



**पुर्ना International School**  
Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul, Zundal

**CLASS - VIII**

**SUBJECT – ENGLISH**

**[SAMPLE PLAN]**

**BOOK – 1. HONEYDEW**

**2. IT SO HAPPENED**

**SESSION – 2020 -2021**



**BOOK- HONEYDEW**

**CH - 1 THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT IN THE WORLD**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdkagflUZro>

The Best Christmas Present in the World is a touching story by Michael Morpurgo. The narrator buys an old desk and finds in it a letter written by an English soldier Jim Mcpherson to his wife Connie whom the narrator goes to meet and hand over the letter.

The letter has a touchy account of how the English soldiers and German soldiers wished each other 'Happy Christmas', celebrated the festival with real Christmas spirit where there was no place for conflict, hatred, and violence. The letter was written on 26 December 1914 and Jim wrote in his letter that he would be back by the next Christmas as the incident between the two armies showed how soldiers from both sides wanted peace.

The narrator could not sleep the whole night, it was Christmas Eve, as he had intruded in someone's privacy by reading the letter. In the morning he went to the address mentioned in the letter, finds the house in shatters due to fire, asked a neighbour and reached where Connie was. Connie was 101 years and she mistook the narrator as Jim and talked about her happiness on Jim's arrival. It was the best Christmas present for her in the world.

❖ **NEW WORDS**

1. Nineteenth
2. Clumsily
3. Drawer
4. Underneath
5. Curiosity
6. Greatcoat
7. Parapet
8. Sausage
9. Outstretched
10. Carols
11. Lopsided



❖ **WORD MEANINGS**

1. Spotted it – saw it , found it
2. Scorch marks – burn marks
3. Restore – repair
4. Stuck fast – shut tight
5. Scruples – feelings that make you hesitate to do something wrong
6. Trenches – long deep ditches in the ground where soldiers hide from the enemy
7. Cello – A musical instrument like a large violin
8. Marzipan – A sweet covering on a cake made from sugar, eggs and almonds
9. Dugout – A shelter for soldiers made by digging a hole in the ground and covering it
10. Boarded up - Covered with wooden boards

11. Muddle headed – Confused
12. Suffused with – Spread all over her face

❖ **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS –**

Q 1. What did the author find in a junk shop?

Ans - The author found a nineteenth century roll-top desk in the junk shop. It was made of oak. It was in a very bad condition.

Q 2. What did he find in a secret drawer?

Ans - The author found a small black tin box in the secret drawer.

Q 3. Who do you think had put it in there?

Ans - Most likely, it was put there by Mrs. Jim Macpherson, who was Jim's wife. Her name and address were on the envelope inside the box.

Q 4. Who had written the letter, to whom, and when?

Ans - Jim Macpherson had written the letter to his wife Connie Macpherson on December 26, 1914.

Q 5. How old was Mrs Macpherson now? Where was she?

Ans - Mrs. Macpherson was a hundred and one years old. She was in a nursing home in Burlington House.

Q6 . Why did the author go to Bridport?

Ans - The author went to Bridport because that was the address where Mrs. Macpherson lived. He wanted to give that letter back to her.

Q7 . Who did Connie Macpherson think her visitor was?

Ans - Connie Macpherson thought that her visitor was her husband, Jim.

❖ **ANSWER IN DETAIL –**

Q 1. Why do you think the desk had been sold, and when?

Ans - The desk must have been sold when the house in which Connie Macpherson lived had caught fire. She was taken to a nursing home. All the burnt up things must have been sold by the neighbours after that.

Q 2. What is Connie's Christmas present? Why is it "the best Christmas present in the world"?

Ans - When the narrator came to see Connie and gave her the box, she mistook him for her husband Jim. She thought that Jim had come home for Christmas. This was Connie's Christmas present. It was the best Christmas present in the world for her because Jim had written in the letter that he would come home on Christmas. She had read that letter several times everyday to feel that he was near her. Now that he was finally there with her, she was extremely happy.

Q3 . Why was the letter written—what was the wonderful thing that had happened?

