

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE, ALLAHABAD

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

CLASS XII – 2020-21

SYLLABUS

DRAMA

The Tempest- Shakespeare

Act IV Scene I

POETRY

Refer to – Reverie – A collection of ISC Poems

Dover Beach- Mathew Arnold

PROSE

Refer to – Echoes- A collection of ISC short stories

1. The Sound Machine- Roald Dahl

2. B Wordsworth- V.S. Naipaul

DRAMA

The Tempest- Shakespeare

Act IV Scene I

This scene is popularly known as the Masque Scene. A Masque was a popular form of entertainment during the Elizabethan period. They provide an allegorical setting to celebrate harvests, feasts and marriages. Masques were performed by a mixture of professional actors and costumed aristocrats. The characters represented were a mixture of classically derived gods, goddesses and mythical figures. Prospero being convinced of the sincerity of Ferdinand's love for Miranda, gives his approval to their union. He organizes a masque for them as a reward.

Iris, the goddess of the rainbow summons Ceres, the goddess of Earth to bestow their blessings on the young couple. Juno, the queen of the gods bestows her blessings on the couple wishing them wealth and honor, while Ceres blesses them with the wishes of prosperity.

Ferdinand and Miranda are awestruck and Prospero says these are spirits he has called up on behalf of the young lovers.

Prospero recalls Caliban's conspiracy to kill him and calls an abrupt end to the festivities.

He summons Ariel and they set a trap for the conspirators. They send hounds and dogs behind them. Prospero says that all his enemies are under his control and he promises Ariel his freedom.

PARAPHRASE

PROSPERO, FERDINAND, and MIRANDA enter.

PROSPERO

(to FERDINAND) If I've punished you too harshly, I'm ready to make it up to you now, since I've given you a third of my life—everything I live for—my daughter Miranda. I put her in your hands. All the trouble I put you through was to test your love for her, and you've passed the test remarkably well. As heaven is my witness, I give you this valuable gift. Oh Ferdinand, don't smile at me for bragging about Miranda, for you'll see soon enough that she outshines any praise of her.

FERDINAND

I'd believe it even if oracles told me differently.

PROSPERO

Then take my daughter, both as my gift to you and as something you have earned. If you dishonor her maidenhood before the marriage ceremony takes place, the heavens will not bless your relationship, but will overwhelm you with hate, contempt, and discord, and will poison your marriage bed so that you both grow to loathe it. So be careful, and make sure you respect the holy institution of marriage.

FERDINAND

I want peace and a long life. To protect the love I cherish, I won't be tempted by any opportunity to forget my honor and give in to lust. I refuse to give up the joys of my wedding day, when I'll be so eager for my first night of love that I'll wonder whether evening will ever come.

PROSPERO

You've said it well. So have a seat and talk to her. She's yours.—Come, Ariel! My trusty servant, Ariel!

ARIEL

What does my powerful master wish for? I'm here

PROSPERO

You and your fellow spirits did your last assignment well, and now I need your help again. Go bring them all here; I give you power over them. Make them act quickly. I have to give this young couple here a small display of my magic powers. I've promised them I would, and they're expecting it.

ARIEL

Right now ?

PROSPERO

Yes, right away.

ARIEL

Before you can say "Come" and "Go,"
And breathe twice, and shout "So, so!"
Each one of your servants will rush here,
Tripping over his own toes, making funny faces.
Do you love me, master? No?

PROSPERO

I love you dearly, Ariel. Don't come near till you hear me call you.

ARIEL

All right, I understand.

PROSPERO

(to FERDINAND) Make sure you behave honorably. Don't go too far with her. If you let yourself get stirred up, you'll forget your promise of good behavior. Calm yourself down or you'll forget your vow.

FERDINAND

I assure you, sir, the tender love I feel in my heart is stronger than the passion.

PROSPERO

Good.—Now come, Ariel! Better to have an extra servant on hand than be understaffed. Appear before me now quickly—No talking. Just watch! Be quiet.

IRIS

I am the rainbow-bearing messenger sent by my mistress Juno—the Queen of the Sky. I have come to announce that Juno has asked you, Ceres, goddess of the fields and the earth, to leave your rich farms of wheat, rye, barley, oats, and peas, the hills where the sheep nibble, the furrows that April covers with flowers for nymphs to make crowns with. You must leave the groves where the disappointed bachelor lurks, rejected by his love, and the well-pruned vineyards, and the rocky seashore.

You must leave these places and hurry here to this grassy spot, to entertain Juno

CERES enters

CERES

Greetings to you, rainbow messenger, who never disobeys Juno, wife of Jupiter; with your golden wings you sprinkle dewdrops and refreshing showers on my flowers, and arch your colored bow over my wooded fields and grassy meadows, like a beautiful scarf to decorate my earth. Why has your queen, Juno, called me here to this grassy spot?

