

**Prakshastri 2<sup>nd</sup> year**  
**Summaries of all the stories**

**1. Summary of the Last Lesson**

The last lesson is by the author Alphonse Daudet. In the Last Lesson summary, the author narrates events about the year 1870 when France was captured by Bismarck led Prussian forces. Furthermore, the Lorraine and Alsace districts went under Prussian rule. There was the discontinuation of teaching French in these two districts. There was an order for the French teachers to leave. Consequently, M. Hamel was not able to stay in his old school. In spite of this, the last lesson from him was full of devotion and sincerity. One student of M. Hamel was afraid of him. There was an anticipation of punishment from this student when he came to school that day. However, he learnt that this will be his last lesson. Soon, he realized the importance of this subject. This story shows us how people feel when they don't learn their language.

**2. Summary of Lost Spring**

The Lost Spring summary describes the terrible condition of poor children. These children are those who didn't get to enjoy childhood because of the prevailing socio-economic condition in this world. This is something that one can see all over the world. These children don't have the opportunity for schooling. Moreover, there is a lot of pressure on these children to enter into labour early in life. These unfortunate children are forced into labour. This certainly denies them education as well as the opportunity to have enjoyment. The author Anees Jung raises voice to eliminate child labour. Jung does so by raising awareness regarding child education and strict law enforcement against child labour. The call is to put an end to the exploitation of children. This way the children will be able to enjoy the days of the spring and have fun.

**3. Summary of Deep Water**

Deep Water summary will assist you in understanding the meaning of this chapter. It is an extract from the book 'Men and Mountains' by William Douglas. Over here, the author tells us about how he overcomes the deep-rooted fear of water. We learn that the author develops fear of water following two very dreadful incidents. In this first one, he is four years old when a wave knocks him down. Similarly, in the second one, he is 11 years of age. A bully throws him in the deep end of the pool and almost drowns. Thus, having gone through such scary experiences, he fears water deeply. However, he does work really hard to overcome it. Finally, we learn about the measures he takes to overcome this fear. Moreover, he accomplishes in overcoming the fear and gives us all a great lesson of determination and will power.

**4. Summary of The Rattrap**

The Rattrap summary is about a man who is a peddler. He has a pessimistic attitude towards the world. The peddler has not always been like this and was a fine man before. However, due to misfortune, he now resorts to selling rattraps, begging and even stealing to survive. Moreover, he also views the world as a big rat trap. He believes that much similar to the cheese we put for mice, the world offers us materialistic things to lure us. So, when we fall for these things, it traps us and takes everything away from us. In this story, a young generous woman takes in the rattrap seller.

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Thus, the generosity and kindness she shows changes his pessimistic take on life. This story teaches us about the essential human goodness we all must possess.

#### **5. Summary of Indigo**

Indigo summary is going to assist students in learning about the chapter in a summarized version. Indigo is about how Mahatma Gandhi struggled for the underprivileged peasants of Champaran. They were the sharecroppers with the British planters. The peasants used to live a wretched life and were under an agreement to grow Indigo. As Bihar has the landlord system back then, it worsened their condition. Thus, Gandhi decided to fight against injustice. He waged a war which lasted for a year to tackle the discrimination and got justice for the peasants. After that, it helped the peasants become courageous and aware of their fundamental rights. Moreover, Gandhiji did not just work to tackle political or economic issues, but he also took up social issues. He worked to provide them with education, health, hygiene and taught them self-confidence.

#### **6. Summary of Poets and Pancakes**

Poets and Pancakes summary will help you learn about this chapter in a simplified manner. The chapter has been taken from the book 'My Years with Boss' by Asokamitran. It is about his time when he worked in Gemini Studios. It was quite a famous film studio back in those days. We learn that Asokamitran's job is to cut newspaper clippings concerning different topics and maintaining a file of the same. In this story, we learn about a lot of things relating to the film industry, especially the one in India. We get an inside glimpse of the working of it and also of the beginning of India post-independence. He first writes his take on the make-up department. Moreover, he makes fun of the looks the actors try and the glaring lights. After that, we learn that 'pancakes' is actually the name of a makeup brand used by the Gemini studio.

#### **7. Summary of The Interview**

The Interview summary is a simplified version of the chapter using easy language. This chapter is an excerpt taken from 'The Penguin Book of Interviews'. It is written by Christopher Silvester. In this chapter, the author talks about the technique of 'interview' as a new way of interrogating. He talks about it with reference to the field of Journalism. Moreover, he also discusses the importance of this new technique. He goes on to state how the interview has become a vital arena in everyone's lives, regardless of the class, literacy or anything. We learn about the opinions of many celebrities concerning an interview. Thus, it teaches us about the functions, methods and merits of an interview. Moreover, the author also incorporates an excerpt from an interview with the notorious writer, Umberto Eco. This part allows us to get a glimpse at his literary method.