Ans - Jim wrote the letter to tell his wife about a wonderful thing that had happened on Christmas day. The British and the Germans were engaged in a war, yet on this day, both the troops met in no man's

land. It was a thing of wonder because right in the middle of a war, the warring soldiers were making peace.

#### ❖ VALUE BASED QUESTION –

Why do Jim and Hans think that games or sports are good ways of resolving conflicts? Do you agree?  
Ans - Jim and Hans thought that games or sports are good ways of resolving conflicts because nobody dies in matches. No children are orphaned and no wives become widows. Due to these reasons, games are good ways for resolving conflicts. Wars only lead to death and devastation.

#### Moral:

**War brings death and sadness; there are much better ways of resolving differences.**

#### ❖ WORKING WITH GRAMMAR

Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

My little sister is very naughty. When she came (come) back from school yesterday, she had torn (tear) her dress. We asked (ask) her how it had happened (happen). She said (say) she had quarrelled (have, quarrel) with a boy. She had beaten (have, beat) him in a race and he had tried (have, try) to push her. She had told (have, tell) the teacher and so he had chased (have, chase) her, and she had fallen (have, fall) down and had torn (have, tear) her dress.

#### **THE ANT AND THE CRICKET (POEM)**

##### ❖ SUMMARY

**This poem is about a cricket (an insect), who found himself in trouble as the winter season arrived. He found he had nothing to eat; nor had he cared to make a shelter for himself.**

**He decided to go to an ant for help. He wished to borrow some grain from her and to spend a day or two in her hole during the rainy days. His intention was to pay her back later on.**

**However, the ant did not help the cricket. She told him without mincing words that it was rule of ants that they neither borrowed nor lent. She asked the cricket in astonishment if he had not saved anything for the winter. To which the cricket replied in negative. She asked him the reason. He replied he was so busy enjoying his life, he did not bother to save or put by anything. The ant taunted him to go and dance during the winter also.**

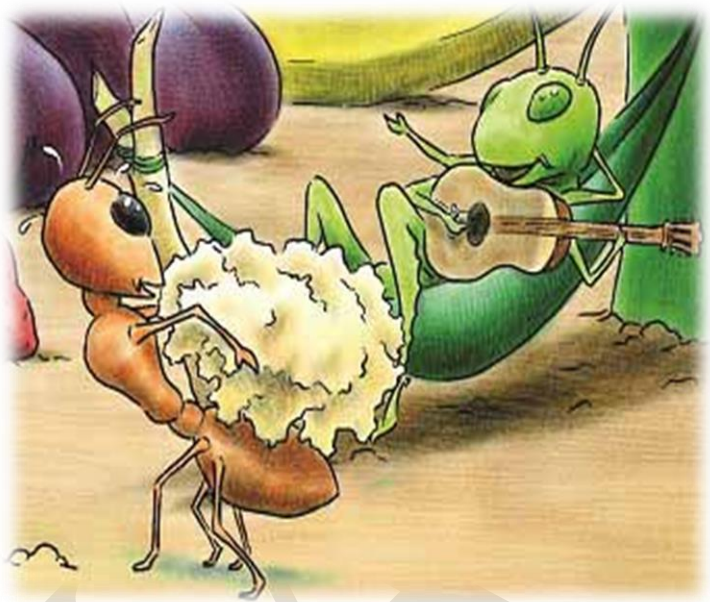
**In conclusion it can be said that we must be responsible for our future. We must not just spend our good times idly; we must also secure our future against the bad times also.**

❖ **NEW WORDS**

1. Complain
2. Snow- covered
3. Starvation
4. Famine
5. Shelter
6. Mouthful
7. Sorrow
8. Wicket
9. Cricket

❖ **WORD MEANINGS**

1. Accustomed to - addicted to, in habit
2. A crumb - a piece
3. Shelter - home
4. Starvation - hunger
5. Quoth - quoted
6. Gay - happy



❖ **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

Q1. Why did the cricket complain?

