

UNIT-3

Friendship and Duty

ACTIVITY - 1

William Sydney Porter, better known by the pen name O Henry was an American writer. O Henry's short stories are known for their wit, wordplay, warm characterization and clear twist endings. He was born on 11th September, 1862 in North Carolina and died on 5th June, 1910. From December 1903 to January 1906, O Henry wrote a story 'A Week' for the New York Word magazine and published several short stories in other magazines. Some of his famous stories are: The Last Leaf; The Gift of the Magi; The Furnished Room; Cabbages and Kings.

The story, After Twenty Years, has the typical O Henry twist. However the characters portrayed, could well make us reflect on our values.

For further information you may refer to www.literaturecollection.com/a/o-henry/44.

Who is your best friend?

Why do you like him or her?

What do you mean by friendship?





ACTIVITY - 2

After Twenty Years

- 1.1 The policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively. The impressiveness was habitual and not for show, for spectators was few. The time was barely 10 o'clock at night but chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain in them had well nigh de-peopled the streets.
- 1.2 Trying doors as he went, twirling his club with many intricate and artful movements now and then to cast his watchful eye adown the pacific thoroughfare, the officer, with his stalwart form and slight swagger made a fine picture of a guardian of peace. The vicinity was one that kept early hours. Now and then you might see the lights of a cigar store or an all-night lunch counter; but the majority of the doors belonged to business places that had long since been closed.
- 2.1 When about midway of a certain block, the policeman suddenly slowed his walk. In the doorway of a darkened hardware store a man leaned, with an unlighted cigar in his mouth. As the policeman walked up to him, the man spoke up quickly.
- 2.2 “It's all right, officer,” he said, “I'm just waiting for a friend. It's an appointment made twenty years ago. Sounds a little funny to you, doesn't it? Well, I'll explain if you'd like to make certain, it's all straight. About that long ago there used to be a restaurant where this store stands—'Big Joe Brady's restaurant'. “Until five years ago,” said the policeman. It was torn down then.”
- 2.3 The man in the doorway struck a match and lit his cigar. The light showed a pale, square jawed face with keen eyes and a little white scar near his right eyebrow. His scarfpin was a large diamond, oddly set.

3.1 “Twenty years ago tonight,” said the man, “I dined here at Big Joe Brady's with Jimmy Wells, my best chum and the finest chap in the world. He and I were raised here in New York, just like two brothers, together. I was eighteen and Jimmy was twenty. The next morning, I was to start for the West to make my fortune. You couldn't have dragged Jimmy out of New York; he thought it was the only place on earth. Well, we agreed that night that we would meet here again exactly twenty years from that date and time, no matter what our conditions might be or from what distance we might have to come. We figured that in twenty years each of us ought to have our destiny worked out and our fortunes made, whatever they were going to be.”

3.2 “It sounds pretty interesting,” said the policeman. “Rather a long time between meets, though, it seems to me. Haven't you heard from your friend since you left?”

3.3 “Well, yes, for a time we corresponded,” said the other. “But after a year or two we lost track of each other. You see, the West is a pretty big proposition, and I kept hustling around over it pretty lively. But I know Jimmy will meet me here if he's alive, for he always was the truest, staunchest old chap in the world. He'll never forget. I came a thousand miles to stand in this door tonight and its worth if my old partner turns up.

4.1 The waiting man pulled out a handsome watch, the lids of it set with small diamonds. “Three minutes to ten,” he announced.”It was exactly ten o'clock when we parted here at the restaurant door.”

“Did pretty well out in the West, didn't you?”asked the policeman.

4.2 “You bet! I hope Jimmy has done half as well. He was a kind of



plodder, though, good fellow as he was. I've had to compete with some of the sharpest wits going to get my pile. A man gets in a groove in New York. It takes the West to put a razor-edge on him."The policeman twirled his club and took a step or two. "I'll be on my way. Hope your friend comes around all right. Going to call time on him sharp?"

"I should say not!" said the other. "I'll give him half an hour at least. If Jimmy is alive on earth, he'll be here by that time. So long, officer.

"Good-night sir," said the policeman passing on along his beat trying doors as he went.

