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My Struggle for an Education

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एक दिन, कोयले की खदान में काम करते समय संयोग से मैंने दो खनिकों को वर्जीनिया में किसी स्थान पर बने अश्वेत लोगों के एक विशाल स्कूल के बारे में बातें करते हुए सुना। यह पहला अवसर था जब मैंने किसी ऐसे स्कूल या कॉलेज के विषय में सुना था जो हमारे कस्बे में बने अश्वेत लोगों के छोटे-से स्कूल से कहीं अधिक आकर्षक था।

उन्होंने जैसे-जैसे उस स्कूल का वर्णन किया, मुझे ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ कि पृथ्वी पर यह सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्थान होगा। उस समय मुझे स्वर्ग भी इतना अधिक आकर्षक प्रतीत नहीं हुआ जितना कि वर्जीनिया का हैम्पटन नॉर्मल एण्ड एग्रीकल्चरल इंस्टीट्यूट, जिसके विषय में ये लोग बातें कर रहे थे। मैंने तुरंत ही उस स्कूल में जाने का निश्चय किया, यद्यपि मुझे तनिक भी यह कल्पना नहीं थी कि वह कहाँ है या कितने मील दूर है या मैं वहाँ कैसे पहुँच सकता हूँ। मेरे मन में लगातार एक ही विचार हिलोरे ले रहा था और वह था हैम्पटन जाने का। मैं दिन-रात इसी विषय में सोचता रहता था।

सन् 1872 के पतझड़ के मौसम में, मैंने वहाँ पहुँचने का दृढ़ निश्चय कर लिया। मेरी माता इस गंभीर आशंका से दुःखी थी कि मैं एक असंभव कार्य की कोशिश करने जा रहा हूँ। फिर भी किसी भी कीमत पर मैंने उनसे अनमने ढंग से जाने की स्वीकृति प्राप्त कर ली। कपड़े खरीदने और मार्ग-व्यय के लिए मेरे पास बहुत कम धन था। मेरे भाई जॉन ने अपनी सामर्थ्य के अनुसार पूरी सहायता की परन्तु वास्तव में वह पर्याप्त नहीं थी।

अन्ततः वह शुभ दिन आ गया और मैं हैम्पटन के लिए रवाना हो गया। मेरे पास केवल एक छोटा-सा सस्ता थैला था जिसमें ऐसे कुछ कपड़े थे जो मुझे प्राप्त हुए थे। उस समय मेरी माँ इतनी अधिक कमजोर और अस्वस्थ थीं कि उन्हें पुनः देख पाने की आशा नहीं के बराबर थी और इसी कारण हमारा बिछोह अधिक दुःखदायी हो गया था। फिर भी उन्होंने आखिर तक हिम्मत बनाए रखी।

माल्डन से हैम्पटन की दूरी लगभग पाँच सौ मील है। पैदल चलकर तथा प्रार्थना करते हुए घोड़ा-गाड़ियों व कारों में स्थान पाकर किसी प्रकार मैं कई दिनों के बाद वर्जीनिया के रिचमॉन्ड नगर पहुँचा जो हैम्पटन से 82 मील पहले था। जब मैं थका हुआ, भूखा और धूल भरा वहाँ पहुँचा तो काफी रात हो चुकी थी।

इससे पहले मैं, कभी किसी बड़े शहर में नहीं गया था, इस कारण मुझे अधिक परेशानी हुई। जब मैं रिचमॉन्ड पहुँचा तब मेरे पास कुछ भी धन नहीं बचा था। उस स्थान पर मैं किसी को जानता-पहचानता भी नहीं था और शहरी तौर-तरीकों से अनजान होने के कारण मुझे नहीं पता था कि कहाँ जाऊँ। मैंने ठहरने के लिए अनेक जगहों पर पूछताछ की किंतु सभी लोग धन चाहते थे जो मेरे पास नहीं था। कोई दूसरा उपाय समझ में न आने के कारण मैं गलियों में भटकता रहा।

