

Short Stories 1st Year (Intermediate)

1. Playing The Game (Arthur Henry Mee)

8. Match any eight of the following words in Column A with their meaning in column B. [8x ½ = 4 Marks]

1) playing the game	doing what is right
2) to see him off	to say goodbye to him
3) mightily	greatly
4) shaping well	making progress
5) thin, cracked voice	weak, unsteady voice
6) sturdy (adj)	strong
7) tottered	walked with unsteady steps
8) obliged	thankful
9) stumbled over	walked in an unsteady way as if falling on the ground

5. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 100 Words each. [2x 4 =8M]

- Write a paragraph on how Alan and his parents felt excited when he chosen to play for the school cricket match?
- Narrate the feelings of Alan as he was not able to reach the ground in time after meeting the old man on his way.
- Helping the old is as good as playing the game. Elucidate with reference to the story.

The story "Playing the Game" was written by Arthur Henry Mee and is taken from "My Magazine". Arthur Henry Mee was an English writer, journalist, and Educator. He was the editor of his "My Magazine". He is best known for "The Children's News Paper" and "The Kings England".

The story "Playing The Game" is a touching incident, narrated by Arthur Henry Mee, about a schoolboy, Alan. Alan, a schoolboy was a cricket buff. His father has not only encouraged him but also made Alan practice bowling along with him. Alan was selected for the school team. His parents were very excited and his father promised him that he would buy a bicycle if his team won the match. Both the parents cheered and wished him to do his best in the school cricket match. Alan was extremely excited to reach the school cricket ground.

On his way to school, he saw a very old man leaning heavily on his stick. It was a hilly path and the old man wanted Alan's help to reach his home. Alan was greatly worried about whether he would reach on time. All his thoughts were preoccupied with the happening on the cricket field and every one of the team must be wondering why he didn't reach. Meanwhile, Alan was relieved by a police officer. He was finally taken home by the cop. When Alan arrived at the playground, he discovered Harold Bank, a small boy, playing in his place. Alan's father was informed of the incident by the police officer. His father felt very happy and bought a bicycle for Alan. The school boys gave Alan three cheers the next morning because they had heard about his good deed.

Though he missed playing the game he was appreciated for his kind deed by all his classmates, and he was gifted with a bicycle by his father. Thus, helping the old man was a rewarding experience for Alan.

(OR)

The story Playing the Game was written by Arthur Henry Mee.

Arthur Henry Mee was an English writer, Journalist, and Educator. Author Henry was the editor of his "My Magazine".

Alan was a schoolboy. He was a cricket buff, his father also encouraged him to play cricket. He practiced bowling with his father. He was selected for the school cricket team. His father and his mother were very excited at his selection. Alan's father promised to buy him a bicycle if his team won the match. On his way to school, he met an old man whom he helped to reach his place. He sacrificed the cricket match, his father was very proud of him and his classmates cheered him for his kind gesture.

Thus the story playing the game about the school-going boy Alan is very touching.

2. The Five Boons of life (Mark Twain)

8. Match any eight of the following words in Column A with their meaning in column B. [8x ½ = 4 Marks]

Word	Meanings
1. wary	cautious, careful
2. mocked	laughed at somebody in an unkind way
3. coffin	the box in which a dead body is buried or cremate
4. communed	talked
5. desolation	misery combined with a feeling of being lonely
6. treacherous	intending to betray somebody
7. curse	to say offensive words about somebody in an angry way
8. solitary	without company, being alone
9. detraction	a state of having lower value
10. Calumny	a false statement about somebody made to damage his/her reputation.
11. Persecution	A state of being treated cruel
12. derision	contemptuous laughter
13. contempt	lack of respect
14. compassion	pity for the sufferings of other
15. despair	to stop having any hope at all
16. squander	to waste something foolishly or carelessly
17. dazzle	impress somebody greatly
18. despisers	persons who treated one with contempt

Word	Meanings
19. deference	yielding to the views, wishes of others because of respect
20. esteem	high regard
21. garret	a small, dark, unpleasant room
22. gaunt	made exceptionally thin by suffering or hunger (also means 'old')
23. wan	pale and tired
24. gnawing	biting
25. crust	the hard, outer surface of bread
26. glided	coated with gold ,false
27. inestimable	too great to calculate, priceless
28. weary	very tired
29. wanton	excessive

5. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 100 Words each. [2x 4 =8M]

A) The young man feels that the five boons are not gifts but` merely lending justify his opinion with reference to his experiences

B) every time the youth chooses a gift the fairy expresses her dissatisfaction with her gestures comment

C) The years have taught you wisdom surely it must be so remarks the fairy is she right? Explain

D) what are the thoughts in the mind of the youth when he chooses wealth? what is the result?