IRIS

To celebrate a marriage of true love, and give a gift to the lovers.

CERES

Tell me, rainbow, do you know if either Venus, the goddess of love, or her son, Cupid, is accompanying Queen Juno? Ever since Venus and her blind son plotted a way for the god of the underworld to steal my daughter away for half the year, I swore I'd never speak to them again.

IRIS

Don't be afraid of her company. I met Venus as she was with her son on her way to her home on Paphos, in a carriage

pulled by doves. They were planning to pull a mischievous trick on Ferdinand and Miranda. But their trick failed. Venus went home again, and her little son broke all his arrows, swearing he'll never shoot them again, but play with birds like other little boys.

CERES

Great Queen Juno is coming. I know her by her walk.

JUNO comes down to the stage.

JUNO

How is my generous sister? Come help me bless this couple, so they will be prosperous and have many children.

JUNO

(singing)

May honor, riches, marriage blessings,

Long life, and unending joys come to you.

Juno sings her blessings onto you.

CERES

(singing)

Growing crops and large harvests,

Barns and silos full of grain,

Vines heavy with clustered grapes,

Plants straining under their fruit—

May spring follow directly autumn's harvest,

With none of winter's hardships to endure,
You will have plenty and want nothing,
Ceres's blessings on you.

FERDINAND

This is a majestic and harmonious vision. Are these spirits we see before us?

PROSPERO

Yes, they're spirits that I've called out of their prisons to perform my whims.

FERDINAND

Let me live here forever. Such a wonderful father-in-law and wife make this place a paradise.

JUNO and CERES whisper, then send IRIS on a mission.

PROSPERO

Now be quiet. Juno and Ceres are whispering about something serious. There's something else to be done. Be silent, or else my magic spell will be broken.

IRIS

You nymphs who live in the wandering brooks, with seaweed crowns and innocent looks, step out of the water and come join us here on this grassy field. Juno orders you. Come,

sweet nymphs, and help us celebrate the wedding of two true lovers. Don't be late.

Several NYMPHS enter.

Now, you tanned fieldworkers who are so tired of August's labors, get out of the dirt and come rejoice with us here. Put your straw hats on, have some fun, and dance with these young nymphs.

PROSPERO

I almost forgot about Caliban's horrible conspiracy to kill me. The moment they planned to act is almost here. (to the spirits)—Good job. Leave now, no more!

FERDINAND

(to MIRANDA) This is strange. Something has really upset your father.

MIRANDA

I've never seen him like this. He's never been as angry and upset as he is now.

PROSPERO

(to FERDINAND) You look like something's bothering you. Cheer up. Our music-and-dance spectacle is over. These actors were all spirits, as I told you, and they've all melted into thin air. And just like the whole empty and ungrounded vision you've seen, with its towers topped with clouds, its

gorgeous palaces, solemn temples, the world itself—and everyone living in it—which will dissolve just as this illusory pageant has dissolved, leaving not even a wisp of cloud behind. We are all made of dreams, and our life stretches from sleep before birth to sleep after death. Sir, I'm upset. Please put up with my weakness. My old brain is troubled. Don't be disturbed by my illness. If you like, you can rest a while in my room. I'll go for a short walk to calm down my feverish mind.

FERDINAND, MIRANDA

We hope you feel better and find some peace.

PROSPERO

Come, Ariel—I summon you with a thought. Thank you, Ariel. Come.

ARIEL

I obey all your thoughts. What do you wish?

PROSPERO

Spirit, we have to get ready to meet with Caliban.

ARIEL

Yes, my master. When I was putting on the Ceres show, I thought of reminding you about Caliban, but I was afraid of upsetting you.

PROSPERO

Tell me again, where did you leave those lowlives?

ARIEL

I told you, sir, they were totally drunk, so puffed up with courage that they were getting angry at the air for blowing in their faces, and beating the ground for touching their feet—yet even when drunk, they kept their plan firmly in mind. Then I beat my drum, at which point they pricked up their ears and opened their eyes, looking around for the source of my music. I enchanted them so thoroughly that they followed me through thorn bushes and prickly shrubs that tore up their shins. In the end I left them standing in the smelly pond behind your room, with the stinking water covering them up to their chins.

PROSPERO

Good job, my little one. Stay invisible. Bring the fancy clothes out of my house, to use as bait to catch these thieves.

ARIEL

I'm going, I'm going.

Ariel exits.