मैं आधी रात के बाद तक गलियों में घूमता रहा। अन्त में मैं इतना थक गया कि और अधिक नहीं चल सकता था। मैं थका हुआ था, मैं भूखा था, मैं सबकुछ था लेकिन निराश नहीं था। जब मैं शारीरिक रूप से थककर बिलकुल चूर हो गया तो एक गली के उस किनारे पर पहुँचा जहाँ चौड़ी पगडण्डी ऊपर उठी हुई थी। मैंने कुछ क्षणों के लिए प्रतीक्षा की जब तक कि मैं आश्वस्त नहीं हो गया कि कोई पथिक मुझे देख नहीं रहा है और तब खिसककर मैं पगडण्डी के नीचे पहुँच गया और अपने थैले को तकिये की तरह लगाकर रातभर भूमि पर लेटा रहा। लगभग सारी रात मैं लोगों के पैरों की धम-धम चलने की आवाज अपने सिर के ऊपर सुनता रहा।

अगले दिन प्रातःकाल मैंने अपने को कुछ तरोताजा महसूस किया, परन्तु मैं बहुत अधिक भूखा था। ज्योंही इतना प्रकाश हुआ कि मैं अपने चारों ओर सबकुछ देख सकूँ तो मैंने देखा कि मैं एक बड़े जहाज के निकट हूँ। ऐसा लगता था कि उससे कच्चा लोहा उतारा जा रहा है। मैं तुरन्त उस जहाज के पास गया और कप्तान से विनती की कि वह मुझे जहाज से माल उतारने के काम में लगा ले ताकि मैं भोजन के लिए कुछ धन जुटा सकूँ। वह कप्तान जो एक गौरा व्यक्ति था दयालु दिखाई दे रहा था, सहमत हो गया। मैंने नाश्ते के लिए धन जुटाने के लिए काफी देर तक काम किया और मुझे ऐसा लगता है, जैसा कि मुझे अब भी याद है कि वह नाश्ता मेरे द्वारा किए गए सभी नाश्तों में सबसे अधिक रुचिकर था।

मेरे कार्य ने कप्तान को इतना सन्तुष्ट कर दिया कि उसने मुझसे कहा कि मैं प्रतिदिन के हिसाब से कुछ धनराशि कमाने के लिए काम जारी रख सकता हूँ। मैं ऐसा करने के लिए बहुत प्रसन्न था। मैं उस जहाज पर कई दिनों तक कार्य करता रहा। अपनी थोड़ी-सी मजदूरी में से भोजन पर व्यय करने के बाद उतना नहीं बचा पाता था कि मैं हैम्पटन जाने का खर्चा उठा सकूँ। हरसंभव उपाय से बचत की दृष्टि से मैंने पगडण्डी के नीचे सोना जारी रखा।

जब मैंने हैम्पटन जाने के लिए काफी धन बचा लिया तब मैंने जहाज के कप्तान को उसके अहसानों के लिए धन्यवाद दिया और

पुनः चल पड़ा। बिना किसी असामान्य घटना के मैं अपनी बचत के पूरे पचास सैंट, जिनसे मुझे अपनी शिक्षा आरंभ करनी थी, के साथ हैम्पटन पहुँच गया। स्कूल के तिमंजिले पक्के विशाल भवन को पहली दृष्टि में देखकर ही मुझे लगा कि वहाँ तक पहुँचने के लिए मुझे जिन परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ा है उनका मुझे प्रतिफल मिल गया है। उस दृश्य ने मानों मुझे नया जीवन दे दिया।

हैम्पटन इंस्टीट्यूट के प्रांगण में पहुँचते ही मैं जितनी जल्दी संभव था उतनी जल्दी कक्षा में प्रवेश के लिए मुख्य अध्यापिका के सम्मुख उपस्थित हुआ। काफी लंबे समय तक सही भोजन और स्नान न करने तथा कपड़े न बदल पाने के कारण, वास्तव में मैं उनके ऊपर बहुत अच्छा प्रभाव नहीं डाल सका। मैंने तुरन्त भाँप लिया कि उनके मन में मुझे विद्यार्थी के रूप में प्रवेश देने में दुविधा है। कुछ समय तक उन्होंने प्रवेश देने से न तो इनकार ही किया और न ही मेरे पक्ष में निर्णय लिया। मैं उनके नजदीक ही चक्कर लगाता रहा और हर प्रकार से अपनी योग्यता के अनुसार उन्हें प्रभावित करने का प्रयत्न करता रहा। इसी बीच मैंने उन्हें अन्य विद्यार्थियों को प्रवेश देते हुए देखा और इससे मेरी बेचैनी बहुत बढ़ गई। मैंने मन की गहराई में महसूस किया कि मैं भी उनकी तरह कार्य करने योग्य हूँ यदि मुझे वह जो मेरे अन्दर है दिखाने का एक मौका मिल जाए।

