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Reading Selection 2.3

Lesson No. 6

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I Dream a World

میاں دنیا کا خواب دیکھتا ہوں

Langston Hughes

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I dream a world where man

No other man will scorn

contempt; despise

Where love will bless the earth

And peace its path adorn.

میں ایک ایسی دنیا کا خواب دیکھتا ہوں جہاں انسان

ایک دوسرے سے نفرت نہ کرے۔

جہاں محبت زمین پر مہربان ہو گئی

اور امن اپنا راستہ سجائے گا۔

I dream a world where all

Will know sweet freedom's way,

Where greed no longer saps the soul

deplete; weaken

Nor avarice blights our day.

greed; blast, destroy

میں ایک ایسی دنیا کا خواب دیکھتا ہوں جہاں تمام لوگ

میٹھی آزادی سے آشنا ہوں گے

جہاں لالچ روح کو مزید نہیں جو سے گی

اور نہ ہی لالچ ہمارے وقت کو تباہ کرے گی۔

A world I dream where black or white,

Whatever race you be,

Will share the bounties of the earth wealth, riches

And every man is free.

میں ایک ایسی دنیا کا خواب دیکھتا ہوں جہاں پر سیاہ اور سفید (انسان)

چاہے اُن کی نسل کچھ بھی ہو۔

دنیا کی نعمتوں (خزانوں) کو مانگیں گے

اور ہر انسان آزاد ہوگا۔

Where wretchedness will hang its head,

poverty; misery

And joy, like a pearl,

Attend the needs of all mankind.

Of such I dream my world!

جہاں غربت خود کو پھانسی چڑھائے گی۔ (خود کو ختم کر دے گی)

اور خوشی موتی کی طرح

تمام انسانوں کی ضروریات پوری کرے گی

ایسی دنیا کا میں خواب دیکھتا ہوں۔

About the Poet

James Langston Hughes, (1902-1967), a black poet, was born in Missouri, USA. He was a versatile writer, a poet, novelist and playwright who wrote more than 35 books. He held posts at the University of Chicago and Atlanta.

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

"I DREAM A WORLD"

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

The poem begins with the phrase "I dream a world" which makes it clear that the poet is in hope for something better and in the rest of the poem, he will describe his dream. The poet says that he dreams of a world where no man will ever tease or discriminate against other men. The other men are no other but the Blacks. They will be treated like Whites. In such a world there will be love and peace everywhere which will make it more beautiful. The love here is the love for the Blacks and the peace is the eradication of discrimination. In this poem, the poet expresses his desire for freedom from discrimination, love and peace. The second stanza also begins with the phrase, I dream a world.

The poet says that he desires a world where everybody (especially the Blacks) will enjoy the freedom-the freedom of speech, the freedom to roam

anywhere etc. There will be no greed i.e. everybody will lend a helping hand. There will be no disease of materialistic desires.

In this poem, the poet expresses his desire for freedom and a greed-free world. In the 3rd stanza, the poet for the first time uses the word 'black'.

According to him, he wants a world where everybody be it White or Black, will have access to the resources without any discrimination. And there will be complete freedom in doing that. In this poem, he expresses her desire for freedom to use Country resources without any discrimination or restriction. In the final stanza, he says that in such a world, there will be no misery (Where wretchedness will hang its head). And everybody will have access to joy. Thus, the poem is all about the dream of the poet for the Blacks who have suffered on the basis of their race and colour.

Understanding the Poem

1. This simple but beautiful poem presents before us the dream vision of a Utopia, an ideal world which has perfect peace and harmony; where freedom rules supreme and everyone lives a blessed life. Let's study the poem stanza by stanza.

- The first stanza envisions a world that is blessed with love and peace, where no one despises another.
- The second stanza envisages a world where all enjoy freedom, where greed and avarice do not destroy people's peace of mind.
- The third stanza visualizes a world which is free of discrimination on the basis of colour and race, where all share natural resources.
- The last stanza dreams of a world where there is no poverty, no misery; where joy and happiness serve all mankind. The poet says that he dreams of such a world for all.

2. Do you think such a world is possible? If not, why not?

Ans: No, the dreams of a world where there is no poverty, no misery; where joy and happiness serve all mankind is not possible.

Writing

3. Now that you have understood the poem, write a paraphrase / explanation of the poem in your own words.

Ans: Stanza No. 1

I dream a world where man

No other man will scorn,

Where love will bless the earth

And peace its path adorn.

Paraphrase:

I dream a world where no one will hate with others. I think of a world that is blessed with love and peace. Where there is a rule of love on the whole earth. The earth looks more attractive by decorating it. Where human rights are not violated and where people would behave like real human being.

Reference to Context:

These lines have been taken from the poem "I Dream a World" and composed by "Langston Hughes".

