

UNIT 5

THE HUNDRED DRESSES-I

LET'S BEGIN

The Hundred Dresses (1944) is a children's book written by Eleanor Estes. The book is illustrated by Louis Slobodkin. It is a story of a young girl, Wanda Petronski, from Poland. Wanda's family migrated to America and she joined school in an American town, in Connecticut. The children at the school found her different. She was bullied and mocked.

However, Wanda proved her unusual talent in a drawing competition and won it with much praise. The children who humiliated her were filled with remorse and Wanda, as dignified as always, earned their respect. (Excerpts from this book are given in Class X textbook—*First Flight*, published by NCERT in 2007).

- There are many people who have prejudices against others on the basis of social, economic, racial, and ethnic differences. As a result, they do not recognise their talents and qualities. Perhaps, they do not know that, what matters is what we do and not who we are.

After reading the excerpt, write a diary entry as Wanda, describing your feelings clearly.



1076CH05

Diary Entry

confessed
discrimination
multitude
perpetrators
wrought

READING COMPREHENSION

TEXT I

The excerpt is taken from the biographical account of Harriet Tubman titled, *'Harriet Tubman, The Moses of Her People'*. This is a story of a woman who suffered because of racial discrimination, but she did fight against slavery, helped her family and members of her community to free themselves from the clutches of the perpetrators of their suffering. She was grateful to her friend, Frederick Douglass, who had hidden her, and some runaway slaves more than once in his home in Rochester.

Read the passage (a letter to Harriet by Frederick Douglass) given below and answer the questions that follow.

"The difference between us is very marked. Most that I have done and suffered in the service of our cause has been in public, and I have received much encouragement at every step of the way. You, on the other hand, have laboured in a private way. I have wrought in the day—you in the night. I have had the applause of the crowd and the satisfaction that comes of being approved by the multitude, while the most you have done witnessed by few trembling, scared, and footsore bondmen and women, whom you have led out of the house of bondage, and whose heartfelt God bless you has been your only reward. The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witnesses of your devotion to freedom and your heroism."

When years later, in her old age, a reporter for the *New York Herald Tribune* came to interview her one afternoon at her home

in Auburn, he wrote that, as he was leaving, Harriet looked towards an orchard nearby and said,

“Do you like apples?”

On being assured that the young man liked them, she asked, “Did you ever plant any apples?” The writer confessed that he had not.

“No” said the old woman, “but somebody else planted them”. I liked apples when I was young. And I said, “Someday I’ll plant apples myself for other young folks to eat. And I guess I did.”

Her apples were the apples of freedom. Harriet Tubman lived to see the harvest. Her home in Auburn, New York, is preserved as a memorial to her planting.

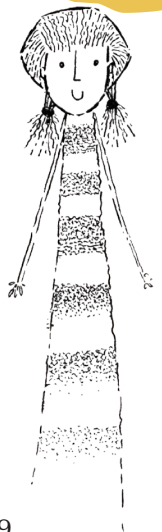
(Source: *Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People*
by Langston Hughes)

Q.1. What had Harriet done for herself and her community?

Q.2. What was the title of the first book written on Harriet Tubman and who wrote it?

Q.3. How had Harriet’s life been hard, but dedicated to a cause?

Q.4. What comparison had Frederick drawn between his and Harriet’s life?



**LOOK UP
AND
UNDERSTAND**

cosmologist
defied
degenerative
incredibly
irreverent
preposterous

Wanda

Editing

?



Q.5. Tick the correct answers.

Harriet had been grateful to Frederick because:

- (a) Frederick was her neighbour. ()
- (b) Harriet took financial help from Frederick. ()
- (c) Harriet revolted as a slave and ran away from her master's house and Frederick gave her shelter. ()
- (d) Frederick hid other slaves in his house whom Harriet had inspired to run away. ()

Q.6. Tick the correct answer.