कुछ घंटे बीत जाने के पश्चात् मुख्य अध्यापिका ने मुझसे कहा, “बराबर वाले गायन कक्ष में सफाई की आवश्यकता है। झाड़ू लो और उसे साफ कर दो।”

मेरे मन में तुरन्त यह विचार आया कि मेरे लिए यह सुअवसर है। मैंने इससे पहले कभी भी कोई आदेश इतनी प्रसन्नता से स्वीकार नहीं किया था।

मैंने गायन कक्ष में तीन बार झाड़ू लगाई, फिर मैंने झाड़ू लिया और उससे इसे चार बार झाड़ा। दीवार के चारों ओर के लकड़ी के सामान, सभी बेंचों, मेजों और डेस्कों को मैंने झाड़ू से चार बार साफ किया। इसके अतिरिक्त सभी फर्नीचर को अपने स्थान से हटाया और कमरे की सभी अलमारियों और एक-एक कोने को पूरी तरह साफ कर दिया। मैं अनुभव कर रहा था कि मेरा भविष्य बहुत बड़ी सीमा तक, इस कमरे की सफाई से अध्यापिका के ऊपर पड़ने वाले मेरे प्रभाव पर आधारित है। जब मेरा काम पूरा हो गया, मैंने मुख्य अध्यापिका को सूचित कर दिया। वे पूर्वोत्तर अमेरिकी (यांकी) महिला थीं जो जानती थी कि धूल और गन्दगी को किस स्थान पर खोजा जाए। वे कमरे में गई तथा फर्श और अलमारियों का निरीक्षण किया, फिर उन्होंने अपना रूमाल लिया और दीवारों के पास लगे हुए लकड़ी के सामान, मेज और बेंचों पर रगड़ा। जब उन्हें फर्श पर तनिक-सी भी गन्दगी या किसी भी फर्नीचर पर धूल का एक कण भी नहीं मिल सका तो उन्होंने शान्त भाव से कहा, “मैं सोचती हूँ कि तुम इस संस्था में प्रवेश पाने के योग्य हो।”

उस समय मैं पृथ्वी पर सर्वाधिक प्रसन्न लोगों में से एक था। उस कमरे की सफाई करना मेरे लिए कॉलेज की परीक्षा थी। उसके बाद से मैंने अनेक परीक्षाएँ उत्तीर्ण की हैं, परन्तु मैंने सदैव यह महसूस किया कि अब तक उत्तीर्ण की गई सभी परीक्षाओं में यह सर्वोत्तम थी.....।

EXERCISE

Explanation

Explain with reference to the context the following:

1. As they me day and night.

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the essay 'My Struggle for an Education'. The writer 'Booker T. Washington' is a Negro educator and reformer.

On hearing about the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia from the two miners, Booker decided to go to that school. In these lines he tells how the description of the school fascinated him.

Explanation: As the two miners described the school, it appeared to be the greatest and attractive place to the author. Even the school appeared to be more attractive place than the Heaven to him, at that time. He decided to go to the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia one day. Although he had no idea about its location but his ambition to reach Hampton made him work day and night.

Comment: The passage has an idiom 'set on fire'. It means to make someone passionate to achieve something.

2. In the fall it all.

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the essay 'My Struggle for an Education'. The writer 'Booker T. Washington' is a Negro educator and reformer.

Booker decided to go to Hampton, in the fall of 1872 but his mother was very worried. He had very little money but his brother John helped him. Finally, he started his journey to Hampton after saying goodbye to his mother.