In this poem, the poet has presented an ideal concept of human life on the earth where everyone enjoys every facility of life. He wishes to have a quarrel free world. He also wishes to have a peaceful world where no one hates with others and

where no concept of greed with others. The life on earth should exactly resemble the life of heaven, where there will be peace and good-will.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet dreams of an ideal world. He presents before us an ideal world. He has a humanistic attitude towards life. He dreams of a world where no one has developed deep hatred for any one, where there is a rule of love. He wishes peace to have a world, where there are no quarrels, no wars and no killing. The people should have the feelings of love and sympathy for others. He likes to live in a society where there is peace and security of life and property. He likes to live in a society where human rights are not violated ruthlessly and where people should behave like real human beings and not like wild animals.

Stanza No. 2

I dream a world where all
Win know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.

Paraphrase:

I dream a world where everyone will enjoy freedom of expression and action. Where greed will not destroy the soul. Where extreme desire for wealth will not spoil the nature of man when people will be most successful and famous.

Reference to Context:

These lines have been taken from the poem "I Dream a World" and composed by "Langston Hughes".

In this poem, the poet has presented an ideal concept of human life on the earth where everyone enjoys every facility of life. He wishes to have a quarrel free world. He also wishes to have a peaceful world where no one hates with others and where no concept of greed with others. The life on earth should exactly resemble the life of heaven, where there will be peace and good-will.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet describes his dream vision and envisions this world as a global village, when people living in different nation, different races and different religions shall live like brothers with one another. He dreams of a world where all men are free and no one is the slave of another's will. He dreams a world where everyone enjoys freedom of expression, action and thought. He dreams of a world where greed will not badly destroy the soul gradually. He thinks of a world where people do not have extreme desire for wealth because greed is curse and fatal for the well-being of the people. The desire of having more and more wealth has spoiled the life of many people in the past. As a mother of fact, wealth is the root cause of all evils in the world. The poet dreams a world which is fully free from all social evils.

Stanza No. 3

A world I dream where black or white,

Whatever race you be,

Will share the bounties of the earth

And every man is free.

Paraphrase:

I envision a world a world where there will be no discrimination on the basis of colour, caste and race where all will share the natural resources of the world without racial difference where all human beings will be free to think and free to act.

Reference to Context: -

These lines have been taken from the poem "I Dream a World" and composed by "Langston Hughes".

In this poem, the poet has presented an ideal concept of human life on the earth where everyone enjoys every facility of life. He wishes to have a quarrel free world. He also wishes to have a peaceful world where no one hates with others and where no concept of greed with others. The life on earth should exactly resemble the life of heaven, where there will be peace and good-will.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet presented before us an ideal world. He visualizes a world which is free from discrimination on the basis of colour and race, where the people of the world lead a free life and where all the people share the natural resources of the world. He dreams a world where there is no craze to conquer or capture others. In the past, one nation or country used to attack another nation to make them slaves, but in the ideal world of the poet himself, there should be no slavery and aggression. All the people will be considered equal and free in the ideal world of the poet. The whites will not hate with black. If these things are not there then of course peace will prevail in that world and they will enjoy equal rights.

Stanza No. 4

Where wretchedness will hang its head,

And joy, like a pearl,
Attend the needs of all mankind.
Of such I dream my world!

Paraphrase:

I dream a world where there is no poverty and no shortage of bread and butter, where happiness, prosperity, freedom and joy will serve all mankind. Where joy and happiness would spread like fragrance. Where the needs of all mankind will be fulfilled and no one has to borrow or steal.

Reference to Context: -

These lines have been taken from the poem "I Dream a World" and composed by "Langston Hughes".

In this poem, the poet has presented an ideal concept of human life on the earth where everyone enjoys every facility of life. He wishes to have a quarrel free world. He also wishes to have a peaceful world where no one hates with others and where no concept of greed with others. The life on earth should exactly resemble the life of heaven, where there will be peace and good-will.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet presented before us the vision of an ideal world. He envisions a world where there is no concept of injustice. In the ideal world of the poet, there will be no injustice; the people will be prosperous and happy. The needs of the people will easily be filled. There will be no ugly things such as poverty and misery. Poverty is the mother of all social evils. If there is no poverty, there will be no cruelty or injustice; joy, peace and happiness will prevail over the human souls. The people will enjoy the resources of the world equally; no one has to beg, borrow or steal. Consequently, evil ways of living would come to an end.

4. Incidentally, all three writers in this unit, Dr King, Nelson Mandela, Langston Hughes, are Black. And you must have noted that they have used very forceful language to communicate their message to the people. Write an essay about the circumstances that led them to be so passionate, so vocal and so forceful? Who do you think is more forceful and why? You will need to do some research to answer We question. Internet is a great source of such information.

