

Lesson 7

A House is Not a Home

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Value Points

- In the story 'A House is not a Home', the author tells us to encounter the challenges and problems of our life boldly.
- After leaving his high school the author was sent to a new school and in that new school, the author felt isolated and sad.
- The house of the author caught fire and everything in the house was burnt.
- The author's mother had to borrow money from author's grand father.
- The author rented an apartment and used to go to his house, hoping that he would find his cat.
- His class mates in the new school helped him in many ways with text books and other usual things.
- Author's new neighbours helped him.
- After a few days a woman came to him with his cat.
- Now the author felt happy and regained a new life.

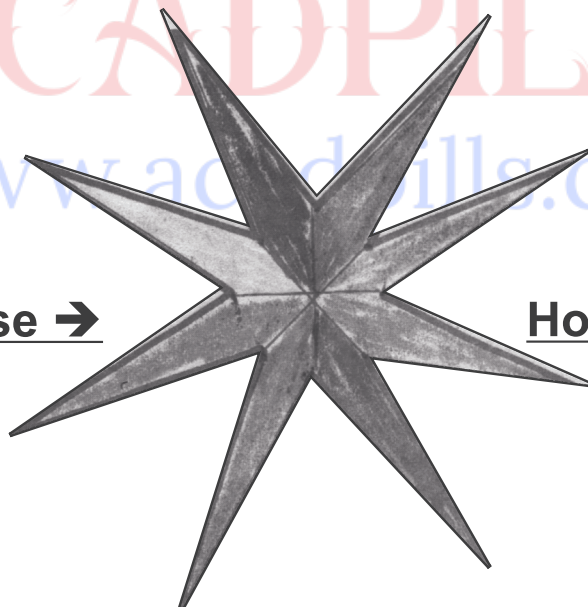
Activity

1. Mention the things that are essential to make a house a home.

Activity -1

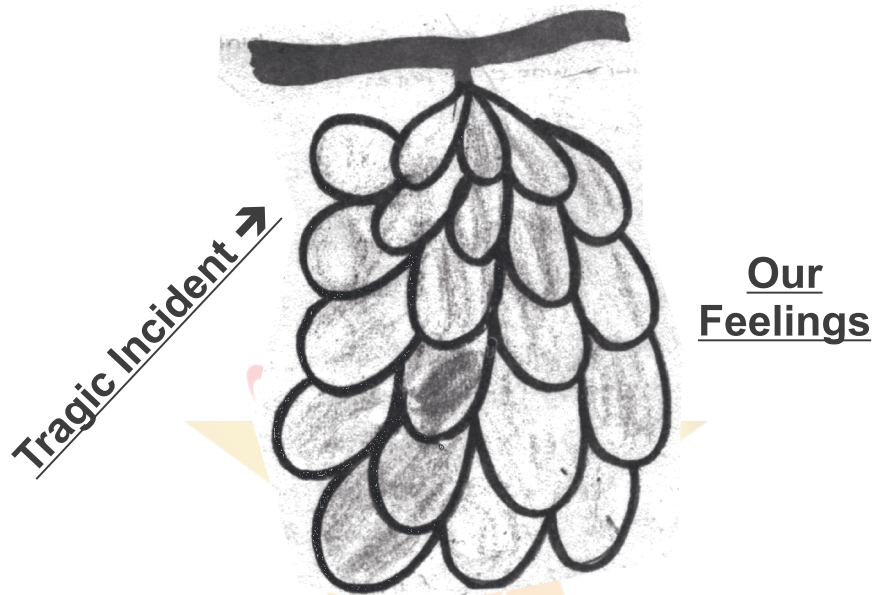
House →

→ Home



2. What do we feel when any tragic incident takes place in our lives as the author felt when his house was burnt.

Activity -1



COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

Extract-1

1. "I didn't want to grow up, change or have to handle life it was going to be this way. I just wanted to curl up and die."
1. Name the lesson.
 - a) The Last Leaf
 - b) The Lost Child
 - c) A House is Not a Home
 - d) The Adventures of Toto
 2. Who is the speaker here?
 - a) A teenager
 - b) An old man
 - c) A small boy
 - d) A middle aged man
 3. What is the mood of the speaker?
 - a) Optimistic

- b) pessimistic
 - c) happy
 - d) sad
4. Why did the speaker want to die?
- a) Unable to perform well in exams
 - b) Lost all his money
 - c) Unable to cure his disease
 - d) Unable to handle the changes in life
5. Which word in the passage means 'manage'.
- a) grow
 - b) handle
 - c) curl
 - d) change

Extract-2

2. "People who had never spoken to me before were coming up to me to introduce themselves. I got all kinds of invitations to their houses. Their genuine outpouring or concern really touched me."
1. Who is the speaker in the above lines?
- a) A teenager
 - b) An old man
 - c) A small boy
 - d) A middle aged man
2. Why is he getting all kinds of invitations?
- a) Due to family function
 - b) His birthday was near
 - c) He had new games
 - d) Due to genuine concern
3. How is the speaker feeling now?
- a) Angry
 - b) Sad
 - c) Touched
 - d) Indifferent
4. Who invited the speaker?
- a) His neighbours

- b) His grandparents
 - c) His schoolmates
 - d) None of these
5. Give the opposite of 'genuine'.
- a) Punctual
 - b) Fake
 - c) Brave
 - d) Weak

Extract-3

3. "It always seems that bad news spreads quickly, and in my case it was no different. Everyone in high school, including the teachers, were aware of my plight."
1. What was the 'bad news'?
 - a) His father had died
 - b) His house was burnt
 - c) His house was robbed
 - d) His mother had died
 2. What was the author's plight?
 - a) He had no clothes
 - b) He had no books
 - c) He had no shoes
 - d) All of these
 3. Name the lesson
 - a) The Last Leaf
 - b) The Lost Child
 - c) A House is Not a Home
 - d) The Adventures of Toto
 4. Where was the speaker studying?
 - a) Primary school
 - b) Elementary school
 - c) High school
 - d) College
 5. Provide a word from the passage that means the same as 'sad condition'.
 - a) spreads
 - b) aware

- c) different
- d) plight

Short Questions

1. What does the author notice on one Sunday ? What is his mother's reaction ? What does she do ?

Ans. One day the author notices some smoke coming from the roof. His mother runs into the yard and enters the house and brings the small metal box full of important documents.

2. Why does he break down in tears after the fire ?

Ans. He breaks down in tears because his house is burnt. Besides it, his cat is lost somewhere.

3. Why is the author deeply embarrassed the next day in school ? Which words show his fear and insecurity ?

Ans. It was so because his clothes were weird. He had no shoes. He had no books and home work. The expression of sadness reveals all this.

4. The cat and the author are very fond of each other. How has this been shown in the story ? Where was the cat after the fire ?

Ans. The cat was very fond of the narrator. It tried to sleep in his pocket. When the fire took place, it took shelter in a kind lady's house. In the end the cat was with the author.

5. How did the company of friends change the life of the narrator ?

Ans. The narrator was all alone with his mother after the fire accident. But in new school everybody helped him and he did not feel alone. Besides it, after a few days, he got his cat from a lady and he became like an alive person.

Long Questions

1. On the basis of the reading the lesson 'A house is not a home' give your views on the topic, 'How should we encounter the challenges and problems of life.'
2. Write a diary entry expressing your feelings when you lost your pet.
3. Describe the author's love for his cat.
4. Describe the title, 'A House is not a Home.'

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