PROSPERO

He's a devil, a born devil, who can never be trained. All my attempts to help him, undertaken with the best intentions, have been wasted. As his body grows uglier with age, his

mind rots away as well. I'll torment them all till they roar with pain.

Ariel enters, loaded with sparkling clothes.

CALIBAN, STEPHANO and TRINCULO enter all wet.

CALIBAN

Please walk softly, so not even a mole hears us approach.

We're near his room now.

STEPHANO

Hey monster, the spirit you've been talking about, the one you call harmless, has been playing tricks on us.

TRINCULO

Monster, I smell like horse piss, which is making my nose pretty upset.

STEPHANO

Mine too.—Are you listening, monster? If I decide to get angry at you, just watch out—

TRINCULO

You'd be done for then, monster.

CALIBAN

My good lord, I still need you to like me. Be patient, because the prize I'm leading you to will make you forget how smelly you are now. So be quiet. It's as silent as a graveyard here.

TRINCULO

All right, but I can't get over how we lost our wine bottles in the pond.

STEPHANO

Yes, monster, it's worse than the disgrace of getting drenched and smelly. We lost more than our honor when we lost our wine.

TRINCULO

That upsets me much more than getting wet. And you called the fairy creature harmless, monster.

STEPHANO

I'll get my bottle back if it's the last thing I do.

CALIBAN

Please, my king, be quiet. Look here, this is the entrance to his room. Be silent and go in. Do the deed that will make this island yours forever, and will make me, Caliban, your worshipful foot-licker.

STEPHANO

Give me your hand. I'm starting to feel murderous urges.

TRINCULO

(seeing the clothes) Oh, King Stephano! Worthy Stephano, look at the fabulous wardrobe waiting for you here!

CALIBAN

Leave it alone, you fool. It's worthless.

TRINCULO

Oh, monster, we know secondhand clothes when we see them.—(he puts on one of the gowns) Oh, King Stephano!

STEPHANO

Take off that gown, Trinculo. I swear that gown's for me.

TRINCULO

You can have it then, your highness.

CALIBAN

To hell with this idiot! Why are you going crazy over these trashy clothes? Leave them alone, and do the murder first. If he wakes up before we kill him, he'll never stop punishing us.

STEPHANO

Shut up, monster.—Madame tree, is this jacket for me?
Thank you kindly. The tree's lost its jacket. (he takes a jacket hanging on the tree)—Now the jacket might lose its fur trim and become a bald jacket.

*STEPHANO MAKES AN ELABORATE (AND UNTRANSLATABLE)
PUN ABOUT THE SHIRT BEING LIKE A SAILOR WHO GOES TO
THE TROPICS AND GETS A VENEREAL DISEASE.*

TRINCULO

Go ahead, take it. We're stealing things the right way here.

STEPHANO

Thank you for that joke. Here, I'll give you some clothes to show my gratitude. As king of this country I like to reward wit when I hear it. "Stealing things the right way" is a great line. Here's another jacket to say thanks.

TRINCULO

Come here, monster, put some glue on your fingers, and carry away the rest of these clothes for us.

CALIBAN

I won't have any of this. We're wasting our time. We'll miss our chance and be turned into geese or apes with low foreheads.

STEPHANO

Monster, use your fingers. Help us carry these clothes to where my barrel of wine is hidden, or I'll kick you out of my kingdom. Go on, take them.

TRINCULO

Take these too.

STEPHANO

Yes, and these.

A noise of hunters is heard. Various spirits enter disguised as dogs and hounds, chasing STEPHANO, TRINCULO,

and CALIBAN around. PROSPERO and ARIEL follow them, urging the dogs on.

PROSPERO

Hey, Mountain, hey!

ARIEL

Silver. There they go, Silver!

PROSPERO

Fury, Fury!—Get over there, Tyrant, there. Listen, listen!

Ariel, go order my goblin servants to make these fellows' bones ache, give them muscle cramps all over, and give them more bruises than leopards have spots.

ARIEL

Listen they're howling.

PROSPERO

Hunt them down. Now all my enemies are at my mercy. Soon all my work will be done, and you'll be free. Just obey me a little bit longer.

NOTE:- Learn the word meanings given in the text.

POETRY

DOVER BEACH- MATHEW ARNOLD

THEME

Dover Beach is a dramatic monologue. The Victorian era was associated with the crisis of faith caused by the new scientific discoveries. The Victorians were suffering an internal crisis of faith and thus to survive, the speaker makes a plea to his beloved that they should remain true to each other. Love is the only solace that can help one survive this crisis of faith.

EXPLANATION

The Sea is calm.....eternal note of sadness in.

