

FY BCOM

English & Business and Communication-I

By

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- **Fy bcom sem-1 unit-1**
- **(1) The Lady, or the Tiger?**
- **-Frank R Stockton**
- **-American writer and humorist**
- **- best known for a series of original children's fairy tales and for describing the adventures of his characters in an appealing and straight forward manner.**
- **-The Lady or the Tiger? Is one of his the most famous tales that won him literacy acclaim.**

- **# About the story**

- **A whimsical king who introduced a strange way of handing out rewards and punishments.**
- **Two doors-behind one there is a hungry tiger, behind the other door a beautiful lady in waiting**
- **Either death or marriage**
- **A young man, lover of the princess**
- **The same punishment or marriage**
- **The beloved princess guides him by pointing finger at one door.**
- **The author leaves the story on an open-ended question.**

- **# Characters- The king**
 - **The princess**
 - **The lover**
 - **The tiger, the beautiful lady**
- **# This open-endedness challenges the mind of the reader and compels him/her to think of the possible climaxes.**

- **(2) The Gift of the Magi**
- **O'Henry**
 - **William Sidney Porter**
 - **A prolific American short story writer**
 - **Favourite subject- ordinary people in New York City**
 - **Surprise endings and twists in the plot were the essence of his stories**

- **# About the story**

- **A young married couple and their selfless love and sacrifices of their favourite possessions for the happiness of the other.**
- **Desperate to gift each other- Della sells off her hair and buys a platinum fob chain for gold watch**
- **James sells off his gold watch to buy a set of combs made of pure tortoise shell**
- **Very late they realized that they have given away their most prized possessions and bought gifts that are no longer of any use to either of them**
- **Christmas spirit, O'Henry's style**
- **Couple- the Magi in their gifts of love to one another.**

- **# Characters- Della**
 - **Mr James Dillingham Young**
- **# Futile sacrifices but realization of love for each other. The readers are left thinking of the true nature and essence of the christmas spirit.**
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- **The Sniper**
- **By-Liam O'Flaherty**
 - **Irish novelist and short story writer**
 - **He combined satire with psychological analysis in the stories.**
 - **His characters are**
 - **complex individuals in specific set-ups.**

- **# About the story**
 - **Early days of the Irish Civil War**
 - **Sniper at his job**
 - **Surprising end**
 - **Republican sniper VS Irish Free State Soldiers.**
 - **Description of the sniper and soldiers**
 - **Surprising end-revelation of the dead body as his brother**
- **# Characters**
 - **Free Irish State sniper**
 - **Old woman**
 - **Republican soldier**

Futility (uselessness, senselessness of war)

- **Black Boy**
- **-by Richard Wright**
- **- Richard Nathaniel Wright**
- **- African- American Autor**
- **- Known for novels, short stories and poems.**
- **- Deals with racial themes, difficulties faced by African Americans**

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- **# About the story**
 - **The extract is taken from Richard Wright's Autobiography**
 - **Author explores his childhood and early years.**
 - **Mother and family at Memphis**
 - **Racism at a high, the black boy had to face in a white neighbourhood**
 - **Disturbed family, social life-deserted by his father.**
 - **Mother wanted him to help in purchase from the corner store but a gang of white boys pounced on him, beat him up and snatched all his money**
 - **Ultimately mother taught him how to stand up for himself and he won the right to the streets of Memphis.**

- **# Characters**

- **Mother**
- **Black boy**
- **Gang of white boys.**

- **# Problem of racism**

- **Iresponsible father but strong mother helped the son to fight for his right.**
- **Mother as best teacher.**

- **1 An Astrologer's Day**
- **-R K Narayan**
- **- The most popular and successful Indian writer in English**
- **- Well known for his novels and short stories.**
- **- Gave the genre of Indian literature in English to the world.**
- **- Awarded with the Padma Vibhushan**
- **2 About the story**
- **- Description of an astrologer**
- **- having keen ability to judge the human character, without special powers.**
- **- Meeting with unusually aggressive customer.**
- **- the astrologer recognizes him and knew about his past history.**
- **- bargain with the client, gave convincing answers, full satisfaction.**
- **- He claimed money for false prophecies and still escaped unharmed.**

- **3 Characters – Astrologer**
 - His wife and kids
 - Gurunayak- client
- **4 Points to remember**
 - Use of irony in his story
 - Astrologer does not pay for his crime
 - But the story ends on the note that he had spent years regretting his deed and that in itself is punishment enough.