

# Mother's Day by J.B. PRIESTLEY



**J.B. Priestley**

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

Mother's Day is written in the form of a play by J.B. Priestley and shows how a mother's efforts are ignored by her own family. It also reveals that the mother's work and her efforts to make the house of bricks a home are ignored and looked down upon. She is always taken for granted.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

J.B. Priestley was born on September 13th 1894 in the West Riding of Yorkshire. He was the son of a schoolmaster. His mother died when he was very young, and he was brought up by his stepmother. After leaving Belle Vue School when he was 16, he worked in a wool office. Determined to become a writer, he spent his hard earned money on buying books, and used his spare time trying different kinds of writing, including a regular unpaid column in a local periodical, the Bradford Pioneer. His first piece of professional writing was an article "Secrets of the Rag-Time King" which appeared in London Opinion on Dec 14th 1912.

## SHORT SUMMARY:

Mother's Day is a play by J. B. Priestley. It is a satirical and humorous depiction of the status of the women, in particular, a housewife in a family.

The play portrays the practical experience of a mother, Mrs Pearson.

Her children disrespect and disregard her. In her own home, she was treated as a slave. Thus, she felt a lot of ignorance and embarrassment every day not only from her daughter Doris and son Cyril but also from her husband George Pearson who has completely turned a blind eye from his wife.

Mrs Pearson's life turns when she meets Mrs Fitzgerald, a fortune teller, and discusses her family members and their terrible behaviour. She tells Mrs Fitzgerald everything about her family behaviour. Moreover, Mrs Fitzgerald recommends her to exchange personalities. So as to teach her family a good lesson. At first, Mrs Pearson didn't agree but after some encouragement, she agreed to switch bodies.

After that, Mrs Fitzgerald casts a spell and swaps her personality with Mrs Pearson. In a matter of seconds, their personality switches and Mrs Pearson who was calm and composed is now smoking and drinking. And Mrs Fitzgerald is now sitting idle.

The scene changes, and now Mrs Pearson is in her home and Doris enters home. She hands her a dress and asks her to iron as she has to go on a date with her boyfriend Charlie Spence. She even objects to her mother's smoking. And when she asks her, Mrs Pearson replies very harshly and advises her to do her work herself. Further, she makes fun of her boyfriend. Afterwards, Doris feels miserable and ashamed. She starts crying when her mother insults and rebukes her.

After this, her son Cyril enters, asks his mother hurriedly if his tea is ready. On which Mrs Pearson refuses and advises him to prepare it himself. After seeing his mother's reaction and the sister crying he raises his voice. Also, calls Mrs Fitzgerald an old hag on which Mrs Pearson instructs him to mind his language.

When the children talk about being worn-out after work, she makes it very clear to both of them that they all will work equally from that day onwards. And she will not work on weekends and enjoy it with her friends.

At that point, Mr Pearson enters the house and expresses his surprise on seeing his wife drinking and smoking. He objects and Mrs Pearson makes him realise that if he can drink then she can too. Further, she tells him that instead of spending his time with his wife he is spending time with people who are making fun of him behind his back.

Mrs Pearson on seeing her family insult asks Mrs Fitzgerald to stop all this. However, she doesn't let her speak until she teaches all of them a good lesson of respecting and honouring their mother. Soon after they switch personality again. And after that, the son, daughter, and husband learn their lesson and start supporting their mother and wife.

## CONCLUSION:

Through Mother's Day, the writer wants

to say that we all should respect, care, and help our mother for all the hardship she does for us.

## संक्षिप्त सारांश:

मदर्स डे जे बी प्रीस्टली का एक नाटक है। यह महिलाओं की स्थिति का व्यंग्यपूर्ण और विनोदी चित्रण है, विशेष रूप से, एक परिवार में एक गृहिणी।

नाटक एक माँ श्रीमती पियर्सन के व्यावहारिक अनुभव को चित्रित करता है। उसके बच्चे उसका अनादर करते हैं और उसकी अवहेलना करते हैं। अपने ही घर में उसके साथ गुलाम जैसा व्यवहार किया जाता था। इस प्रकार, वह न केवल अपनी बेटी डोरिस और बेटे सिरिल से बल्कि अपने पति जॉर्ज पियर्सन से भी हर दिन बहुत अधिक अज्ञानता और शर्मिंदगी महसूस करती थी, जिसने अपनी पत्नी से पूरी तरह से आंखें मूंद ली थीं।