Ans - The cricket had spent the entire summer season by singing, dancing and merry-making. Because of this he had empty cupboard which is of utter need in coming winter. That is why the cricket complained .

Q 2. What did the ant ask the cricket?

Ans- The ant asked the cricket that what he was doing in summer times.

❖ **READ THE EXTRACT AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

**At last by starvation and famine made bold, Ail dripping with wet, and all trembling with cold,**

**Away he set off to a miserly ant,**

**To see if, to keep him alive, he would grant**

1. Who was suffering from starvation and famine ?

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| (a) the Ant  | (b) the Cricket |
| (c) the poet | (d) a man.      |

Ans:(b) the Cricket

2. Why was he 'dripping with wet' ?

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) It was raining hard. | (b) He had dived in a pond, |
| (c) He had no shelter.   | (d) He had taken a bath.    |

Ans: (c) He had no shelter.



3. What did he expect to get from the miserly ant ?
- (a) good advice (b) food  
(c) shelter (d) food and shelter.

Ans:(d) food and shelter.

4. What does the word 'grant' mean ?
- (a) kind (b) generous  
(c) take (d) give.

Ans:(d) give.



**BOOK- IT SO HAPPENED**  
**CH - 1 HOW CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bE13T7qKLO>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJHty4j2AIM>

In the beginning of time, when the world is new, there is a Camel. The Camel is very lazy and he sits in the middle of the Howling Dessert, eating prickles and milkweeds. When anyone speaks to the Camel he responds with, “Humph”.

On Monday, the Horse comes and asks the Camel to help trot. The Camel replies, “Humph”. The Horse goes away and tells the Man. On Tuesday, the Dog comes and asks the Camel to help fetch and carry. The Camel responds, “Humph”. The Dog goes away and tells the Man. On Wednesday, the Ox comes and asks the Camel to help plough. The Camel states, “Humph”. The Ox goes away and tells the Man. At the end of the day, the Man calls the Three animals together. The Man says that since the Camel will not work, they will have to do extra work to make up for him. This makes the Three very angry, and they talk and complain about the Camel.

In rolls a Djinn, the man in charge of All Deserts, and he confers with the Three. They ask if it is alright for someone to be so lazy and not work. The Djinn, of course, says it is not.

The Djinn heads to the middle of the desert where the Camel is ogling his reflection. The Djinn asks the Camel why he is not doing any work and the Camel responds, “Humph”. The Djinn tells the Camel that since he has chosen not to work, he has given the Three extra work. The Camel says, “Humph”. The Djinn warns the Camel that if he says ‘humph’ again, something bad may happen. As soon as the Camel responds with “humph” again, and a huge hump grows on the back of the Camel!

The Djinn tells the Camel that is his very own hump, brought on by his selfishness and lack of activity. The Djinn says the Camel has to work, and the Camel asks how can he work with a giant hump on his back. The Djinn explains that the hump will hold enough fuel for him to be able to work for three days without eating.

The Camel goes to join the Three, and from that day always has a hump.

❖ **NEW WORDS**

1. Prickles
2. Saddle
3. Plough
4. Cud
5. Idleness
6. Humph
7. Dust-cloak
8. Sticks
9. Thorns



❖ **WORD MEANINGS**

1. Djinn – a Spirit that has supreme powers
2. Plough - a large farming implement with one or more blades fixed in a frame
3. Whistling – high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small hole between one's lips or teeth
4. Dust-cloak – A loose outer garment
5. Remonstrated – Protested
6. Humph – now called as ‘hump’; a rounded raised mass of earth or land ; a rounded protuberance found on the back of a camel
7. Reflection – the throwing back by a body or surface of light, heat, or sound without absorbing it.
8. Stroke – an act of hitting or striking someone or something
9. Prickles - a small thorn

❖ **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

Q1. Why did the camel live in the middle of the desert?

Ans - The camel lived in the middle of the desert because he did not want to work.

Q2. What tasks, do you think, were assigned to the dog and the ox?

Ans - The dog was given the task of fetching and carrying things in its mouth while the ox had a yoke around its neck and was required to plough the fields for agriculture.