'footsore bondmen and women' means:

- (a) Bondaged men and women had to work day and night. ()
- (b) Bondmen and women suffered from foot diseases. ()
- (c) Bondmen and women were bonded labourers. ()
- (d) Bondaged men and women had wounded and tired feet because they ran for days together to safe places from the house of their masters. ()

TEXT II

You have read about Wanda and Harriet Tubman, the two individuals who have fought courageously to realise their dreams and ambitions. Similarly, Stephen Hawking, the great physicist, owed one part of his fame to his triumph over his acute medical conditions due to a degenerative disease. When he was diagnosed, aged only 21, he was given only a few years to live. But Hawking defied the normally fatal illness for more than 50 years, pursuing a brilliant career in science that stunned doctors and thrilled his fans. By the time he died at 76, Hawking was among the most recognisable faces in science, perhaps at par with Albert Einstein. Read the passage given below and find out how Hawking was an extraordinary man who cherished life.

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Stephen Hawking, the TV star

Famed physicist, cosmologist and writer Stephen Hawking died on a Wednesday morning. He was born on 8 January 1942,

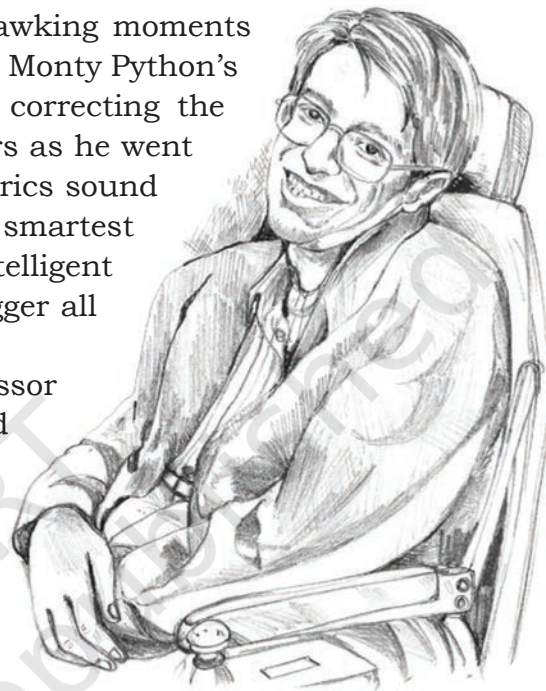
exactly 300 years after Galileo died, and he died on 14 March, 2018, which happened to be his old rival Albert Einstein's birthday. It is likely Professor Hawking is having a laugh at our expense, based on our preposterous love for coincidences.

Comedy lies in the timing. Professor Hawking knew this, and over the years, became incredibly proficient at the art of the comedic pause. It is a tough art to master.

One of my all-time favourites, Stephen Hawking moments came when the Professor sang comedy legends Monty Python's Galaxy Song for a charity a few years ago, correcting the technicalities in the song's words and numbers as he went along. It is an unbelievable treat, and these lyrics sound suitably profound when coming from the smartest human in the universe. "Pray that there's intelligent life somewhere up in space, cause there's bugger all down here on Earth."

"Life would be tragic if it wasn't funny," Professor Hawking had once said, and clearly enjoyed not only observing the humour in the world, but also pointing it out. His appearances on popular and irreverent mainstream television made us, the viewers, feel included. For a brief moment, we shared a laugh and got to be in the same orbit as him. We felt that this massively brilliant man watches the same television we do, and that's a genuinely comforting thought. Professor Hawking was an extraordinary man who loved ordinary things.

(Source: Raja Sen, *livemint*, 14 March, 2018)



Words

Sentences

Q.1. Who was born exactly three hundred years after the death of Galileo?

Q.2. Stephen Hawking died on 14th March which happens to be his old rival's birthday. Who was this rival of his?

Q.3. Tick the correct statement.

- (a) Stephen Hawking was the rival of Galileo. ()
- (b) Galileo was a good friend of Stephen Hawking. ()





- (c) Albert Einstein was the rival of Galileo and Stephen Hawking. ()
- (d) Albert Einstein was the rival of Galileo. ()

Q.4. Tick the correct meaning of the word 'preposterous'.

- (a) credible ()
- (b) reasonable ()
- (c) ridiculous ()
- (d) realistic ()

Q.5. Why was Professor Hawking said to be proficient in 'comedic pause'?

Q.6. Which song did he sing?

Q.7. Why was Stephen Hawking's singing of the song described as an 'unbelievable treat'?