The story "The Five Boons of Life" is written by Samuel Langhorne Clemens is popularly known by his pen name Mark Twain.

Mark Twain was an American writer, humorist, and lecturer, he is rightly called the Father of American Literature among his notable works, "The Adventures of Toms Sawyer" and "The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn".

The Five Boons of life portrays the downfall of a wretched and self-conceited young man. When a fairy offers the young man one of her five gifts among Fame, Love, Riches, Pleasure, and Death, he chooses pleasure first. Pleasure makes him disappointed his next choice is Love. The second time, when the youth chooses love, tears rose in the fairy's eyes. This showed how unhappy she was with his choice. He has spent his life loving people who leave this world one by one leaving him in grief.

The next time when he goes for the Fame, the fairy went her way sighing, she was sad that he had chosen the wrong gift again. The young man perceives it to be something magnificent. But, in reality, it brings him to shame, on having chosen to wealth. He imagined, that the mockers and despisers would crawl in the dirt before him and he would fill his angry heart with their envy, later he ended up in poverty, and he becomes a pauper .

Finally, he realizes that Death is the only gift that soothes him and pleads with the fairy to grant him that invaluable gift but in vain. The fairy has already given Death to an innocent child.

Thus, the man ends up seeing what he thought are great gifts are actually lending. Thus the story points that the importance of the right choices in life and distinguisher the short-lived, pleasurer, and long-lived values.

(OR)

The story The Five Boons of Life is written by Samuel Langhorne Clemens is popularly known by his pen name Mark Twain.

A fairy offers a young man one of her five gifts: Fame, Love, Riches, Pleasure and Death. The fairy tells him that only one of these gifts is valuable, so he should choose wisely. But each time he seems to make the wrong choice. The first four choices he makes are Pleasure, Love, Fame and Wealth. None of these is found to be valuable. Pleasure is followed by pain, Love by grief, Fame by envy and decay, and Wealth by poverty. He seeks for Death last of all realizing that he has nothing to live for. But the fairy gives her gift of Death to a child leaving the man in a miserable state.

The story conveys the pessimistic message of the writer that there is nothing pure in life and every good thing one experiences is shadowed by its reverse

3. The Short Sighted Brothers (Folklore)

8. Match any eight of the following words in Column A with their meaning in column B. [8x ½ = 4 Marks]

Word	Meaning
1. short sighted	unable to see objects clearly if they are not near
2. folklore	The traditional stories of an area, largely transmitted orally
3. to take charge of	To get control of
4. sneered	Spoke in very unkind way, poke in such a way that shows no respect
5. monastery	A place where monks live
6. tablet	Flat piece of stone with words cut into it
7. inscribed	Cut words on the surface of a Stone
8. strain	Difficulty
9. in unison	(say) some words at the same time
10. get a few winks	sleep for a short while
11. sneaked	went secretly
12. monk	A member of an all men religious group living away from public
13. confucius	A great Chinese philosopher and teacher who lived from 550-479 BC
14. triumphantly	Victoriously, with happiness at one's success over other
15. applauded	Approved, praised
16. intoned	Said something slowly and clearly
17. face falling	Looking sad, disappointed

5. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 100 Words each. [2x 4 =8M]

- Is the Title, The short Sighted Brothers apt to the story? Explain.
- How did the three brothers try to outsmart one another?
- Were the Brothers successful in executing their tricks? Support your answer
- Does the story support the wise saying, Honesty is the best policy? Discuss.

The “Short-Sighted Brothers” is a folk tale. The story excites the reader thoroughly with its gripping narration. It explains to us how the saying “Honesty is the best policy” is apt to the human life.

Three aged brothers – central characters -who lived in a spacious house on the outskirts of a town were short-sighted both physically and mentally. They were selfish and greedy. Citing their eldest brother’s short-sightedness as a reason, one day the youngest brother proposed to manage their family finances. People took advantage of the eldest brother’s disability since he could not see how much money he was receiving or giving. He was blind to his own disability. All of them suffered from the same flaw. Sight problems and lack of values. Yet, each tried to outmost the others. They planned to test their own vision by reading the inscription above the doorway of a nearby monastery each knew that he could not read it.

So, each of the three brothers secretly and separately enquired with the monk there as to what was written on the tablet the day before. In addition, the second youngest brother inquired as to whether it was decorated. And the younger brother inquired if there was anything else on the tablet except the inscription. Instead of reading the inscription individually, each brother tried to outsmart the other.

