

had ...

Warm up activity

B. Now using the clues given in column 'A' write the names of the personalities in column 'B':

Answers:

A

B

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | the first woman President of the UN General Assembly | Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit |
| 2. | the first woman judge of Supreme Court of India | Mrs. Fathima Beebi |
| 3. | the first woman IPS officer of India | Mrs. Kiran Bedi |
| 4. | the first woman President of India | Mrs. Pratibha Patil |

5. the first woman Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi
6. the first woman Governor Mrs. Sarojini Naidu

Glossary:

1. entitle – give the right, enable.
2. outworn – outdated, out of date.
3. courtesy - good manners, polite behaviour
4. retaliate – hit back, counter attack.
5. meticulous – very careful and precise,
6. perspective – point of view.

TEXTUAL EXERCISES

COMPREHENSION

C. 1. Based on your reading the lesson, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option.

1. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi resented her galling position. The 'galling position' referred to here is

Ans:c) she and her daughters not being entitled to any share of the family property

2. According to Gandhiji, Mrs. Viajayalakshmi could cleanse the bitterness of her heart by

Ans:a) making peace with her in laws

3. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi said, 'I thought of the counsel that had calmed me so many times.' The counselling referred to here is

Ans: b) no one can harm you but yourself

C. 2. Discuss the answers for the following questions with your partner and then write them in your note book.

1. Why was Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit in anguish?

Ans: Mrs Vijaylakshmi Pandit was in anguish because her husband had died and she was in deep sorrow. To add to her misery, she

came to know that in the eyes of Indian law she had no individual existence. That is, being the widow without a son she and her two daughters were not entitled to have any share in the family property.

2. In paragraph 3, Mrs. Pandit speaks about 'antiquated law'. What is she referring to?

Ans: 'Antiquated law' referred by Mrs Pandit was the Indian law according to which a widow who has no son but only daughters were not entitled to have any share in the family property.

3. Why was Mrs. Pandit going to America according to Gandhiji?

Ans: According to Gandhiji, Mrs Pandit was going to America because she was not happy with her in-laws and she thought that by going away from there she could escape from that bitter situation.

4. What did Gandhiji want Mrs. Pandit to do before going abroad? What was Mrs. Pandit's response?

Ans: Gandhiji advised Mrs. Pandit to meet her in laws to say good bye before going abroad. He wanted her to do that because Indians attach more importance to following courtesies in life.

5. How did Gandhiji make Mrs. Pandit meet her relatives?

Ans: Gandhiji wanted Mrs. Pandit to wipe out the bitterness she had towards her in laws before going abroad. So he made her understand that she could not find happiness outside when there is bitterness in her heart. She could get peace and happiness only when she cleansed her heart by making peace with her in laws.

6. Explain the statement: "Must you inflict further injury on yourself because you lack courage to cleanse your own heart?"

Ans: Gandhiji advised Mrs. Pandit with the above words. The statement meant that Mrs Pandit was unhappy due to her strained relationship with her in laws. She should show courage in wiping out her differences with them before going abroad. She should do this because she could not get happiness outside when she had bitterness in her heart.

7. "I lifted the debate back to where it belonged", said Mrs Pandit. What was the debate about?

Ans: Mrs. Pandit was representing India as a leader of the Indian delegation to the United Nations. The debate was about the complaint regarding the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa. After much arguments and duel words between both sides, Mrs Pandit thought of Gandhiji's advice that 'means were as important as the end', and she decided to argue the case on its merits by refusing to retaliate to personal attack or to score a cheap point.

8. Mrs. Pandit recollected the advice of Gandhiji often. What was the advice? Explain the meaning of it.

Ans: Mrs. Pandit recollected the advice, 'No one can harm you but yourself' or 'You will not find happiness outside when there is bitterness in your heart'. The statement means that we cannot feel happy or good with ourselves when we are not happy with others. Happiness is a state of mind. Our mind and heart will be happy when we keep others happy or when we maintain good relationship with others.