Q.8. What had the author shared with the genius Stephen Hawking?

Q.9. Why did Stephen Hawking say that "Life would be tragic if it wasn't funny"? Did he believe in it?

Q.10. Tick the correct answer.

Why was Stephen Hawking described as "extraordinary man who loved ordinary things"?

- (a) He was a professional singer. ()
- (b) He was a physicist. ()
- (c) He was unassuming and loved humour? ()

VOCABULARY

1. Match the words in list A with their meanings in list B.

A	B
Physicist	Someone proficient and skilled in doing something
Cosmologist	One who is sincere, honest and truthful
Proficient	A scientist who studies the origin and nature of the universe
Genuine	One who specialises in the branch of science which deals with the nature and properties of matter and energy such as heat, light, etc.

FUN FACTS

IDIOM

Bigger fish to fry: to have more important things to do

Bad egg: Someone who is not to be trusted

2. Find one word substitutions for the following expressions.

- One who brings about or carries out a harmful, illegal and immoral act. Hint: P _____
- The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people. Hint: D _____
- A large number of people or things. Hint: M _____
- The state of being a slave. Hint: B _____
- To admit that one has committed or done something wrong. Hint: C _____
- Tell someone something positively, to dispel any doubt. Hint: A _____

3. Following are some expressions that reflect appreciation.

- Burst into applause
- Stamp on the floor
- Whopping

Make a list of other expressions that may be used to demonstrate appreciation.

Words

Sentences



The wetland also faces unique threat from picnics. “Not only is waste dumped the water, the picnickers also play loud music, the intensity of which can scare the bejesus out of any water bird that might be foraging close by,” says Biswajit De, founder-president of Wild Roots, an organisation working on conservation education in the North-East. There is still no rule to ban human disturbance in such proximity to a wetland of high conservation value.

The 2015 Chennai floods, one of the worst faced by a metropolis, are an indication of what the degradation of a water body ecological importance can lead to. Wetlands serve as a catchment area for rainwater, and, if not protected, cities like Kolkata, Delhi, Guwahati and Hyderabad face similar issues. We can make amends, starting simply by just visiting wetlands to watch nature. Ask any wildlife enthusiast, and she surely tell you the seemingly murky patch of wetland you passed by the other day hosts a surprisingly high number of birds. Something you passed off as a wasteland. And while you at it, why not tell everyone you know the importance of the wetland to the city you live in, hosting a plethora of wildlife, to providing valuable services to the city. So head out, explore, love, spread the word. Let live.

(Source: ‘Can wetlands find a safe haven in our cities?’ by
Sutirtha Lahiri, *livemint*,
17 March, 2018 [An excerpt])



FUN
FACTS

TONGUE TWISTER

Can you can a
can as a canner
can can a can?

Writing

Editing



LISTENING

1. Ask one of your classmates to read aloud the following passage taken from the book *The Moffats* by Eleanor Estes. The passage can be prerecorded for listening. After listening, write and share your thoughts on what was Jane thinking about.

The way Mama could peel apples! A few turns of the knife and there the apple was, all skinned! Jane could not take her eyes off from her mother's hands. They had a way of doing things, peeling apples, sprinkling salt, counting pennies that fascinated her. Jane sighed. Her mother's peelings fell off in lovely long curls, while, for the life of her, Jane couldn't do any better than these thick little chunks which she popped into her mouth. Moreover it took her as long to peel one apple as for Mama to do five or six. Would she ever get so quick and could she do as well?

