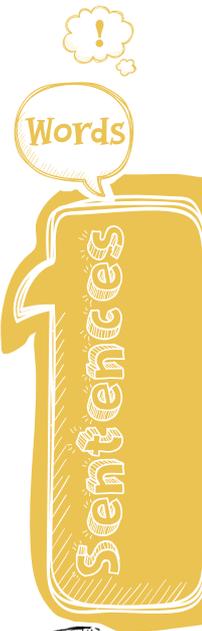
Q.4. “Rain can be a blessing and a curse.” Analyse how nature can be both a blessing and a curse.

Q.5. “It is wonderful to see that transformation.”
What is the ‘transformation’ the author is talking about here?

TEXT II

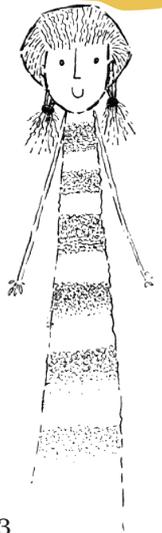
When people work together they put in their combined efforts to succeed. This idea of collaborative working creates life long bonding for the people. Read the following passage and find out how people in remote areas of Odisha get together to show their gratitude to nature by observing ‘bijun parab’ (*beej parba*) and strengthen their life cycle.

There will always be a seed for everyone. In the early summer month of April, the forests’ people also depend on the foods



**LOOK UP
AND
UNDERSTAND**

disinfectant
‘Kondh’
safeguarded
shooing





harvested earlier on in the year—millets, pulses, tubers, dried fruits, roots and tubers. All these seeds have been safeguarded, some saved to be grown in the next season, while others have been stored to be eaten in months such as these. It is in this month that various 'Kondh' communities organise the *Bijun Parab* or seed festival.

The festival begins with the mud walls of the home painted, the mud and cow dung floors swept and freshened, and, most importantly, the selecting of seeds. Women gather in the courtyard, cleaning the seeds from the husks, chatting with each other, shooing away the children who mill about, witnessing and participating in the seasonal celebration. Saving seeds over all these months and seasons has taken much effort—guarding the seeds from insects, animals and moisture as well as one's own greed. Each one has a different technique, whether grinding up neem leaves and mixing it with the seeds as an insecticide or layering the seed basket with cow dung as disinfectant. Some women have managed to save more seeds, some just a little and there are some houses where pests and insects managed to get the best of the seeds and these families have not saved any. Nonetheless, everyone participates in this festival.

(Source: 'There will always be a seed for everyone' by Aditi Pinto, *The Hindu*, April 23, 2017)

Q.1. Answer the following questions:

(a) When is the seed festival celebrated in Odisha?

(b) Which are the seeds preserved by the Kondhs?

(c) Why are the seeds preserved?

(d) How do they celebrate the festival?

- Arnabh, whose sister works in television, is a good debater.
- It's the Internet that gives us a lot of information.

The underlined parts of the sentences are relative clauses. The relative clauses begin with 'which', 'who', 'whose', and 'that'.

Put in the relative clauses and write the sentences.

Example:

Traffic light suddenly went out of order. It caused a traffic jam.

Traffic light, which suddenly went out of order, caused a traffic jam.

- (a) Mary wrote a poem. It bagged the first prize in the creative writing competition.

The poem _____

- (b) Mr. Goel is seriously ill, so he could not go to office.

Mr. Goel _____

- (c) Simran gave a dance programme yesterday, and it's being appreciated by everybody.

The dance programme _____

- (d) You are going to meet Amit tomorrow, he is an active member of our school's environment club.

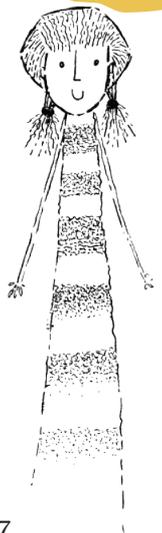
You are going to meet Amit tomorrow _____

- (e) The man is rather strange. He lives next door.

The man _____

- (f) Anu's name was missed off the volleyball players' list, so he was very unhappy.

Anu _____



EDITING

1. Some words in the following paragraphs are missing. Choose and insert the words given in the bracket.

(of, around, into, the, and,
above, from, to, so, against, its)

They sailed the islands Sumatra and the Andaman Sea, and followed the coastline up from Malaysia, into the waters of Thailand and then the Phang Nga. After days of exploration, island village's founder, Toh Baboo, stumbled upon Koh Panyi. The island offered excellent protection the elements had plentiful fish, so Toh Baboo raised a flag the island's summit.

From three original families, the village has expanded become home to 1485 people, all descended from the island's original settlers. As the number of residents grew, this village on stilts expanded, even getting own school with a playground and a mosque with a gleaming dome and minarets, all floating water.

(Source: 'A Jewel of the Andaman Sea' by Neeta Lal, *livemint*, 16 March, 2019)

2. Choose the punctuation mark that can be used in the blank place in each sentence. The punctuation mark does not include the brackets.

(a) Electricity has two main uses _____ industrial and domestic.

1 (.) 2 (!) 3 (?) 4 (;) 5 (:)

(b) 'When Mahua comes,' she said _____ 'Anand always goes to meet her.'

1 (.) 2 (,) 3 (?) 4 (;) 5 (:)

FUN FACTS

TONGUE TWISTER

I wish to wash my Irish wristwatch.



(c) 'I wonder when will they come _____ he said.

1. (.) 2 (,) 3 (?) 4 (;) 5 (:)

(d) We decided to have rest _____ It was too hot to go any further.

- 1 (.) 2 (,) 3 (?) 4 (!) 5 (')

LISTENING

1. Ask the teacher or a peer to read aloud the following passage. The passage can be read aloud more than once.

- Notice the theme and style of writing.
- Take down notes while listening. Then using your notes, tell your partner the summary of what you have heard.

My great aunt Doluma had “tasted” a police lathi-charge during the freedom struggle. I knew her as an old woman in a spotless white khadi sari, with cropped grey hair, black-rimmed glasses, her lips stained with paan. Her real name was Dr Phulrenu Guha. After she died, we discovered she had received a doctorate from Sorbonne in 1938. Most of us just knew her as Doluma. I called her *mantrithakurma* or minister-grandmother because she had once held a post in the Union Government of India.

I won't pretend she was the cuddly grandma who told us fairy tales. She hopped on and off jeeps even in her 80s and went on the campaign trail in rural Bengal. She was blunt, out spoken and no nonsense.

(Source: 'Have you had your dose of vitamin' P. Sandip Roy, *livemint*, Saturday, 16 March, 2019)

Words

Sentences



PROJECT

1. Farmers are a community who work together and share a common thread of living. They are largely dependent on the blessings as well as vagaries of nature.

Today, farmers are facing problems due to many reasons. Work in groups of four and prepare a project on the issues related to the agrarian stress. You can interview farmers in your area to get a true account of their problems and their solutions as well.

You can keep in mind the following reasons—

- Climate change and natural calamities
- Rise in prices of seeds, manure, etc.
- Social marginalisation
- Deprivation of economic benefits
- Low yield
- Government policies
- Debt trap
- Lack of facilities like irrigation, electricity

Share your findings with your classmates, highlighting the important points of your project.

FUN FACTS

USING DESERT AND DESSERT

The man decided to desert his tasty dessert in the desert.

Words

Sentences