Explanation: In the autumn season of 1872, Booker made an effort to go there but his mother was against his decision. She had a serious fear that he was searching for an unobtainable thing but half-heartedly she gave him permission to go and start his journey. He had little money but his brother John helped him. Finally the day of his departure came. He had a small cheap satchal that has few things that

he could get to carry with him. His mother was so sick that he hardly hoped to see her again. And this made their parting more sad. But Booker's mother was a courageous lady so she did not come in the way of his son's ambition and bid him farewell.

Comments: The passage has an idiom '**a wild-goose chase**'. It means a foolish search for something non-existent and unobtainable.

3. **I had never streets.**

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the essay '**My Struggle for an Education**'. The writer '**Booker T. Washington**' is a Negro educator and reformer. Booker, reached a large city Richmond and was completely out of money. He neither have any relative and friend nor money so this made him more miserable.

Explanation: The author reached a very large city Richmond. He was new to the city and did not know anyone so this made him more miserable. Moreover, he had no money left so he had no place for lodging. Therefore, he decided to walk on the streets.

4. **I must have feet over my head.**

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the essay '**My Struggle for an Education**'. The writer '**Booker T. Washington**' is a Negro educator and reformer. Booker, walked on the streets after midnight. He was feeling tired, hungry and weak. Then, he saw a broad sidewalk which was sufficiently raised above the ground and the slept under it.

Explanation: The author walked on the streets after midnight and was feeling tired, hungry and weak. Finally he saw a broad sidewalk which was raised above the ground. He waited for few minutes so that no passers by could see him crawling under the sidewalk. He laid there for the night and made his bag of clothes his pillow. He could not have a sound sleep because he can clearly hear the sound of footsteps of the passengers walking on the sidewalk, the whole night.

5. **The next morning ever eaten.**

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the essay '**My Struggle for an Education**'. The writer '**Booker T. Washington**' is a Negro educator and reformer.

The author felt refreshed and hungry after waking up next morning. In order to get money for food he worked in a ship.

Explanation: After waking up the author felt hungry. Therefore, he looked his surroundings for a job. He saw a large ship from which a cargo of pig iron was being unloaded. So, he asked the captain of the ship for a job. Finally, the captain allowed him to unload the vessel and get money for food. He worked there for a long time in order to earn money to have food.

6. **When new life.**

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the lesson '**My Struggle for an Education**'. The writer '**Booker T. Washington**' is a Negro educator and reformer.

The author started his journey to Hampton, when he had saved enough money. The first sight of the school made him forget all the miseries and hardship he faced to reach there.

Explanation: When the author had saved enough money to reach Hampton, he thanked the captain and bid farewell. He reached Hampton with an extra money of fifty cents from which he can begin his education. The first sight of the large, three-storey brick school building made him forget all the pain which he faced to reach there. The sight of the college give him a beginning of a new life as he reached his goal and he can make a better future by studying in that school.

7. **As soon as was in me.**

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the essay '**My Struggle for an Education**'. The writer '**Booker T. Washington**' is a Negro educator and reformer.

The author meet the head teacher for allotment to a class. But the teacher neither refused nor admitted him as a student.

Explanation: As the author reached the grounds of the Hampton school, he immediately went to the head teacher for his allotment to a class. But he did not made a favourable impression upon the teacher because of his improper looks and clothing. The author could see the doubts in her mind about his admission as a student but she did not refused him. The author continued to stay near to her and impress her so that he could get admission. He saw the other students taking admission and this worried him. He felt that if he could get the admission or chance to prove his worth, he can surely do better than the other students.

8. **I swept institution.**

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the essay '**My Struggle for an Education**'. The writer '**Booker T. Washington**' is a Negro educator and reformer.

The author swept the recitation room and cleaned everything thoroughly. Finally the head teacher inspected the room and allotted him a class.

Explanation: The author swept the recitation room three times and then dusted it four times. He cleaned all the woodwork around the walls, every bench, table and desk. He cleaned every corner and closet properly. After cleaning thoroughly, he reported to the head teacher. The head teacher was a Yankee woman who inspected the floor and closets. She inspected the woodwork around the wall and over the table and benches through her handkerchief. When she was unable to find a single bit of dirt she told him that he can enter the institution.