And later, they pretended they were reading the inscription with their own eyes. It was then, that the monk revealed that the tablet was not put up yet! The three short-sighted brothers felt ashamed of each other to know that they were deceiving each other, the brothers realized how foolish they were!

This folk story makes an interesting reading. The story effectively exposes the follies of the brothers, prompting many readers to introspect !

(OR)

The Short-Sighted Brothers is a folk tale. It explains to us how the saying Honesty is the best policy is apt to the human life.

Three aged brothers-central characters-were short sighted, both physical and mentally. They were selfish and greedy, citing their eldest brother’s short sightedness as a reason, the youngest brother proposed to manage their family finances. He was blind to his own disability. All of them suffered from the same flaw, sight problems and lack of values. Yet, each tried to outsmart the other.

They planned to test their own vision by reading the inscription “Honesty is the best policy” above the doorway of a nearby monastery. Each knew that he couldn’t read it. So, they secretly and separately enquired with the monk there as to what was written on the tablet. And later, they pretended they were reading the inscription with their own eyes. It was then, that the monk revealed that the tablet was not put up yet!

Thus, the brothers realized how foolish they were!

4. Sanghala Panthulu (Suravaram Pratapa Reddy)

8. Match any eight of the following words in Column A with their meaning in column B. [8x ½ = 4 Marks]

Word	Meaning
1] drudgery	very hard and boring work
2] splinters	small piece of wood used as firewood
3] perturbed	disturbed, bothered
4] seethed	was in an agitated mood; in angry mental state
5] hewed	chopped; cut
6] treacherous	deceitful; not faithful
7] persuaded	made someone to agree to do something
8] Jawan, Jamedar, Ameen	names of cadres in Police Department in the olden days
9] Saab	a Urdu word denoting respect
10] Rela wood	a kind of wood used as firewood
11] Cassia	a kind of wood used as firewood
12] Fowls	birds; chickens
13] Abounded	was filled to full level
14] Plight	a difficult and unfortunate situation
15] Consensus	general agreement among members; unanimous opinion
16] Alerted	warned
17] Snarled	said angrily; complained rudely
18] Seer	a weight of Indian ounces

19] Are	a word used in Telugu – To denote displeasure
20] khabardar	an Urdu word of warning which means something like beware
21] Prostrating	lying flat with face down as a token of respect and submission
22] Branded	burned the flesh (with hot iron)
23] Flank	the flesh between the last rib and the hip
24] atrocities	very cruel act, horrible act of injustice
25] pompously	in a self-important way, in an affected grand way
26] pertaining	relating to, connecting with
27] peepul	the popular leaved fig tree

5. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 100 Words each. [2x 4 =8M]

- Is the title, Sanghala Panthulu apt for the story? Explain.
- “With all these atrocities, we cannot live”, cries a woman of Ramasagram. Explain the atrocities the villagers were subjected to.
- They realized that the lack of unity had been the cause for their Plight. What followed this realization? How did it help the people of Ramasagram?
- Describe the result of the declaration by the Mohathemeem?

The story Sanghala Panthulu, crafted by Suravaram Pratapa Reddy, offers an insightful reading.

The village Ramasagram is just a symbol. Atrocities witnessed in that village were common all over the Nizam’s state. The old woman who being starved brought the wood for Begum Sahiba was abused and kicked to death. The suffering of villagers was unbearable. Lack of unity among people their ignorance about their rights and their timidity came in handy to the exploiters. As a resolution of the crisis, the elder and well-informed gentleman (Panthulu), helped the villagers form into associations (Sanghalu). He explains to them the need to be bold and to know their rights. They lodged a complaint against the police official the higher authorities. The authorities realized the folly of police. The Mohathemeem (Judge) suspended the officials who ill-treated the people and ordered to remove the police station from the village. The villagers were delighted and celebrated their victory together.

The story offers interesting insights into the then social, economic, political and cultural conditions.

(OR)

The story Sanghala Panthulu was written by Suravaram Pratapa Reddy, is a versatile personality, an editor, researcher, writer, activist, and motivator, a multifaceted personality, and a polyglot capable of using Telugu, Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit, English, and Parsi.

The story Sanghala Panthulu aimed to portray the police behavior with the residents in the Nizam era. The story was plotted in Ramasagaram, a small village, located on the banks of river Krishna. The narrative took place before the 1940s in the Nizam's regime. The village comprises of different communities of population. There were about 500 houses in that village: 30 belonged to Komaties, 80 were Kapu community, 100 Madiga and the rest belonged to Sundry (Chakali/Dhobi) and other castes. The majority of the villagers are illiterate, fearful, and unorganized and they lacked unity.