9. After visiting her relatives, Mrs. Pandit commented, 'I felt as if a great burden had been lifted and I was free to be myself'. Have you experienced such a situation or a feeling in your life? Discuss.

Ans: At most all of us come across such a situation in our life. We always feel good and light when we sort out our problems with our relatives and friends through amicable means. When we forgive somebody for their mistakes or when we ask forgiveness for our mistakes we can win the love and respect of others. If we want others to be good to us then we need to be good to them.

10. What do you infer about the relationship between Mrs. Pandit and Gandhiji from reading this lesson?

Ans: Mrs Pandit had great love, faith and regard for Gandhiji. She looked upon Gandhiji as a God father and sought his advice at every stage of life. Gandhiji cared for her very much and guided her whenever she needed it.

C3 Read the following extracts from the lesson and answer the questions that follow:

1. 'Yet in law we women were still recognized only through our relationship to men'.

a) Who is referred to 'we women'?

Ans: 'We women' is referred to the womenfolk in general.

b) Why does the speaker say so?

Ans: Mrs Pandit said so because according to Indian law a widow without a son had no share in the family property and prestige.

c) What is the mood of the speaker while speaking the above words?

Ans: Mrs Pandit was very unhappy and felt bitter as she had to pass through a period of anguish. She was a victim of this Indian law after she lost her husband and she was left with two daughters.

2. 'No one can harm you except yourself,'

a) Name the speaker.

Ans: Mahatma Gandhiji.

b) Whom is the speaker addressing to?

Ans: Gandhiji was addressing Mrs. Pandit.

c) What does the speaker mean by the above words?

Ans: Gandhiji told her that when she cannot get peace when she has bitterness in her heart. She cannot be good to her when she is not good to others. We harm ourselves when we try to harm others.

3. 'I struck back with the same sharp weapon.'

a) Who is the 'I' and who did the speaker struck back?

Ans: 'I' refers to Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit. She struck back at the opponents.

b) What was the weapon used by the speaker?

Ans: She used had a duel of words with them opposing the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa.

c) Name the figure of speech used here.

Ans: Metaphor.

Qd. Discuss the answers for the following questions in a group of 3 or 4 and then present your answers before the other groups.

1. Mrs. Pandit had to face a lot of humiliating situations in her life. Give a brief account of the situations and comment on them.

Ans: Mrs. Pandit went through a period of anguish when she lost her husband. She was left two daughters without a son. Her sorrows were multiplied when she realized that in the eyes of Indian law she had no individual existence. As a widow without a son she and her two daughters were not entitled to have any share in the family property. She felt hurt and miserable when her family members supported this outdated law. She had participated in the national struggle for freedom, working and suffering side by side with men until India attained freedom. She was unhappy with the treatment of Indian woman in the eyes of the law even though women have shouldered equal responsibilities in every walk of life with man.

2. Comment on the title of the lesson with respect to Mrs. Pandit's experiences in different situations in her life.

Ans: Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit titled her article 'The best advice I ever had'. She regarded Mahatma Gandhiji as a God father and well wisher. She called him one of the greatest souls the world had ever known. She sought his advices and guidance in every walk of life. She found his advices very human, practical and were fruitful. At some point of time though she did not agree with him but when she followed his advices she found them as the best solutions for all her problems.

3. Prepare a project on Mrs. Pandit's accomplishments and her contributions to India.

Ans: Students to prepare.

4. "Means are as important as the end", said Gandhiji. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.

Ans: 'Means are as important as the end', said Gandhiji. This statement is very much true to life. He also said that the route

8 - Diamond English 1st Language (9th Standard)

to reach our destiny is more important than reaching it. I very strongly agree to this statement. Life experiences have proved us that the success achieved through wrong means never stands for a longer time. Therefore, if we want success and happiness or peace in life then we need to adopt fair means to achieve them. We cannot get back happiness without giving it to others.

5. Assume yourself to be a social activist. Write an article suggesting ways and means of removing gender discriminations that still exist in our society like ours. You can discuss in groups and write down the article.

Ans: Students to prepare it.