9. **I was one of one I ever passed.**

Reference to context: These lines are taken from the essay 'My Struggle for an Education'. The writer 'Booker T. Washington' is a Negro educator and reformer.

After being passed in the test of cleaning the recitation room, the author was very happy. He felt that he was the happiest person on the earth.

Explanation: The head teacher saw that Booker had cleaned the room thoroughly. She decided to admit him to the school. He was glad to hear it. He felt that he was one of the happiest man in the world. Cleaning that room was a very important test for him. It was like an examination in the college. He passed many more examinations after that. But no other examination gave him so much joy and excitement. So he regards it as the best of all the examinations of his life.

Comprehension

Read the following passages and answer the questions given below them:

1. **I must have over my head.**

Questions with their answers:

(i) **What did the author search for till late in the night?**

Ans: The author was searching for some proper place to take rest at night.

(ii) **What quality of character of the author stands out in the passage?**

Ans: The author is courageous and determined because despite of feeling hungry and tired he did not loose hope.

(iii) **How do you know that the author could not sleep peacefully in the night?**

Ans: The author could not sleep peacefully in night because he could clearly hear the tramp of feet passing over his head as he was sleeping under sidewalk.

(iv) **Why do you think the author tried not to be seen by anyone while going to sleep?**

Ans: The author tried not to be seen by anyone while going to sleep because he was feeling ashamed and hesitated. He also thought that nobody will disturb him if he crept under sidewalk quietly.

2. **The next ever eaten.**

Questions with their answers:

(i) **How did the author feel like when he got up next morning?**

Ans: The next morning the author felt refreshed but at the same time he was extremely hungry.

(ii) **Why did the author go to the vessel?**

Ans: The author went to the vessel in order to get job for earn money for food.

(iii) **What kind of man was the captain?**

Ans: The captain was a kind hearted man.

(iv) **Why does the author call the breakfast as the best breakfast of his life?**

Ans: The author worked long and hard enough to earn money to have breakfast. Therefore, he called the breakfast as the best breakfast of his life as it was earned by hard labour.

3. **When I had new life.**

Questions with their answers:

(i) **When did the author thank the captain?**

Ans: When the author had saved enough money to reach Hampton then he thanked the captain for offering him job.

(ii) **What rewarded the author for all he had undergone?**

Ans: The first sight of the large, three-storey brick school building fascinated the author and he felt rewarded for all the suffering through which he had undergone to reach there.

(iii) **What was the amount of money with which the author reached Hampton?**

Ans: The author reached Hampton with an extra amount of fifty cents.

(iv) **What gave a new life to the author?**

Ans: The first sight of the school building fascinated the author. It seemed to him as a reward of his hard labour and a beginning of a new life.

4. As soon as in me.

Questions with their answers:

(i) **What did the author do to present himself for assignment to a class?**

Ans: The author presented himself as soon as possible for assignment to a class.

(ii) **Why did the author could not make a favourable impression upon the head teacher?**

Ans: The author could not make a favourable impression upon the head teacher because of his untidy looks.

(iii) **Why did the author continue to linger about the head teacher?**

Ans: The author continued to linger about the head teacher because neither she enrolled him to a class nor she refused.

(iv) **What added greatly to the discomfort of the author?**

Ans: The author saw that the head teacher was enrolling other students to the class, this added greatly to his discomfort.

5. I swept the recitation this institution.

Questions with their answers:

(i) **Why do you think the author dusted the room after sweeping it?**

Ans: The author dusted the room four times after sweeping it because he did not want the head teacher to find a single bit of dirt anywhere inside the room. As his future depended upon the impression he made upon the teacher in cleaning the room.

(ii) **What do you understand by the expression 'woodwork around the walls'?**

Ans: Benches, tables, desks and almirah all the things made of wood refer to the woodwork.

(iii) **How did the head teacher ensure the cleanliness of the room?**

Ans: The head teacher took her handkerchief and rubbed it on the woodwork about the walls and over the table and benches for ensuring the cleanliness of the room.

