



**School of Arts**  
**Department of English**  
**General English - I**

**READY RECKONER**

**Unit: I Self Awareness**

**1.1 I Am Malala (Chapter 1 A Daughter Is Born)**

**Introduction:**

"I Am Malala" introduces Malala Yousafzai's hometown in Pakistan, painting a picture of her early life.

1. Malala lived in a pretty place called Mingora in Pakistan.
2. Her dad ran a school, and she loved going there.
3. The town had mountains and rivers.
4. Life was peaceful until the Taliban came.
5. Malala's dad wanted her to learn and speak up for education.
6. She was named after a brave Afghan woman.
7. She liked school and dreamt of being a doctor.
8. Her family believed in education and speaking out.
9. The chapter introduces her early life and dreams.
10. It hints at the troubles that would come because of the Taliban.

**Conclusion:**

"I Am Malala" displays the peaceful life in Swat Valley, soon to be disturbed by Taliban.

**1.2 My Experiments with Truth (1-3)**

**Introduction:**

"My Experiments with Truth" introduces Gandhi's childhood, his fear and his journey to England.

1. Gandhi grew up in India in a Hindu family.
2. His parents shaped his character and beliefs.
3. He learned about morals and religion when he was young.
4. Gandhi was shy and fearful in school.
5. He felt guilty after lying and stealing once.
6. His father got sick and influenced Gandhi's choices.
7. Gandhi went to England for school and faced new customs.
8. He tried to keep his Indian values while adapting to the Western ways.
9. Gandhi learned about different cultures in England.
10. He understood his own beliefs better during this time.

**Conclusion:**

This text deals with Gandhi's childhood, his moral ideas, and highlights on understanding truth.

### 1.3 Where The Mind Is Without Fear - Rabindranath Tagore

#### Introduction:

This essay deals with the poem “Where the Mind is Without Fear” written by Rabindranath Tagore.

1. This poem was written by Rabindranath Tagore during pre- independence days, when India was a colony of the British.
2. The theme of the poem is freedom; the poet wants the people of his country to live in a free state.
3. The poet says that there should be a country, where people should live without any fear and live with pure dignity.
4. Next, education should be available to all irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and so on.
5. In short, one education for all, without discrimination.
6. The people of the country should live without any social barriers- casteism, regionalism etc.
7. The poet wants his people to remain free from superstition.
8. In the end, the poet requests God to let his country get awakened in all those conditions which he mentioned earlier.

#### Conclusion:

The poem is a prayer to God to awaken his country to get freedom from British rule. Further to possess good thoughts, good words and good actions.

### 1.4 Love Cycle - Chinua Achebe Introduction:

#### Introduction:

This essay deals with the poem “Love Cycle” written by Chinua Achebe.

1. The sun slips away from the Earth at dawn like a lover who has just said goodbye.
2. The Earth is left with a sweet smell and wakes up to the soft light.
3. Later, the sun will get angry from working in the sky and take it out on the Earth.
4. The Earth is used to this and waits patiently for the evening when the sun will be calm again.
5. The poem uses the sun and Earth as a metaphor for a couple.
6. The sun's anger represents the conflict that can happen in a relationship.
7. The Earth's patience represents the power of love to overcome challenges.
8. The poem uses personification to give the sun and Earth human characteristics.
9. The poem uses imagery to create a vivid picture of the sun and Earth.

#### Conclusion:

The poem uses symbolism to represent love as a cycle. Conclusion: This essay dealt with the poem “Love Cycle” written by Chinua Achebe

## Unit 2 Empathy

### 2.1 Nine Gold Medals -David Roth

#### Introduction:

This poem deals with the human quality of care and kindness which was shown by the young athletes in the poem.

1. It is an inspirational poem that speaks of human kindness and cooperation.
2. The poem is based on a story about nine differently-abled athletes in a Special Olympic event.
3. All the participants had trained very hard for the event.
4. In a hundred-meter race, one of the athletes fell on the ground, soon after the race began.
5. He laid on the tracks, crying out in pain and losing all hopes of winning the medal.
6. The eight other participants stopped and returned back to help him stand on his feet and they walked hand-in-hand to finish the race.
7. Each of the athletes was awarded a gold medal in order to show their sportsmanship quality.
8. The poet remarks that the words on the banner 'Special Olympic' turned out to be true.

