

## PARAGRAPH MATERIAL FOR XII

### UNIT-1 (PROSE -1)

#### TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

- A.J.CRONIN

#### Synopsis:

Introduction  
Two gentlemen of Verona  
Sufferings of the boys  
Lucia's sufferings  
Narrator's kindness  
Conclusion

#### Introduction:

Archibald Joseph Cronin in his story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' shows love, devotion, sacrifice and sincerity of the two little boys who face hardships for the treatment of their sister.

#### Two gentlemen of Verona:

The two gentlemen of Verona are two brothers, Nicola and Jacopo, aged 13 and 12. They did all sorts of odd jobs. They shined shoes, sold fruits, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists rounds the town and ran errands for money.

#### Sufferings of the boys:

At a very young age itself the boys faced a lot of hardships in their life. They lost their father and their house in a war and become homeless. They suffered starvation and cold winter. They lived in the shelter of broken building walls and bricks.

#### Lucia's sufferings:

German ruled the city. They hated the Germans. They joined in the resistance movement against Germans. When the war was over, they came back to their beloved sister. They found that she was suffering from Tuberculosis of the spine. They admitted her in the hospital of Poleta. Every week, they had to pay money for her treatment. This made them work hard.

#### Narrator's kindness:

The narrator was a kind and helpful person. He was inspired by the boys. He bought fruits in order to help them. He dropped them to the hospital where their sister is admitted. The narrator discovered the whole story of the boys from the nurse who treats their sister. Being a gentleman, he did not want to disturb their family party. Their devotion had touched him deeply.

#### Conclusion:

Though the boys suffered a lot, war did not break their spirit. They were determined to work hard and earned their living. They were so selfless. Eventually, they were the real two gentlemen of Verona.

**Moral:**

*“When life puts you in tough situation: don’t say ‘why me?’ instead say try me”.*

**UNIT-1 (POEM -1)****THE CASTLE**

- EDWIN MUIR

**Synopsis:**

Introduction  
Safety of the castle  
The seize of the castle  
Real enemy  
Conclusion

**Introduction:**

‘The Castle’ by Edwin Muir details the capture of a castle witnessed first hand by a soldier. It tells an unspecified battle. It also reveals the truth that an army is only strong, if its men can’t be bribed.

**Safety of the castle:**

The soldiers had been in the castle all through the summer. They were totally stress free and relaxed. Through the turret wall, they could see the mowers. They had plenty of arms and food to protect the castle. They were confident of their castle’s physical strength. The castle’s gates were very strong and the walls were very thick. Their captain was brave and the soldiers were loyal. Even by a trick no one could enter the castle.

**The seize of the castle:**

The enemies were half-a-mile away from the castle. No one could enter the castle. But there was an old, evil guard. He let the enemies through a little private gate for gold through the secret gallery and intricate path. The strong castle became weak and thin. Thus, the castle was captured by the greedy, disloyal guard.

**Real enemy:**

The narrator felt that the gold got as bribe by the guard was their real enemy. Without fight, the castle was captured. So, he decided not to tell this shameful story to anyone.

**Conclusion:**

We can fight the enemy face to face. But we could never defeat the disloyal one. So, the narrator regretted that they had no weapon to fight against the enemy called gold.

**Moral:**

*Greediness defeats not just the castle but everything.*

**UNIT-1 (SUPPLEMENTARY-1)**  
**GOD SEES THE TRUTH BUT WAITS**  
**- LEO TOLSTOY**

**Synopsis:**

Introduction  
Life of Aksionov  
Wife's dream  
Imprisonment of Aksionov  
Real murder  
Conclusion

**Introduction:**

The story "God Sees the Truth, But Waits" was written by Leo Tolstoy. The story reveals that we must do a good thing to the wrong doer, instead of revenging.

**Life of Aksionov:**

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov was a young merchant and lived with his family in Vladimir, a town in Russia. He was a handsome, fair haired, curly headed fellow. He was the best singer. He had the virtuous qualities such as faith, forgiveness, freedom and acceptance.

**Wife's dream:**

His wife had a bad dream about him. She dreamt that Aksionov had returned from the town with grey hair. Grey hair is a symbol of bad omen. So she feared and tried to stop him from going to the Nizhny fair.

**Imprisonment of Aksionov:**

In spite of his wife warning, Aksionov went to the fair. On his way, he met a merchant. The merchant was killed. Aksionov was imprisoned since he was suspected for killing the merchant. He was sentenced for 26 years, even though he did not commit any crime. He was sent to work in the mines of Siberia.

**Life of Aksionov in prison:**

He gave up all his hope. He learnt to make boots and earned a little money with which he bought a book. "The Lives of the Saint". He used to read his book. On Sundays, in the prison church he read the lessons and sang on the choir. His fellow-prisoners respected and called him "Grandfather" and "The Saint". All the prison authorities like him for his virtues.

**Real murderer:**

One day Aksionov met Makar Semeyonich. He found out the truth that Makar was the real killer. But he saved Makar from the officials when he tried to escape. Makar confessed his crime. He forgave him.

By the time of Aksionov's release order came, he died.

**Conclusion:**

Every decision of God needs enough time. We should wait for the truth to win. Faith in God gives us the answer to all our problems as the title says, 'God, sees the truth but waits'

**Moral:**

*Forgiveness and forgetfulness are the best form of revenge.*