श्रीमती पियर्सन का जीवन बदल जाता है जब वह श्रीमती फिट्जगेराल्ड, एक भविष्यवक्ता से मिलती हैं, और अपने परिवार के सदस्यों और उनके भयानक व्यवहार पर चर्चा करती हैं। वह श्रीमती फिट्जगेराल्ड को अपने पारिवारिक व्यवहार के बारे में सब कुछ बताती हैं। इसके अलावा, श्रीमती फिट्जगेराल्ड ने उन्हें व्यक्तित्वों का आदान-प्रदान करने की सलाह दी। ताकि उनके परिवार को एक अच्छा सबक सिखाया जा सके। पहले तो श्रीमती पियर्सन नहीं मानी लेकिन कुछ प्रोत्साहन के बाद, वह शरीर बदलने के लिए तैयार हो गई।

उसके बाद, श्रीमती फिट्जगेराल्ड एक जादू करती हैं और श्रीमती पियर्सन के साथ अपने व्यक्तित्व की अदला-बदली करती हैं। कुछ ही सेकंड में, उनका व्यक्तित्व बदल जाता है और श्रीमती पियर्सन जो शांत थीं, अब

धूम्रपान और शराब पी रही हैं। और श्रीमती फिट्जगेराल्ड अब बेकार बैठी हैं।

दृश्य बदल जाता है, और अब श्रीमती पियर्सन अपने घर में हैं और डोरिस घर में प्रवेश करती है। वह उसे एक पोशाक सौंपती है और उसे लोहे के लिए कहती है क्योंकि उसे अपने प्रेमी चार्ली स्पेंस के साथ डेट पर जाना है। वह अपनी मां के धूम्रपान का भी विरोध करती है। और जब वह उससे पूछती है, तो श्रीमती पियर्सन बहुत कठोर जवाब देती है और उसे अपना काम खुद करने की सलाह देती है। इसके अलावा, वह उसके प्रेमी का मजाक उड़ाती है। बाद में, डोरिस दुखी और शर्मिंदा महसूस करती है। वह रोने लगती है जब उसकी मां उसका अपमान करती है और उसे डांटती है।

इसके बाद उसका बेटा सिरिल अंदर आता है, जल्दी से अपनी मां से पूछता है कि क्या उसकी चाय तैयार है। जिस पर श्रीमती पियर्सन ने मना कर दिया और उन्हें इसे स्वयं तैयार करने की सलाह दी। अपनी मां की प्रतिक्रिया और बहन को रोता देख वह आवाज उठाता है। इसके अलावा, श्रीमती फिट्जगेराल्ड को एक पुराना हग कहते हैं, जिस पर श्रीमती पियर्सन उन्हें अपनी भाषा पर ध्यान देने का निर्देश देती हैं।

जब बच्चे काम के बाद थके होने की बात करते हैं, तो वह उन दोनों को बहुत स्पष्ट कर देती है कि उस दिन से वे सभी समान रूप से काम करेंगे। और वह सप्ताहांत पर काम नहीं करेगी और अपने दोस्तों के साथ इसका आनंद उठाएगी।

उस समय, मिस्टर पियर्सन घर में प्रवेश करते हैं और अपनी पत्नी को शराब पीते और धूम्रपान करते देखकर आश्चर्य व्यक्त करते हैं। वह विरोध करता है और श्रीमती पियर्सन उसे एहसास कराती है कि अगर वह पी सकती है तो वह भी कर सकती है। इसके

अलावा, वह उसे बताती है कि वह अपना समय अपनी पत्नी के साथ बिताने के बजाय ऐसे लोगों के साथ बिता रहा है जो उसकी पीठ पीछे उसका मजाक उड़ा रहे हैं।

श्रीमती पियर्सन अपने परिवार का अपमान देखकर श्रीमती फिट्जगेराल्ड से यह सब रोकने के लिए कहती हैं। हालाँकि, वह उसे तब तक बोलने नहीं देती जब तक कि वह उन सभी को अपनी माँ के सम्मान और सम्मान का एक अच्छा सबक नहीं सिखाती। इसके तुरंत बाद वे व्यक्तित्व को फिर से बदलते हैं। और उसके बाद, बेटा, बेटी और पति अपना सबक सीखते हैं और अपनी माँ और पत्नी का समर्थन करना शुरू करते हैं।

निष्कर्ष:

मर्दर्स डे के माध्यम से, लेखक यह कहना चाहता है कि हम सभी को अपनी माँ का सम्मान करना चाहिए, देखभाल करनी चाहिए और उन सभी कठिनाइयों के लिए उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए जो वह हमारे लिए करती हैं।

## 6. KEY WORDS:

Aghast- filled with horror or shock

Astounded- shock or greatly surprise

At sixes and sevens- in a state of total confusion and disarray

Barmy- mad; crazy

Beckons- making a gesture with the hand, arm or head to encourage or instruct someone to approach or follow

Bewildered- perplexed and confused; very puzzled

Briskly- in an active, quick or energetic way



Chuckling- laugh quietly or inwardly

Clot- a foolish or clumsy person

Complacently- showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements

Concussion- a violent shock as from a heavy blow

Contempt- the feeling that a person or a thing is worthless or beneath consideration

Cracking- fast

Dubiously- with hesitation or doubt

Eating out of your hand- be submissive

Far-fetched- unlikely and unconvincing; implausible

Fathead- a stupid person

Flustered- agitated or confused

Fluttering- trembling

Glowering- have an angry look on one's face

Glumly- moody or unsociable attitude

Grimly- bitter, hard manner

Guffaw- a loud and hearty laugh

Hastily- with excessive speed or urgency; speedily

Incisive- intelligently analytical and clear thinking

Indignantly- in a manner indicating anger or annoyance at something perceived as unfair

Laconic- using very few words

Nasty- very bad or unpleasant

Piecan- referring a foolish person

Pompous- affectedly grand, solemn, or self-important

Resent- feel bitterness or indignation at a circumstance, action or person

Rummy- a card game

Settee- long upholstered seat for more than one person, typically with a back and arms

Sinister- giving the impression that something harmful or evil is happening or will happen

Snooker- a game played with cues on a billiard table in which the players use a cue ball (white) to pocket the other balls (fifteen red and six coloured) in a set order

Solemn- formal and dignified; characterized by deep sincerity

Staggered- astonish or deeply shock

Stout- a kind of strong, dark beer brewed with roasted malt or barley

Sulkily- a disagreeable mood

Thoughtless- (of a person or their behaviour) not showing consideration for the needs of other people

Tiddly- slightly drunk

Ushering- showing or guide someone somewhere



### **Mother's Day -**

It is a Satirical and humorous play, depicting the status of the women, in particular, a housewife in a family where her family takes her service for granted and never take notice of her needs.

### **AUTHOR:** John Boynton Priestley

- Born on 13 September, 1894.

He was an English novelist, Playwright, Screenwriter and social commentator

- His best known play is "An Inspector Calls."
- He believed in socialism.

### **GIST:**

Mrs Pearson is taken for granted in her family and the members take advantage of her humble nature. She is treated like a domestic servant rather than a family member. Upset about this, she takes the assistance of her older neighbor, Mrs Fitzgerald who is a fortune teller and also a bold person.

### **Central Character**

Mrs. Annie Pearson – wife of George Pearson, a loving wife and mother, fond of her husband and children, does her best to keep them happy, simple-hearted, gentle to a fault, too weak to protest, works day and night – no rest, submissive.

### **Sub-Characters**

1. George Pearson -husband of Mrs. Annie Pearson, about fifty, self-important and pompous, neglects his wife, club members backbite and make fun of him.
2. Doris Pearson -daughter of George Pearson, a spoilt girl of around 20, the elder. She is already into an affair with a young boy, named Charlie Spence.
3. Cyril – Son of George Pearson, a spoilt child.
5. Mrs. Fitzgerald –a neighbour of Mrs. Annie Pearson, a bold, talented, strong, liberated, dominating and aggressive woman, knows some magic, drinks, smokes and plays cards, and lives life on her own terms.

Theme: a satirical and humorous depiction of the status of the women, in particular, a housewife in a family

### **Important Points**

Mother's day is a play by J. B. Priestley.

It is a satirical and humorous depiction of the status of the women, in particular, a housewife in a family.

A housewife dedicates all her time in the service of her family but her family takes her service for granted and never takes notice of her needs.

She felt a lot of ignorance and embarrassment every day not only from her Daughter Doris and son Cyril but also from her husband George Pearson who has completely turned a blind eye from his wife.