Q3. What made the dog, the horse and the ox very angry?

Ans - As the camel was not working, the man thought that it is incapable of doing any work and thus asked the other three animals to work double to make up for the idleness of the camel. This made the three very angry.

Q4. How did the Djinn know the horse was complaining against the camel?

Ans-The horse described the physical appearance of the camel and also told the djinn that the thing (camel) has not done any work since Monday morning. This made the djinn realise that the horse was talking about the djinn's camel.

Q 5.The camel said, "Humph" repeatedly. How did it affect him?

Ans- The camel was used to of saying 'Humph' to everyone when he was asked to work; he did the same with the djinn as well which enraged the djinn and he gave the camel a hump in response to his ill behaviour.

Q 6.What, according to the Djinn, was the use of the 'hump'?

Ans-The djinn told the camel that as he had missed the first three days of work, he would be able to live and work without eating for three days. This meant that the camel could live off the nutrition stored in his hump for three days.

## **GRAMMAR**

### **SENTENCES AND ITS TYPES**

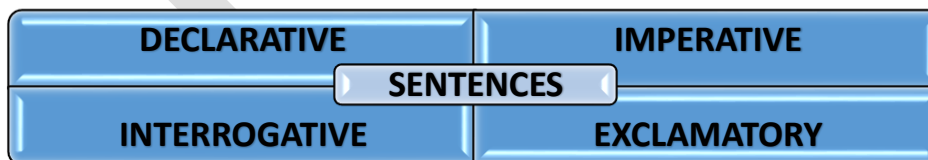
Definition - A **sentence** is a word or a group of words which has some meaning.

Eg. *They are reading a book.*

*Do you speak English?*

*It's a fine day!*

There are four kinds of **sentences**:



1. A **DECLARATIVE SENTENCE** *states a fact or statement* in the affirmative or negative form. It ends with full stop ( . ).

Eg. *This is a museum. (+)*

*She is not a student. (-)*

Negative sentences are formed by means of the negative particle "*not*" which is put after the verb (auxiliary, modal, link verb).

Eg. *I do not like rainy weather.*



Negative pronouns (no-one, none, neither, nothing, no, etc.), negative adverbs (never, nowhere, etc.) and some other words (hardly, refuse, without, etc.) are also used to express negation.

Mind! There is only one negation in an English sentence.

Eg. *She never walks alone.*

2. **INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES** *ask questions*. It ends with question mark ( ? ).

Eg. *Where do you live?*

3. **IMPERATIVE SENTENCES** *express commands, requests, order*. It also ends with full stop ( . ).





Eg. *Stand up.*

*Please , Open the door.*

4. An **EXCLAMATORY SENTENCE** *expresses some kind of emotion or feeling* (joy, anger, grief, wonder, etc.). It often begins with the words “What” and “How”. It ends with exclamatory mark ( ! ).

Eg. *How wonderful !*

*What fine weather we are having today !*

<b>4 KINDS OF SENTENCES</b>	
<p><b>DECLARATIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <i>declarative sentence</i> tells about something.</li><li>• It ends with a </li></ul> <p><u>Examples:</u> I have a blue dress. My sister is in first grade. I am watching a movie.</p>	<p><b>INTERROGATIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An <i>interrogative sentence</i> asks something.</li><li>• It ends with a </li></ul> <p><u>Examples:</u> When are we eating? How do you play this game? Where have you been?</p>
<p><b>IMPERATIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <i>imperative sentence</i> tells someone to do something.</li><li>• It ends with a </li></ul> <p><u>Examples:</u> Clean your room. Do your homework, please. Pick up those clothes.</p>	<p><b>EXCLAMATORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An <i>exclamatory sentence</i> shows strong feeling.</li><li>• It ends with a </li></ul> <p><u>Examples:</u> The dog has fleas! My hair is on fire! The car has a flat tire!</p>

### H.W – Activity

Write four sentences for each - declarative sentences, interrogative sentences, imperative sentences, and exclamatory sentence.