Ans: Dr. King, Nelson Mendela and Langston Houges are black. They have used forceful language to convey their massage to the people. The circumstances of the time made them so vocal and forceful. The black people were facing hardship in those days. They were not given rights. They were thought the skunk of the world. They were treated badly and severely in society.

Dr. King, Nelson Mendela and Langston Hughes spoke for the rights of black but Nelson Mendela's hope is more effective and forceful.

5. Compare and contrast Dr King's dream and Nelson Mandela's hope with that of Langston Hughes.

Ans: Dr. King, Nelson Mendela and Langston Hughes spoke for the rights of black but Nelson Mendela's hope is more effective and forceful.

6. Use the following chart to record your statement of the meaning of the poem and your observations about the techniques of the poem. Each column in the chart deals with one of the poetic techniques.

Meaning/Theme:				
STANZA TYPE	SPEAKER	SOUND	IMAGERY	FIGURATIVE

				LANGUAGE
Stanza:	Human:	Rhyme:	Sight (Visual):	Similes:
Couplets	The Poet	Rhythm:	Hearing (Aural):	Metaphors:
Tersest	Man/Woman	Alliteration:	Smell (Olfactory):	Implied metaphors:
Quatrains	Mother/Father	Consonance:	Taste (Gustatory):	Other Devices:
Quintets	Young/Old	Assonance:	Touch (Tactile):	
Sestets	Boy/Girl	Onomatopoeia:		
Octave	Son/Daughter			
Strophes:	Non-human: Animals Wild Domestic Plants			

Language Study

Articles

The Adjectives a, an and the are usually called Articles. They are really Demonstrative Adjectives.

There are two Articles _____ a (or an) and the.

A or an is called the Indefinite Article because it leaves Indefinite the person or thing spoken of; as, a doctor, that is, any doctor

The is called the Definite Article because it points out some particular person or thing, as, He saw the doctor; meaning some particular doctor.

A or An

The choice between a and an is determined by sound. Before a word beginning with a vowel sound an is used; as,

An ass an enemy, an inkstand, an orange, an umbrella, an hour, an honest man, an heir

It will be noticed that the words hour, honest and heir begin with a vowel sound, as the initial consonant h is not pronounced.

Before a word beginning with a consonant sound a is used; as, a boy, a reindeer, a woman, a yard, a horse, a hole, also a university, a union, a European, a ewe, a useful article

Because these words (university, union etc.) begin with a consonant sound, that of you

Similarly, we say

a one-rupee note, such a one, a one-eyed man.

Because one begins with the consonant sound of w.

Before words beginning with h and not accented on the first syllable, an is often used, as,

An historical novel, an hotel.

Note: The article 'a' can also be used with it.

Use of the Definite Article

The Definite Article the is used _____

(1) When we speak of a particular person or thing or one already referred to; as,

- The book you want is out of print.
- I dislike the fellow.
- Let us go to the club.

(2) When a singular noun is meant to represent a whole class; as

- The cow is a useful animal.
[Or we may say, "Cows are useful animals"]

- The horse is a noble animal.
- The cat loves comfort.
- The rose is the sweetest of all flowers.
- The banyan is a kind of fig tree.
- [Do not say, "a kind of a fig tree". This is a common error.]

Notice that the two nouns man and woman used in the general sense to denote the whole class never have either article.

- Man is the only animal that uses fire.
- Woman is man's mate.

(3) With names of gulfs, rivers, seas, oceans, groups of islands and mountain-ranges; as,

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • The Persian Gulf. | • London is on the Thames. |
| • The Red sea. | • The Indian Ocean. |
| • The British Isles. | • The Himalayas lie to the North of India. |

- The Alps.

We also say _____

The Ukraine, the Crimea, the Hangu

- (4)** Before the names of certain books; as,

The Vedas, the Puranas, the Iliad, the Ramayana.

But we say _____

Homer's Iliad, Valmiki's Ramayana.

- (5)** Before common nouns which are names of things unique of the kinds; as,
The sun. The sky, The ocean, The sea. The earth.

[Note: Sometimes the is placed before a Common noun to give the meaning of an Abstract noun; as,

At last the warrior (the warlike or martial spirit) in him was thoroughly aroused.

- (6)** Before a Proper noun only when it is qualified by an adjective or a defining adjectival clause; as,

The great Caesar; the immortal Shakespeare.

The Mr. Abrar whom you met last night is my uncle.

- (7)** With Superlatives; as, The darkest cloud has a silver lining.

This is the best book of elementary chemistry.

- (8)** With ordinals; as, He was the man to arrive.

The ninth chapter of the book is very interesting.

- (9)** Before musical instruments; as, He can play the flute.