Mrs Pearson's life turns when she meets Mrs Fitzgerald, a fortune teller. Mrs Fitzgerald casts a spell and changes her personality with Mrs Pearson. In a matter of seconds, their personality switches and Mrs Pearson who was calm and composed is now smoking and drinking. And Mrs Fitzgerald is now sitting idle.

Doris enters home. She hands her a dress and asks her to iron as she has to go on a date with her boyfriend Charlie Spence. She even objects to her mother's smoking.

Mrs Pearson replies very harshly and advises her to do her work herself.

Doris feels miserable and ashamed and starts crying when her mother insults and rebukes her.

After this, her son Cyril enters, asks his mother hurriedly if his tea is ready.

Mrs Pearson refuses and advises him to prepare it himself.

After seeing her mother's reaction and her sister crying he raises his voice.

When the kids talk about being worn-out after work. She makes it very clear to both of them that they all will work equally from that day onwards.

Mr Pearson enters the house and expresses his surprise on seeing her wife drinking and smoking.

Mrs Pearson on seeing her family insult asks Mrs Fitzgerald to stop all this.

However, she doesn't let her speak until she teaches all of them a good lesson of respecting and honouring their mother.

Soon after they switch personalities again.

After that, the son, daughter, and husband learn their lesson and start supporting their mother and wife.

### **Conclusion/Learning Outcome:**

The writer wants to say that we all should respect, care, and help our mother for all the hardship she does for us.

Mothers do always take care of their children and husband without expecting anything in return. But taking mothers for granted is not at all a respectful thing to do. Children and husbands must have respect for their mother and wife respectively.

### **MCQ**

Q1. What does the play "Mother's Day" talk about?

A. Status of the mother in the family

B. Status of the father in the family

C. Status of the children in the family

D. of the family in the society

**Ans. A**

Q2. What is the first thing that Dorris does as soon as she enters the house?

- A. Asks her mother to give her tea
- B. Asks her mother to cook something for her
- C. Asks her mother about her day
- D. Asks her mother to iron her yellow silk

**Ans. D**

Q3. How does the author describe Mrs. Fitzgerald?

- A. Worried looking
- B. Sinister looking
- C. Has a deep voice
- D. Both (b) and (c)

**Ans. D**

Q4. The attitude of Mrs. Pearson's family changes towards her. Comment.

- A. No
- B. Yes
- C. Maybe
- D. Not clear from the story

**Ans. B**

Q5. Where was Dorris headed for the night?

- A. She had to work over-time
- B. She was going out with Charlie Spence
- C. She was going for her friend's birthday
- D. She had some appointment

**Ans. B**

Q6. What message does the author of "Mother's Day" try to convey?

- A. To appreciate wives/ mothers for their work
- B. To work hard for your mother
- C. To spend time with family
- D. To respect everyone

**Ans. A**

Q7. "It's wonderful having a real \_\_\_\_\_ living next door." Complete the dialogue.

- A. doctor
- B. writer
- C. fortune-teller
- D. chef

**Ans. C**

Q9. What does George mean when he says 'we're at sixes and sevens here'?



- A. In a state of confusion and disorder
- B. In a middle of a conflict
- C. In a middle of taking a decision
- D. In a state of agony

**Ans. A**

Q9. Where did Mrs. Fitzgerald learn to tell the future?

- A. The West
- B. The East
- C. The Middle-East
- D. Not mentioned in the play

**Ans. B**

Q10. Question : What are the 'changes' that Mrs. Pearson referred to Cyril?

- A. Change in the way she is treated by the family
- B. Changes in her daily routine
- C. Changes related to her work
- D. None of the above

**Ans. A**

Q11. How does Mrs. Pearson describe her family members?

- A. Thoughtless and selfish

- B. Pleasant and helpful
- C. Hardworking
- D. Mindful

**Ans. A**

Q12. What does Mrs. Pearson suggest them to do for that night?

- A. Family game of rummy
- B. Getting the supper ready
- C. Both (a) and (b)
- D. None of the above

**Ans. C**

Q13. In what endeavour does Mrs. Fitzgerald help Mrs. Pearson?

- A. To see future
- B. To make her family treat her well
- C. To run errands
- D. None of the above

**Ans. B**

Q14. According to Mrs. Pearson, where had Cyril been wasting his time and money?

- A. Races
- B. Ice shows
- C. Both (a) and (b)
- D. Clubbing

**Ans. C**

Q15. How would you describe Mrs. Pearson?