(iv) **What qualities do you think were needed for admission to the institution?**

Ans: Sincerity, hard working and obedient were the qualities needed for the admission to the institution.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions in not more than 30 words each:

1. **How and when did Booker T. Washington reach Richmond?**

Ans: Booker reached to Richmond by walking and begging or hitchhiking in wagons and in cars. He reached to Richmond after a number of days when he started his journey.

2. **How did the author carry out the work assigned to him?**

Ans: The author carried out his work with proper dedication. He swept the recitation room three times and dusted it four times. He moved every piece of furniture to clean it and also cleaned every closet and corner.

3. **Where was the school for the coloured people situated and what was its full name?**

Ans: The school for the coloured people was situated somewhere in Virginia. Its full name was Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.

4. **What inspired Washington to go to Hampton Institute?**

Ans: The talk between the two miners inspired Washington to go to the Hampton Institute. As they kept on describing the school it appeared to Washington as the best place on earth.

5. **What exactly was his college examination and why?**

Ans: His college examination was cleaning the recitation room properly. The head teacher neither allotted him to a class nor did she refused him. Later, she asked him to sweep the recitation room, cleaning the room was his examination.

6. **'Never did I received an order with more delight'. Which order Booker T. Washington is referring to?**

Ans: The head teacher asked Booker to sweep the room and as it was his only chance to get the admission in the college so he received the order delightfully.

7. **What did Booker T. Washington do to save money?**

Ans: Booker continued to sleep under the sidewalk to save money because after buying the food he could not save much for his journey to Hampton.

8. **What message do you get from the lesson 'My Struggle for an Education'?**

Ans: The message that we get from the lesson is that we should always be focused towards our aim. We should be firm and determined, no matter what the situation is. We should always remember", Hard work leads to success".

9. **How did the teacher test the suitability of Booker to admit him as a student?**

Ans: The teacher asked Booker to clean the room. When he had cleaned the room, she inspected the

cleanliness of the room with her handkerchief and when she found not a single bit of dust, she admitted him as a student.

10. How can you say that the author of the lesson 'My Struggle for an Education' is a man of perseverance?

Ans: The author is a man of perseverance because he continued to work hard as a labourer to reach his destination and then he lingered about the head teacher for admission. He did not lose hope at any point of his journey. He swept the room delightfully as it gave a chance to him to show what was in him.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions in not more than 150 words each:

1. What impression does the essay 'My struggle for an Education' leave upon you?

Ans: Introduction: Washington's essay 'My Struggle for an Education' is full of valuable messages for us. It is a source of inspiration.

Ambition for education: The first thing that we learn is that we should have ambition to obtain knowledge. We should make every possible effort to achieve it like that of the writer. We should not be discouraged by our poverty.

Determination: We should realise the importance of determination. We should never lose courage. Washington was not discouraged even when he was tired and hungry. He had no money, his mother was broken in health and the head teacher did not admit him. He faced every difficulty with determination and succeeded. He kept patience and worked with all his strength to achieve his ambition.

No work is mean: The most important message we get is that every work is noble. We should do everything whole-heartedly. When Washington had no money in Richmond he worked as a labourer on a ship. His work was satisfactory and the captain allowed him to work everyday. At Institute, he swept and cleaned the room gladly. He did it so thoroughly that the head teacher agreed to admit him.

Thus, it shows 'hard work is the key to success'. We should always focus on our goal no matter what the situation is.

2. Describe how Booker T. Washington struggled with various difficulties to reach Hampton?

Ans: Introduction: Booker T. Washington was determined to get education at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia. He had to struggle with many difficulties to reach Hampton.

Financial difficulties: He had very little money. With this small amount it was very difficult to buy clothes and to pay travelling expenses. His brother John helped him. But that was not enough. Hence he put the few articles of clothing which he could get in a small cheap satchel.

Psycho-pressure due to illness of his mother: His mother was very ill when he left for Hampton. He hardly expected to see her again. So their parting was very sad.