The police used to exploit them, taking advantage of their ignorance and fear. In fact, there was no need for a police station in that village. The police purposefully forced the villagers to fulfill their demands for drudgery (free and forceful work without wages), provisions, groceries, and fowls free of cost.

One day, Ameen sahib demanded some dry fruit from a Komati, as he failed to bring. He was beaten by the Jawan with a Chappal (shoe). The other incident, about Ameen Sahab's wife ordered to a 70-year-old woman (Madiga woman) to bring the "Rela" firewood, as she failed to get from the forest. The woman was beaten to death by the Begum Sahiba.

In another incident, she branded a woman on her cheek for not cleaning the toilet satisfactorily. The Jamedar has beaten a man for not pressing his legs. The atrocities of the police were unbearable to the villagers. Some of them wanted to migrate to the other side of the Krishna river. The people, who were living on the other side were happy. The region was ruled by the British.

The day, Sanghala Panthulu arrived in that village, the villagers came to know the man of associations came to our rescue. They followed the suggestions, he has given in his meetings, the first one, held at Patel's house with Komaties and the other one, under the peepal tree. The situation was dramatically changed, and hardships were started for the police. No one is ready to work without wages. The Ameen sahib's toilets were dirty for a week. The police tried to threaten the Sanghala Pantulu and took him to the police station. The villagers took a chance to beat the police with sticks and whatever they got. The police informed their higher officer (Mohtameem) to send the army, but the situation is uncontrollable. The Mohtameem arrived at the village. He enquired with the villagers about the happenings. The villagers told everything, and the Mohtameem could understand the reality. He demoted the Ameen Sahab to Jamedar and suspended all the Jawans for six months. All the villagers celebrated the festival in their village.

Thus the Mohatameem declaration brought an end to their atrocities and miserable life.

5. The Dinner Party (Mona Gardner)

8. Match any eight of the following words in Column A with their meaning in column B. [8x ½ = 4 Marks]

Words	Meaning
1. attaches	persons who work in embassies
2. naturalist	one who studies all living beings
3. spacious	big, vast
4. spirited	energetic
5. era	a period of time with particular characteristics
6. unflinching	changeless
7. crisis	problem
8. gesture	body movement as a token of communication
9. summons	calls
10. realizes	understands
11. impulse	sudden desire
12. commotion	noise
13. arresting	attracting, captivating
14. forfeit	lose as punishment
15. emerge	come out

5. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 100 Words each. [2x 4 =8M]

- Describe the role of the American naturalist in the story, The Dinner Party.
- Describe the scene of the dinner party.
- "A Spirited discussion springs up between a young girl and a colonel." Discuss.

The story "The Dinner Party" is written by Mona Gardner.

Mona Gardner is an American author. She had her story "The Dinner Party" published in "The Saturday Review of Literature" in 1941.

The story "The Dinner Party" is a short but sweet narrative, The colonial official and his wife gave a dinner party for Army officers and government attaches, as well as an American naturalist and their wives. a lively debate occurs between a young girl and a Colonel, discussing whether the woman or a man has more never control in which the girl feels that women have progressed beyond their fear of seeing a mouse, while the colonel disagrees claiming that males have better control in all situations.

The American then, observes that the hostess is extremely quiet, she directs a servant boy, who rushes out of the room and sets a bowl of milk on the veranda outside the door. He understands that milk from a bowl is snake bait. He searches the hall for it and concludes that it is under the table. He invents a game to keep the guest motionless like a stone statue. He doesn't want to ruin the celebration, and he also doesn't want the guest to get bitten by the cobra. The Cobra emerges from beneath the table, heading for the bowl of milk outside, and the American locks it out of the room and started counting down the final twenty seconds to end the game.

His strategy works, the guest believes that the American was the hero instead of Mrs.Wynnes because of a quiet, composed, and controlled action. she finally reveals that she is a true hero who remained calm as the snake crawled over her foot.

Thus it is a strong statement that Women are not inferior to men in any aspect. In fact, they show more never control than men, during a crisis.

(OR)

The story "The Dinner Party" is written by Mona Gardner.

Mona Gardner is an American author. The colonial official and his wife gave a dinner party for Army officers and government attaches.

An American naturalist at the party is watching the argument and observe the hostess who is acting strangely, gestures for bowl of milk to be put outside the door. The American understand that, their is a cobra in the room, So, to calm down everyone, he plays a game of control where they cannot move or they would lose money. When the cobra moves out for the milk, he shuts they door. Then he finds out that the hostess had the most control in the room, proving that the women can act bravely in a crisis.

Thus it is a strong statement that Women are not inferior to men in any aspect.