- A. Dominating
- B. Considerate
- C. Compliant
- D. Both (b) and (c)

**Ans. D**

Q16. How does Mrs. Fitzgerald plan to help Mrs. Pearson?

- A. By talking to Mrs. Pearson's family
- B. By listening to Mrs. Pearson rants
- C. By switching personalities with Mrs. Pearson
- D. Both (a) and (b)

**Ans. C**

Q17. Who is the writer of the play "Mother's Day"?

- A. A.J. Cornin
- B. William Wordsworth
- C. Patrick Pringle
- D. J.B. Priestley

**Ans. D**

Q18. Mrs. Pearson was \_\_\_\_\_ about Mrs. Fitzgerald's plan.

- A. excited      B. hesitant
- C. sure      D. envious

**Ans. B**

Q19. When do Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Fitzgerald get back to their original selves?

- A. When Mrs. Pearson's family gets to know about them
- B. When they both get bored
- C. When the situation goes out of hand
- D. None of the above

**Ans. C**

Q20. Mrs. Fitzgerald is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Mrs. Pearson.

- A. relative
- B. neighbour
- C. maid
- D. None of the above

**Ans. B**

Q21. Mrs. Pearson's family had been \_\_\_\_\_ towards Mrs. Pearson.

- A. respectful
- B. polite
- C. biased
- D. unappreciative

**Ans. D**

Q22. What makes Dorris astounded as soon as she enters the house?

- A. The sight of her mother smoking

- B. Because the tea was not ready
- C. Because her mother was not there
- D. None of the above

**Ans. A**

Q24. "Buck teeth and half-witted..." Who has been described here?

- A. Cyril Pearson
- B. George Pearson
- C. Charlie Spence
- D. Mrs. Fitzgerald

**Ans. C**

Q25. How does the author describe George Pearson?

- A. Pompous
- B. Solemn
- C. Fifty-ish
- D. All of the above

**Ans. D**

Q26. What was George's reaction when he saw his wife drinking stout during daytime?

- A. He did not like it
- B. He did not mind
- C. He accompanied her
- D. He ignored her

**Ans. A**

Q27. Mrs. Pearson tells George that he is being \_\_\_\_\_ at the club.

- A. respected
- B. laughed upon
- C. called names
- D. Both (b) and (c)

**Ans. D**

Q28. "Well, she's suddenly all different." Who said this and for whom?

- A. Cyril for Dorris
- B. Dorris for her mother
- C. Cyril for her mother
- D. George for Dorris

**Ans. B**

Q29. "It's that silly old bag from next door- Mrs. Fitzgerald." Who said this?

- A. Dorris
- B. Cyril
- C. George
- D. Mrs. Pearson

**Ans. B**

Q30. Why was Dorris red-eyed?

- A. Because of an infection
- B. Because of a fight
- C. Because of crying
- D. Because she was getting ready to head out

**Ans. C**



## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

Q1. Who is Mrs Fitzgerald? What does she advise Mrs Pearson?

**Ans.** Mrs Fitzgerald is Mrs Pearson's neighbour and friend. A fortune teller, who had learnt the art from the East. She tells Mrs Pearson that her fortune could turn either way. With effort and counsel, the situation would swing in her favour. She advised her to assert herself as the boss of the house.

Q2. What was Mrs Pearson's reaction to Mrs Fitzgerald's advice?

**Ans.** Mrs Pearson said that it would not be easy to put her family members in place as she was very fond of them. She knew that they were thoughtless and self-ish but felt, perhaps, they did not mean to be so.

Q3. What was Mrs Fitzgerald's opinion of Mrs Pearson's attitude?

**Ans.** Mrs Fitzgerald said that Mrs Pearson's family was undoubtedly spoilt. She felt that it was Mrs Pearson's attitude that did them no good, tending to their needs, taking their orders, and staying at home every night while they went out enjoying themselves.

Q4. What does Mrs Fitzgerald offer to do for her?

**Ans.** Mrs Fitzgerald sensed that Mrs Pearson was far too gentle,

submissive and generous to tackle her family.

Mrs Fitzgerald offered to make them realize the error of their ways not as Mrs Fitzgerald but as Mrs Pearson. She offered to change their bodies and change back again.

Q5. How did the two women react after their bodies were changed?

**Ans.** When Mrs Pearson looked down at herself in Mrs Fitzgerald's body, she gave a scream of fright. On the other hand, Mrs Fitzgerald is rather pleased and feels that the transition was so neat that she did not even know that she had it in her.