#### Conclusion:

The poem dealt with the spirit of sportsmanship and kindness. All in all, all the athletes justified the true meaning of the Special Olympics.

### 2.2 Alice Fell or Poverty: -William Wordsworth

#### Introduction

This essay deals with the poem "Alice Fell, or Poverty" written by William Wordsworth.

1. Alice Fell, or Poverty; is a poem by William Wordsworth about a strange incident during a carriage ride.
2. The driver hurried because dark clouds covered the moon.
3. They heard a weird noise, like it was carried by the wind.
4. The noise followed them and made everyone uneasy.
5. They tried to find the source but couldn't.
6. The driver urged the horses on, but the noise persisted.
7. They stopped again and discovered a sad girl behind the carriage.
8. She cried and said, "My cloak!"
9. Her old, torn cloak was stuck in the wheel.
10. They helped her, learned she was Alice Fell, gave her a new cloak, and comforted her.

#### Conclusion

This essay dealt with the poem "Alice Fell, or Poverty" written by William Wordsworth.

## 2.3 The School for Sympathy - E.V. Lucas

### Introduction

This essay deals with E.V. Lucas' "The School for Sympathy."

1. This essay talks about being kind, appreciative, fair, understanding, and humane.
2. Kids in Miss Beam's school have different roles, some acting as if they have disabilities.
3. The caretakers are extra thoughtful and grateful because of this.
4. The author, Lucas, thinks adults should learn from these kids.
5. One girl Lucas helps is blind but handles it well.
6. Lucas is grateful for the chance to help.
7. He wishes more people would be kind and help others.
8. Everyone should be treated equally, no matter their differences.
9. Each child learns from the experience of having a pretend disability.
10. Miss Beam teaches humanity and kindness, but not everyone follows her example.

### Conclusion

This essay dealt with E.V. Lucas' "The School for Sympathy."

## 2.4 Barn Burning- William Faulkner

### Introduction:

Barn Burning by William Faulkner is a coming-of-age short story about a vengeful father and a son.

1. Abner Snopes is accused of burning the barn in the court. His son, Colonel Sartoris /Sarty is called to testify against him.
2. Abner warns his son not to tell the truth but the judge dismisses the case ordering Abner to leave the county.
3. The family leaves the town and camps that night.
4. The next morning, they arrive at their new home, de Spain's house farm.
5. Abner purposely spoils the white rug in the living room of de Spain's house.
6. Then, the rug is brought to Abner. He orders his daughters to clean it for him.
7. However, it is destroyed, de Spain fines Abner with 20 bushels of corn in return.
8. The family worked hard that week to pay off.
9. On Saturday, Abner goes to Justice of the Peace to settle the issue.
10. The Justice feels for the family and reduces the fine to 10 bushels of corn.
11. Later that day, Abner sets the barn on fire though Sarty's mother tries to prevent it.
12. Sarty runs to the de Spain's house and tells the worker about it.
13. On the way back, he sees de Spain riding a horse.
14. Then he hears gunshots and assumes Abner is dead and runs away into the forest.

### Conclusion

This essay dealt with William Faulkner's "Barn Burning."

## Unit 3 Critical and Creative Thinking

### 3.1 The things that haven't been done before

- Edgar Albert

#### Introduction:

The poem, "The things that haven't been done before" by Edgar Albert describes doing things that have never been done before.

1. The poet tells the readers to stay strong and faithful about the dream to be successful.
2. Nowadays people have no patience and are unable to take risks.
3. People want to follow the footsteps of others as they know the results.
4. There are individuals who follow successful paths only and won't try new things until proved it is safe.
5. The poet gave an example about Columbus as he faced many problems before he found America.
6. He failed but he did not lose hope, until he succeeded.
7. The poem tells us to follow our dreams and identify our special qualities.
8. The poet urges the readers to get out of their comfort zone and take risks as part of their enjoyment in life.
9. The poem simply motivates people to take risks and achieve greater heights.