- 5.1 There was now a fine cold drizzle falling, and the wind had risen from its uncertain puffs into a steady blow. The few pedestrians in the neighbourhood hurried dismally and silently along with coat collars turned high and pocketed hands. And in the door of the hardware store the man who had come a thousand miles to fill an appointment with the friend of his youth, smoked his cigar and waited. About twenty minutes he



waited, and then a tall man in a long overcoat, with collar turned up to his ears, hurried across from the opposite side of the street. He came directly to the waiting man.

“Is that you, Bob?” he asked doubtfully.

“Is that you, Jimmy Wells?” cried the man in the door.

5.2 “Bless my heart!” exclaimed the new arrival, grasping both the other's hands with his own. “It's Bob, sure as fate. I was certain I'd find you here if you were still in existence. Well, well, well twenty years is a long time. The old restaurant's gone. Bob; I wish it had lasted, so we could have had another dinner there. How has the West treated you, old man?”

5.3 “It has given me everything I asked it for. You've changed lots, Jimmy, I never thought you were so tall by two or three inches.”

“Oh, I grew a bit after I was twenty.”

“Doing well in New York, Jimmy?”

“Moderately. I have a position in one of the city departments. Come on, Bob we'll go around to a place I know of and have a good long talk about old times.”

6.1 The two men started up the street, arm in arm. One, his egoism enlarged by success, was beginning to outline the history of his career. The other, submerged in his overcoat, listened with interest.

6.2 At the corner stood a drugstore, brilliant with electric lights. When they came into the glare, each of them turned simultaneously to gaze upon the other's face.

The man from the West stopped suddenly and released his arm.

“You're not Jimmy Wells,” he snapped. “Twenty years is a long time but not long enough to change a man's nose from a Roman to a pug.”

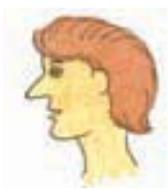


- 6.3 “It sometimes changes a good man into a bad one,” said the tall man. “You've been under arrest for ten minutes, 'Silky' Bob. Going quietly, are you? That's sensible. Now, before we go to the station, here's a note I was asked to hand you. You may read it here at the window. It's from Patrolman Wells.”
- 7.1 The man from the West unfolded the little piece of paper handed over to him. His hand was steady when he began to read but it trembled a little by the time he had finished. The note was rather short.
- 7.2 *Bob, I was at the appointed place on time. When you struck the match to light your cigar, I saw it was the face of the man wanted in Chicago. Somehow I couldn't do it myself so I went around and got a plainclothes man to do the job.*

Jimmy

Glossary

- Vicinity** - area near a particular place;
- chum** - (informal) a close friend;
- destiny** - the things that you will do or the type of person you will become in the future;
- proposition** - something or someone that you have to deal with;
- staunch** - loyal;
- plodder** - someone who works hard at a slow steady rate but is not very intelligent;
- dismal** - depressing;
- egotism** - a feeling that you are more important than other people;
- hustle** - move about quickly



A Roman Nose



A Pug Nose

ACTIVITY - 3

Given below are words in italics. These italicised words explain the idiomatic phrase used in the text. a) Write the textual sentence with the idiomatic phrase. b) Use the phrase in a sentence of your own.

1. The policeman who *was walking around the area* moved up the avenue impressively.

Textual sentence: _____

Your sentence: _____

2. We *believed that it was true* that in twenty years each of us ought to have made our destiny.

Textual sentence: _____

Your sentence: _____

3. After a year or two *we had no information of each other*.

Textual sentence: _____

Your sentence: _____

4. A man *gets into a situation that is boring and difficult to change* in New York.

Textual sentence: _____

Your sentence: _____

5. It takes the West *to make one sharp and alert*.

Textual sentence: _____

Your sentence: _____

6. Here's the note I was asked *to give you*.

Textual sentence: _____

Your sentence: _____





ACTIVITY - 4

A prefix is a letter or group of letters placed at the beginning of a word to alter its meaning. The negative of some words are formed by adding a prefix.

Some examples are:

indirect improbable irresponsible illegal

Make negatives of the following adjectives by adding a prefix:

competent	pleasant	mature
dignified	reverent	literate
logical	partial	balanced
materialistic	definite	comfortable

ACTIVITY - 5

Words are made up of syllables and every syllable contains at least one vowel sound.