Difficulties in journey: Hampton was about five hundred miles away from Malden. By walking, begging rides both wagons and in the cars, he reached the city of Richmond after a number of days. He reached there in the night. He had not a single acquaintance in Richmond. He was tired and hungry. He passed the night under the sidewalk. Next morning, he was extremely hungry. He saw a ship. He worked there to unload a cargo of pig iron to get money for food. He continued working there at a very nominal wages. After buying food there was not much left to pay his way to Hampton. He continued to sleep under the sidewalk.

Conclusion: Hampton was still eighty-two miles away from Richmond. Therefore he continued hard working for money. When he had saved enough money, he started for Hampton. In this way facing the difficulties he could reach his destination.

3. Narrate in your own words how Booker T. Washington secured admission to the Hampton Institute?

Ans: Hampton Institute: Booker T. Washington had to struggle hard for getting education in his boyhood days. One day he heard about the Hampton Institute. It attracted him most. So he had a strong desire to go there. He started for Hampton. He faced great difficulties during his journey. At last he reached Hampton.

The author before the head teacher: He was very happy to see the Institute building. After reaching the grounds of the Hampton Institute, he presented himself before the head teacher for admission. As he had made a long journey to Hampton he was tired, hungry and dirty. So, he could not make a favourable impression upon her. He kept lingering about her. After some hours she asked him to sweep the recitation room.

His sincere work for admission: He thought it was the best chance for him to show his worthiness. He knew that his admission depended on it. So, he carried out her orders gladly. He swept the room three times and dusted it four times. He thoroughly cleaned the furniture and every closet and corner. Then he reported to the head teacher. She inspected the floor and the closets. She took her handkerchief and rubbed it on the woodwork against the walls and over the table and benches. She did not find dirt or a

particle of dust anywhere. She was satisfied and told him that she would admit him. Thus it was through the sweeping of that room sincerely that he got admitted to the Hampton Institute.

It clearly shows that we should be focused toward our aim. Therefore, it is rightly said that, "Where there is a will there is a way".

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the most suitable option:

- I was one of the souls on earth.
(a) saddest (b) biggest (c) highest (d) **happiest**
- I was on fire constantly with one and that was to go to Hampton.
(a) wish (b) desire (c) **ambition** (d) motive
- I was filled with at the thought of it.
(a) **excitement** (b) incitement (c) appointment (d) scent
- Take the broom and it.
(a) **sweep** (b) brush (c) scrub (d) clean
- I found myself somewhat but I was extremely hungry.
(a) tired (b) **refreshed** (c) sleepy (d) pleased
- I reached Hampton, with a surplus of exactly..... cents with which to begin my education.
(a) forty (b) **fifty** (c) twenty (d) sixty
- The recitation room needs sweeping.
(a) good looking (b) attractive (c) dirty (d) **adjoining**
- The of that room was my college examination.
(a) cleaning (b) dusting (c) **sweeping** (d) rubbing
- I expected to see her again, and thus our parting was all the more sad.
(a) never (b) **hardly** (c) scarcely (d) seldom
- My work pleased the captain so well that he told me I could working for the small amount per day.
(a) **continue** (b) stop (c) deny (d) like
- Finally the day came, and I started for Hampton.
(a) mentioned (b) **great** (c) final (d) stated
- The mother at that time was rather weak and broken in
(a) spirit (b) heart (c) **health** (d) mind
- The from Malden to Hampton is about five hundred miles.
(a) area (b) **distance** (c) unity (d) difference
- The author had not a single..... in the city of Richmond.
(a) friend (b) **acquaintance** (c) guardian (d) enemy
- I continued working on this vessel
(a) for many days (b) **for a number of days** (c) for much time (d) for a long time
- It occurred to me at once that was my chance.
(a) never (b) ever (c) **here** (d) it
- I have the feeling that in a large measure my future depended upon the impression I made upon the teacher in the of the room.
(a) washing (b) **cleaning** (c) dusting (d) sweeping
- The school or college was more than the little coloured school in the town.
(a) precious (b) **pretentious** (c) pernicious (d) pious
- I continued to about her and to impress her in all the ways I could with my worthiness.
(a) **linger** (b) cling (c) dodge (d) shout
- In the fall of 1872, I to make an effort to get there.
(a) planned (b) **determined** (c) decided (d) made up my mind
- I must have walked the streets till after.....
(a) midday (b) **midnight** (c) late evening (d) early morning
- The next morning I found myself somewhat refreshed, but I was extremely
(a) **hungry** (b) excited (c) thirsty (d) emotional
- When I was through, I to the head teacher.
(a) **reported** (b) went (c) said (d) came