#### Conclusion:

The poem encourages us to find a new path and motivates us to succeed in our life.

### 3.2 Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening -Robert Frost

#### Introduction

This essay deals with "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" written by Robert Frost.

1. The poem is about a traveler who stops his horse in the woods on a snowy evening.
2. He knows the owner of the woods, but the owner lives far away and will not see him.
3. The traveler is drawn to the beauty of the woods and the silence of the night.
4. The traveler thinks about how he could easily stop and rest in the woods and never wake up.
5. The poet who knows that he has duties and decides to move away.
6. The traveler thinks about how his horse must be wondering why he has stopped.
7. The horse is used to traveling, and it knows that they have a long way to go before they reach their destination.
8. The traveler assures the horse that they will be moving soon and rides away from the woods.
9. He knows that he has made the right decision, but he is still tempted to look back.
10. He wonders if he will ever have the chance to stop and rest in the woods again.

#### Conclusion

This essay dealt with "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" written by Robert Frost.

### 3.3 The Magic Brocade- A Tale of China

#### Introduction:

This essay deals with the story “THE MAGIC BROCADE- A TALE OF CHINA”.

1. "The Magic Brocade" is a fairy tale by Aaron Shephard.
2. The author is known for retelling folktales from around the world and values cultural authenticity.
3. The story is set in ancient China and revolves around a widow named Chen and her son, Chen.
4. Chen is famous for her brocade-making skills, creating intricate patterns of birds, flowers, and nature.
5. She becomes enchanted by an art piece called the 'Sun Palace' and buys it, despite financial constraints.
6. Chen's son, Chen, suggests weaving the Sun Palace into her brocade to make it a masterpiece.
7. The widow dedicates herself to this task, sacrificing sleep, food, and rest until it is completed.
8. When the brocade is finished, it is so lifelike that even her son is amazed.
9. Tragedy strikes when a strong wind blows the brocade away, leaving the widow distraught.
10. Chen embarks on a journey to find the brocade, encounters fairies, and ultimately reunites his mother with her masterpiece in the Sun Palace, where they find a new purpose in teaching brocade weaving to fairies.

#### Conclusion:

This tale explores themes of dedication, sacrifice, and the special bond between a mother and son.

### 3.4 Stories on Stage – Aaron Shepard (Three Sideways Stories from Wayside School” by Louis Sachar)

#### Introduction:

The essay deals with “Stories on Stage – Aaron Shepard

1. "Three Sideways Stories from Wayside School" becomes a fun play by Aaron Shepard, originally written by different authors, including Louis Sachar.
2. These stories help kids learn about smart thinking and being kind to others.
3. The play has three students from Mrs. Jewel's class at Wayside School, a school that turned out a bit weird with its classrooms.
4. In the first story, Joe and Mrs. Jewel has a counting challenge during break time, showing why it's important to count carefully.
5. The second story is about Bebe, who's good at drawing, and her slow but helpful friend Calvin. It talks about how teachers can help kids with their talents and being good people.

6. The third story is about Calvin being honest when given a strange task by Mrs. Jewel, showing why honesty is important.
7. The school setting is funny and interesting, making the stories even more exciting for kids.
8. Each story teaches kids important lessons, like thinking carefully and doing the right thing.
9. "Three Sideways Stories from Wayside School" is a funny and meaningful set of stories that kids and grown-ups can enjoy together.
10. These stories help kids understand how to be good people and use their brains wisely.

### **Conclusion**

The essay dealt with the “Stories on Stage – Aaron Shepard (Three Sideways Stories from Wayside School” by Louis Sachar)

### **Compiled and Edited by:**

M. Thanga Kumaran

### **Written by:**

Ms. S. Vaishnavi

Ms. S. Sri Vidhya

Ms. S. Logapriya

Mr. S. Naresh

Mr. S. Deepan

Ms. S. P. Madhumathi

Ms. S. Clementcia

Mr. D. Kevin

Mr. L. P. Vishal



**S.A. COLLEGE**  
**ARTS & SCIENCE**  
(Affiliated to the University of Madras)

**Department of English – School of Arts – S. A. College of Arts & Science**

- (This Ready Reckoner is just for the last minute revision.)