Words that have one syllable:

come slip crop deck who

Words that have two syllables:

per-fect morn-ing ex-claim

Words that have more than one syllable:

to-get-her in-ves-ti-gate

Listen to these words carefully and write the number of syllables you hear.

28

bless	pedestrian	farmer	neighbourhood	track
position	began	moderately	interest	screw
fever	slow	impressive	dream	fortunate

ACTIVITY - 6

Jimmy Wells was a patrolman .A patrolman is a police officer whose job is to walk or drive around a particular area. That is his job!

Match Column A (the people) with Column B (their work)

COLUMN A:

(1) bibliophile; (2) cartographer; (3) financier; (4) high commissioner; (5) ornithologist; (6) detective; (7) numismatist; (8) philatelist; (9) paleontologist

COLUMN B:

(1) he manages or lends large sums of money;
(2) someone who studies birds;
(3) he is involved in the study of fossils;
(4) a police officer (private agent) who finds out information to catch a criminal;
(5) his activity is collecting and studying postage stamps;
(6) one who likes books and enjoys reading and collecting them;
(7) he represents the government of a commonwealth country in another commonwealth country.
(8) his work is to collect and study coins and medals;
(9) he does the work of making maps

ACTIVITY - 7

Answer the following :

1. (refer to para. 1.1 & 1.2)
 - (a) What was the policeman doing in that area?
 - (b) Describe the vicinity.





2. (refer to para.2.1& 2.2)
 - (a) Bob had an appointment. How do we know that he kept his appointment?
 - (b) Do you agree that Bob could be easily identified?
3. (refer to para. 3.1 & 3.2)
 - (a) What are the differences between Jimmy and Bob, highlighted in this paragraph?
 - (b) A long time'__ How long was it ?
 - (c) Who is the friend referred to ?
 - (d) 'Between meets'__ Which are the two different occasions when they meet?
4. (refer to para. 4.1)
 - (a) Who do you think, Bob had to compete with?
 - (b) How much longer was Bob prepared to wait for his friend ?
5. (refer to para. 5.1)
 - (a) The people on the street were feeling the cold. How can we say so?
 - (b) Bob had at least one good trait. How is that reflected in this paragraph?
 - (c) He asked doubtfully__Who asks?---Why doubtfully?
6. (refer to para. 5.3)
 - (a) The person talking to Bob did not hold a very high status. Do you agree?
 - (b) “It has given me everything I asked for”. What do you think he asked for? How do you think he got it?
7. (refer to para. 6 onwards)
 - (a) When Bob read the note, there was a change in his composure. What was the change? Why?

ACTIVITY - 8

Several words/adjectives are given below. List the ones that you would attribute to (a) Jimmy (b) Bob.

Impressive	unethical	boastful	frank
genuine	patient	active	punctual
ambitious	sensitive	loyal	egoistic
dutiful	wealthy	simple/ordinary	honest
praiseworthy	noble	reliable (kept his word)	
plodder	successful	tactful	smart
sluggish	arrogant	humble	dependable

ACTIVITY - 9

Choose the correct option:

- The streets were de-peopled because _____
 - it was early morning
 - it was windy and raining
 - it was curfew time
- Jimmy and Bob decided to meet after twenty years because _____
 - they would have made their destiny
 - they were always in touch with each other
 - they would be able to plan their future
- Jimmy sent a plain clothes policeman to arrest Bob because _____
 - he was afraid
 - he was arrogant
 - he was sensitive



ACTIVITY - 10

Write the following sentences in indirect speech. Instead of the given reporting verb, use an appropriate word from those given below:

enthusiasm	confidently	boasted
snapped	sarcastically	bid

The first sentence has been done as an example.

1. “You're not Jimmy Wells,” Bob said.
Bob snapped that he was not Jimmy Wells.
2. “Good-night Sir,” said the policeman.
3. “It has given me everything I asked for,” said Bob.
4. “If Jimmy is alive on earth, he'll be here by that time,” he said to the officer.
5. “Did pretty well out in the West, didn't you?” asked the policeman.
6. “I came a thousand miles to stand in this door tonight,” said the man at the door.