Q6. What is Doris's first reaction to seeing her mother? Why?

**Ans.** Doris was taken aback to see her mother smoking and playing cards. When Doris asks her what she was doing, she is startled to get her answer 'whitewashing the ceiling.' Moreover, her conduct was not nervous and apologetic but cool and incisive.

Q7. What did Doris want her mother to do? How did the mother react?

**Ans.** Doris wanted her to iron her yellow silk dress that she 'must wear' that night. She also wanted her mother to make tea for her. She refused to get her tea and iron her dress, telling her that she put in twice the hours Doris did but got neither wages, nor thanks for it.



Q8. What does Mrs Pearson say to Doris that really bothered her?

**Ans.** Mrs Pearson asked where Doris would wear her yellow silk dress. She said that she planned to go out with Charlie Spence. Mrs Pearson told her to find somebody better, and insulted Charlie Spence by calling her buck-toothed and half-witted.

Q9. What does Mrs Pearson have to say to Cyril that shocks him?

**Ans.** When Cyril walks in and insists on her getting the tea and his clothes ready, he is stunned to hear that she doesn't 'like mending'. She goes on to tell him that when he does not want to do something, he does not do it. She planned to do the same. Cyril could not believe his ears.

Q10. What do Doris and Cyril feel about Mrs Pearson's changed behaviour?

**Ans.** Doris and Cyril discuss that there is something wrong with their mother as she is not behaving in character. They discuss how Mrs Pearson behaved oddly with each of them. They try to fathom if she had gone crazy or had a confusion.

## LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

Q1. This play, written in the 1950s, is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the mother in the family.

What are the issues it raises?

Do you think it caricatures these issues or do you think that the problems it raises are genuine? How does the play resolve the issues? Do you agree with the resolution?

**Ans.** The play raises many serious issues. The first and foremost is proper appreciation of a housewife's role and responsibilities. Those who work eight hours a day and forty hours a week treat the housewife as an unpaid domestic servant, who must carry out their orders. They neither request her nor thank her for her services. The second issue is the reciprocity of love and gratitude towards the mother or wife. The husband, son and daughter leave the lady of the house alone every night and go out to enjoy themselves in several ways. They do not take any notice of her and have become thoughtless and selfish. The mother's excessive love, care and promptness to serve them also spoil them.

The problems the play raises are serious. The treatment is, of course, comic. The playwright adopts an unusual method to resolve the issues. He takes the help of magic from the East. Incantation of a magical spell helps in the interchange of personalities. Now Mrs Pearson, with the strong

and sinister personality of Mrs Fitzgerald, gives rough treatment to the daughter, son and husband respectively. Her stern looks and commanding tone suggests to them that she can be really tough. The spoilt members are brought round by the heavy dose of exposure of reality to them. They agree to stay and help in preparing the supper while the housewife has a talk with her husband. The resolution of the issues seems far-fetched and unnatural but extreme means have to be adopted in disaster management.

Q2. If you were to write these issues today, what are some of the incidents, examples and problems that you would think of as relevant?

**Ans.** Various responses are possible. One such response is given below:

The incidents of unfair treatment to the fair sex at home, at work, in public transport and elsewhere will prove handy. The examples of exploitation of female workers with lower wages, harassment by seniors, indecent remarks, eve-teasing and molestation can highlight the problems of social inequality that women face in practice. Even in the twenty-first century women face the same problems in spite of the talk of women empowerment. The poor housewives have to bear the physical torment and mental

anguish at the hands of bullish husbands who boast of their masculinity by inflicting physical violence, barbs and taunts on the defenseless women. Examples of rapes and sexual harassment which hug the limelight in daily newspapers can also be included to highlight the problems of insecurity of women in modern society.

Q3. Is drama a good medium for conveying a social message? Discuss.

**Ans.** Yes, drama is certainly a good medium for conveying a social message. Direct moralizing is often resented and usually ignored. Drama is a presentation of a slice of life through characters placed in various situations. The attention of the spectators revolves round their actions and reactions. Most of them feel fully involved with the protagonists. The working out of the theme generally leaves a message—sometimes obvious and explicit but in most of the cases, indirect and implicit. The social message of these plays seems to come out of the interactions of the characters and their traits of character. The victory of evil over good is usually portrayed indirectly. These days we find many plays centred around themes creating social awareness such as evils of drinking and smoking; dangers of pollution, child labour, the decreasing female ratio and need to empower women.