Language Skills

1. Match the words under column 'A' with their synonyms under column 'B'.

'A'	—	'B'
pretentious	—	showy
grave	—	serious
at any rate	—	anyhow
acquaintance	—	familiarity
exhaustion	—	extreme weakness
tramp	—	the sound of walking
somewhat	—	a little
undergone	—	suffered
worthiness	—	merit

2. Read the following words and use them in your own sentences:

at any rate	—	At any rate he wanted to win the competition.
to give new life	—	The minor escape from the accident gave him a new life .
wild-goose chase	—	The hunter was angry because he was sent out on a wild-goose chase .
a great deal	—	Shakespeare wrote a great deal of his work in lovely verse.
in a large measure	—	The economy of a country is based in a large measure on farming.

3. Fill in the blanks with the given words:

to linger about; resolved; wild-goose chase; all the more

- (i) I **resolved** at once to go to that school at Hampton.
- (ii) My mother was troubled with a grave fear that I was starting out on a **wild goose chase**.
- (iii) I hardly expected to see her again, and thus our parting was **all the more** sad.
- (iv) I continued **to linger about** her, and to impress her in all the ways I could with my worthiness.

4. Write the antonyms of the following words:

pretentious	—	natural/unaffected
consent	—	forbid
elevated	—	lowly/base
somewhat	—	hugely
economize	—	spend

5. Given below are the detailed meanings of the words you have read in chapter search and correct word against each meaning:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| (i) the meeting point of two lines or surfaces moving towards each other | adjoining |
| (ii) an area of land or water through which explosive mines have been placed | coal mine |
| (iii) a craft for travelling on water | ship |
| (iv) any inorganic substance formed in the earth | coal |
| (v) the master of a merchant vessel | captain. |

2

Forgetting

सम्पूर्ण पाठ का हिन्दी रूपान्तरण

रेलयात्रियों द्वारा खोए हुए और अब बिक्री के लिए लन्दन के एक बड़े स्टेशन पर रखे हुए सामान की सूची प्रकाशित हुई है और बहुत-से आदमी जिन्होंने वह सूची पढ़ी है, अपने साथियों की विस्मृति पर आश्चर्यचकित हैं। यदि इस विषय पर सांख्यिकीय आँकड़ों का लेखा-जोखा उपलब्ध हो, फिर भी मुझे सन्देह है कि यह देखने में आएगा कि विस्मृति सामान्य है। यह मानव की याददाश्त की कार्यकुशलता है न कि अकुशलता जो मुझे आश्चर्य में डाल देती है। आधुनिक मनुष्य टेलीफोन के नम्बरों को याद रखता है। उसे अपने मित्रों के पते भी याद रहते हैं। उसे उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली शराब उत्पन्न करने की तिथि याद रहती है। उसे दोपहर व रात्रि के भोजन की निमन्त्रण तिथियाँ याद रहती हैं। उसकी स्मृति में अभिनेताओं, अभिनेत्रियों, क्रिकेट के खिलाड़ियों, फुटबाल के खिलाड़ियों तथा हत्यारों के नाम भरे रहते हैं। वह आपको बता सकता है कि कई वर्ष पूर्व अगस्त के महीने में कैसा मौसम था और उस देहाती होटल का नाम भी, जहाँ उसने ग्रीष्म ऋतु में बहुत बुरा भोजन किया था। उसके साधारण जीवन में, पुनः उसे लगभग सभी चीजें याद रहती हैं, जिनको याद रखने की उससे उम्मीद की जाती है। लन्दन में ऐसे कितने व्यक्ति हैं जो प्रातः वस्त्र पहनते हुए किसी वस्त्र को पहनना भूल जाते