- (10)** Before an adjective when the noun is understood; as,

The poor are always with us.

(11) Before a noun (with emphasis) to give the force of a Superlative; as, The Verb is the word (= the chief word) in a sentence.

(12) As an Adverb with Comparatives; as, The more the merrier.

(= By how much more, by so much the merrier)

The more they get, the more they want.

Use of the Indefinite Article

The Indefinite Article is used _____

(1) In its original numeral sense of one; as,

- Twelve inches make a foot.
- Not a word was said.
- A word to the wise is sufficient.
- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

(2) In the vague sense of a certain; as,

A Ranchod Pitamber (= a certain person named Ranchod Pitamber) is suspected by the police.

One evening a beggar came to my door.

(3) In the sense of any to single out an individual as the representative of a class; as,

- A pupil should obey his teacher.
- A cow is a useful animal.

(4) To make a common noun of a proper noun; as,

A Daniel came to judgment! (A Daniel=a very wise man).

Omission of the Article

The Article is omitted

(1) Before a common noun used in its widest sense; as,

- Man is mortal.
- What kind of flower is it?

(2) Before names of materials; as,

- Gold is a precious metal.
- Cotton grows in America, Egypt and Pakistan.

(3) Usually before Proper nouns; as,

- Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan.
- Lahore is a big city.
- Newton was a great philosopher.

Note: When the Article is used before Proper nouns, they become common nouns; as,

- This man is a second Newton [i.e. a philosopher as great as Newton].
- He was the Napoleon of his age [i.e. the greatest general of his time]
- Bombay is the Manchester of India [i.e. the greatest manufacturing city]
- He is the Shakespeare of the country (i.e. the greatest poet)

(4) Before Abstract nouns used in a general sense; as,

- Wisdom is the gift of heaven.
- Falsehood is odious.
- Honesty is the best policy.

- Virtue is its own reward.

Note: An Abstract noun, when it is qualified by an adjective or an adjectival phrase or clause, may have the article, as,

- The wisdom of Solomon is famous.
- He showed a courage worthy of an older man.
- I cannot forget the kindness with which he treated me.

(5) Before languages; as,

- We are studying English.
- He prefers French.

(6) Before school, college, church, bed, table, hospital, market and prison when these places are visited or used for their primary purpose; as,

- The school is very near my home.
- I met him at the market.
- The bed is broken.
- I went to the hospital to see your uncle.

(7) Before names of relations, like father, mother, aunt, uncle, and also cook and nurse, meaning 'our cook', 'our nurse', as,

- Father has returned.
- Aunt wants you to see her.
- Cook has given notice.

(8) Before predicative nouns denoting a unique position, i.e. a position that is normally held at one time by one person only; as,

- He was elected chairman of the Board.
- Mr. Babar became Principal of the college in 1965.

(9) In certain phrases consisting of a transitive verb followed by its object; as, To catch fire, to take breath, to give battle, to cast anchor, to send word, to bring word, to give ear, to lay siege, to set sail, to lose heart, to set foot, to leave home, to strike root, to take offence.

(10) In certain phrases consisting of a preposition followed by its object; as, At home, in hand, in debt, by day, by night, at daybreak, at sunrise, at noon, at sunset, at night, at anchor, at sight, on demand, at interest, on earth, by land, by water, by river, by train, by steamer, by name, on horseback, on foot, on deck, in jest, at dinner, at ease, underground, above ground.

EXERCISE

Complete the following sentences by filling in a or an or the as may be suitable.

- 1) Copper is **a** useful metal.
- 2) He is not **an** honorable man.
- 3) **An** able man has not always a distinguished look.
- 4) **The** reindeer is a native of Norway.
- 5) Honest men speak **the** truth.
- 6) Rustum is **a** young Parsee.
- 7) Do you see **the** blue sky?
- 8) Aladdin had **a** wonderful lamp.
- 9) The world is **a** happy place.
- 10) He returned after **an** hour.
- 11) **The** school will shortly close for the Eid holidays.
- 12) **The** sun shines brightly.

- 13) I first met him **a** year ago.
- 14) Yesterday **a** European called at my office.
- 15) Pashto is **a** difficult language.
- 16) **The** Ganga is a sacred river.
- 17) **The** lion is the king of beasts.
- 18) You are **a** fool to say that.
- 19) French is **an** easy language.
- 20) **The** French defeated the Germans.
- 21) Which is **the** longest river in Pakistan?
- 22) Raja has come without **an** umbrella.
- 23) Islamabad is **a** very dear place to live in.
- 24) She is **an** untidy girl.
- 25) The children found **an** egg in the nest.
- 26) I bought a horse, **an** ox, and a buffalo.
- 27) If you see him, give him **a** message.
- 28) English is the language of **the** people of England.