The poem opens with the speaker describing the beauty of the sea shore to his companion. The sea is calm and the tide is high. The moon light falls upon the straits of Dover which connects the English Channel to the North Sea. He urges his beloved to listen to the harsh sound from the beach as the waves flowing in and out drag the loose pebbles back and

forth. This repetitive sound suggests to the speaker some unrelenting sadness.

Sophocles.....Northern Sea.

The speaker imagines that Sophocles the greek tragic dramatist had heard the same sound in the Aegean Sea and had suggested to him, the ebb and flow of human suffering.

The sea of faith.....of the world.

The sea reminds the speaker of the sea of faith which was once full and had surrounded the world like a bright girdle holding everything together. Now like the waves of the sea, the sea of faith was receding.

Ah love..... clash by night.

In the final section of the poem the speaker turns to his love in desperation seeking to find some stability in a world that is a void and cries out for them to be true to each other because there is nothing else possible to give meaning to life.

MEANINGS

- Tranquil – peaceful
- Line of spray- foam of the waves
- Moon blanched land- moonlight bright on the shore
- Tremulous- trembling sound of the waves
- Girdle- belt
- Aegean Sea- Mediterranean Sea
- Darkling- Dark
- Shingles – pebbles
- Certitude- Doubt

ECHOES - SHORT STORIES

THE SOUND MACHINE- ROALD DAHL

SUMMARY

The story deals with an obsession of sounds. The real action of the story involves Klausner's attempt at making a sound machine to capture sound which are inaudible to human ear. It is in the garden that Klausner first hears the shrieking sound made by the stem of the rose plant when his neighbour plucks the rose flowers. He then takes his machine to the park to test its usefulness. He hears the cries made by the tree when he hits it with an axe. To prove his discovery he calls his friend Dr. Scott and gives a second blow on the trunk of the tree. The branch falls from the tree and destroys the machine.

MEANINGS

- Peer- looking closely
- Gravel – pebbles
- Frail- weak

- Bewildered- confused
- Lawn- grassy patch
- Consumptive- infected with diseases
- Hysterical- excited
- Wedged – to fit into small space
- Mower- machine to cut grass.

B WORDSWORTH- V.S. NAIPAUL

SUMMARY

The story can be interpreted as a coming of age story of a young boy who encounters a stranger at his home. The younger narrator and B Wordsworth soon become friends and this sets the ground for the subsequent interaction between them. The young boy learnt about the immensity of Nature and its soothing power. He also learnt to feel and to empathize.

MEANINGS

- Rogue—wicked fellow

- Cents- currency
- Haul- pull up
- Rite- ritual
- Calypsoes- west Indian songs.



ASSIGNMENT

THE TEMPEST – SHAKESPEARE

ACT – IV Scene – I

(The Masque Scene)

Q.1.) Referring closely to Act IV Scene I:

a) Describe the Masque Scene. What is the significance of the blessings showered by Iris and Ceres on Miranda and Ferdinand?

(8 Marks)

b) What did Prospero tell Ferdinand just before the Masque? How did Ferdinand answer him?

(6 Marks)

c) What do you conclude about Prospero from the events that occur in the Scene?

(6 Marks)

Q.2.) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

“PROSPERO: Say again, where didst thou leave these varlets?

ARIEL: I told you, sir, they were red-hot with drinking;

So full of valour that they smote the air

For breathing in their faces; beat the ground

For kissing of their feet; yet always bending

Towards their project.”

- 1) Whose whereabouts is Prospero asking from Ariel?
- 2) What was the mental state of those 'varlets'?
- 3) What is the plot that 'they' have hatched against Prospero?
- 4) How did Ariel deal with Prospero's conspirators?
- 5) What does Prospero ask Ariel to bring from his house? Why?
- 6) Give the meanings:
 - a) Varlets
 - b) Smote

REVERIE (POEMS)

DOVER BEACH

Q.1. Closely referring to the poem:

a) Describe the moonlight scene described by the poet in the beginning of the poem.

(8 Marks)

b) How does the poet introduce the note of melancholy and disturbance? What does he say about Faith?

(6Marks)

c) What does the poet say about the world in which he finds himself? What is the only hope left for mankind?

(6 Marks)

ECHOES (SHORT STORIES)

THE SOUND MACHINE

Q.1.How does Roald Dahl depict the theme of obsession in his short story 'The Sound Machine'?

(20 Marks)

B. WORDSWORTH

Q.2. Referring closely to the short story:

- a) Describe the interaction between B. Wordsworth and the young narrator.
- b) What did the narrator learn from his friend?
- c) Do you feel B. Wordsworth was an escapist? Give reasons.

***NOTE : The given assignment is to be done in a register.**