#### **8. Summary of Going Places**

Going Places summary will help you get a better understanding of the story written by A.R. Barton. It revolves around fantasies and daydreams. The story tells us about the teenage period where people are often found dreaming which is far from reality. This period is all about desires and

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achieving the impossible. In addition, teens usually have a hero they look up to or adore in this age. However, the main background of the story is indeed a reality. It tells us about a girl, Sophie, who belongs to a lower-middle-class family. She dreams of owning the best boutique in the whole town. However, she lacks money and means. Sophie looks up to a young football player, Danny Casey. She dreams about him so much, she believes she has actually met him. Finally, these fantasies are what cause her disappointment.

**9. Summary of My Mother at Sixty-six**

My mother at sixty-six is a poem whose author is Kamala Das. The writer is famous for capturing the complications of relationships between human beings. This poem is one of the best examples of bonding in humans. Especially the bond between a mother and a daughter. This poem defines the fear of the author of losing her mother. My mother at sixty-six summary will elaborate on the feelings of the author and will also define the meaning of the poem.

**10. Summary of An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum**

The writer of this poem is Stephen Spender. He describes the communal inequalities which are usual in this society. In this poem, the author describes the situation of the students of an elementary school. The school is located in a slum area. The poet wants everybody's attention to these children. Poet wanted that the life of these students improves. He wanted them to get trained in order to become good citizens of our country and not criminals. An elementary school classroom in a slum summary gives a brief knowledge about the condition of the school as well as the students.

**11. Summary of Keeping Quiet**

Keeping Quiet summary discusses peace, humanity, and brotherhood. This poem is by the author Pablo Neruda. The poem is explosive as well as quiet at the same time. Neruda speaks of a world of wisdom in a calm fashion. Neruda believes that staunch activism is not the best way to get into the heart and minds of the masses. Consequently, the author speaks with much serenity. Furthermore, this serenity creates an aftermath of thought ripples in the minds of the reader. The poet wants the readers to take time out of their busy lives for retrospection and introspection. The poem is symbolic of stopping all activities and understanding the purpose of the world. 'Keeping Quiet' appeals to the heart of the readers in contrast to the intellect. Through this poem, Neruda aims to get his readers thinking and pondering as opposed to intellectual stimulation.

**12. Summary of A Thing of Beauty**

A Greek legend happens to be the basis for A Thing of Beauty summary. In this Greek legend, a young shepherd by the name of Endymion had a vision of Cynthia, the moon goddess. This youth makes a resolution to go after her and seek her. In this quest, he wanders through the forest and under the sea. In the poem, the poet tells us that beautiful things bring immense pleasure and delight. Furthermore, the poet explains that God's creations provide happiness as well as energy. The things present all around provide us with plenty of reasons to feel happy. Moreover, the brave

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soldiers' stories bring inspiration and enthusiasm to the love life. Beauty is a heavenly tonic. Furthermore, it is like an endless fountain of nectar. Also, beauty can come in various forms. Beauty gives us good health and removes sadness from our lives, resulting in everlasting joy.

**13. Summary of A Roadside Stand Summary**

A Roadside Stand summary deals with the lives of poor deprived people. Furthermore, the poet contrasts the struggling lives of the countryside people with the insensitive life of the city dwellers. The city dwellers don't even bother to ponder on the harsh condition of the roadside stand people. The city dwellers don't think about the struggles these roadside people have to go through in order to sell their goodies. These poor people have nothing to do except wait for the passing cars to stop and purchase their products. If at all a car stops by, it is to know about directions or to make complain about something. The poet deeply sympathises with these impoverished people and feels compassion for them. This sympathy is evident in the portrayal of the roadside sheds in a poignant manner.

**14. Summary of Aunt Jennifer's Tigers**

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers Summary – In the poem a woman expresses her deep feeling through her art. She (Aunt Jennifer) is prey of male dominant society. Also, there is no one with whom she can share her physical pain. So she makes a picture to describe her deep feelings. Moreover, the narrator defines the tigers which her aunt made on the panel. Like their motion and movements and their magnificence and fearlessness. Further, there are men sitting under the tree but the tigers don't. Besides, now Jennifer finds it difficult to take pictures by using ivory needles. Also, after marriage, she became weary of doing household work. Now she can't involve herself in artistic work instead she has to do it in leisure time. She is scared of her husband but her art expresses her desire to move fearlessly and proudly like tigers.

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