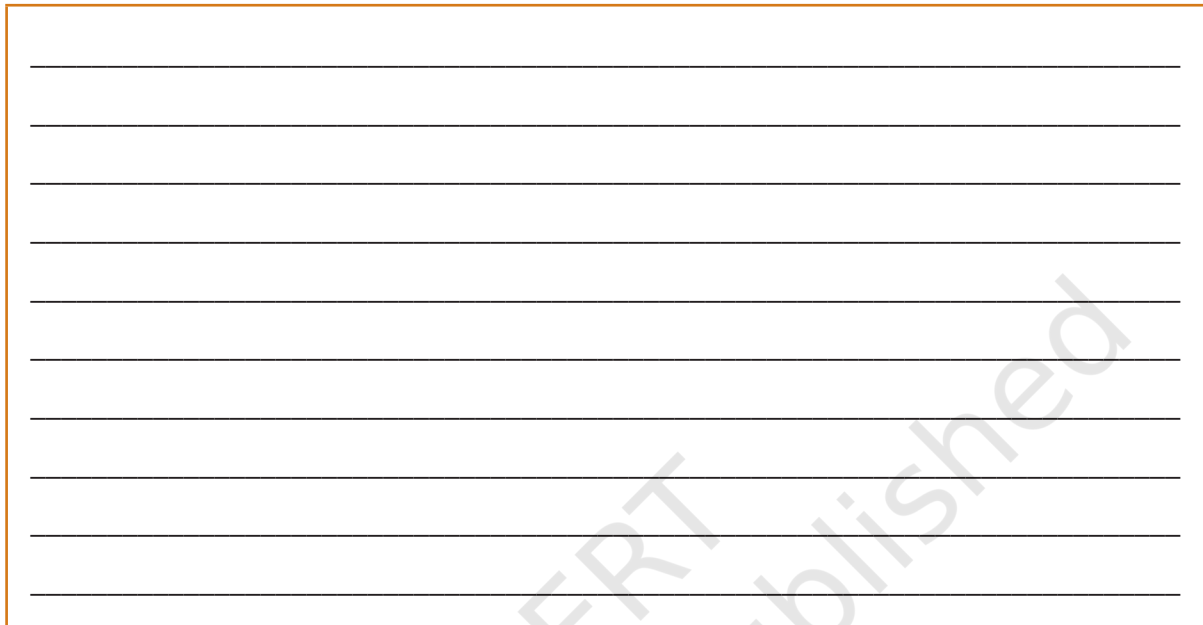
"There," said Mama, "that's finished." She set the blue and white kettle of apples on the stove. She sprinkled sugar and cinnamon on the apples with the same deft fingers. Jane sat with her elbows on the kitchen table and her chin cupped in her hands, watching her mother and considering vaguely what to do next. Upstairs she could hear Sylvie saying her lines. She was going to be Cinderella in the play at the Town Hall. Joey had gone bicycling up Shingle Hill with Chet Pudge, and Rufus was probably playing marbles down there at the end of New Dollar Street, waiting for him to come home. There wasn't anyone to play with, so Jane picked up her doll, Hildegard, and stuck her in her knitting bag, and went out the back door.

All the fruit trees in the yard looked inviting to Jane. She had half a mind to climb the old apple tree, sit in one of its forks and do some knitting. But first she would go and see if Rufus or Joey were in sight. She skipped round the house, out the gate, and climbed onto the fat old hitching post in front. She looked up the New Dollar Street and down the New Dollar Street for a sign of Joey or Rufus. But neither was in sight. The New Dollar Street was shaped like a bow. That is, it was not a straight street put out by a measuring rod. It had a gentle curve in it like one half of a parenthesis,



the first half. Exactly halfway down the New Dollar Street was the yellow house where the Moffats, of whom Jane was the next to the youngest, lived

(Source: *The Moffats* by Eleanor Estes.)



SPEAKING

1. Group Discussion

Work in groups and discuss how one must stay unaffected by peer group influences and remain strong in one's beliefs without being forced to change.

2. Read the following quote from *The Hundred Dresses*:

Peggy, "She must have really liked us, anyway."

There is a new found realisation in Peggy, who seems to truly understand the real Wanda. Quote instances from your life where you have changed your opinion about someone. Share the incident with your class.

3. Recite the song— 'The Galaxy Song' in a group.

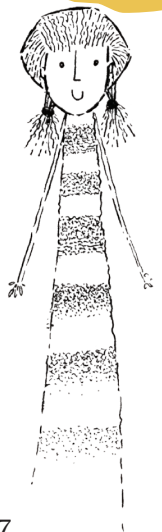
The Galaxy Song

Whenever life gets you down, Mrs. Brown,
And things seem hard or tough,



Words

Sentences





And people are stupid, obnoxious or daft,
 And you feel that you've had quite eno-o-o-o-o-ough,
 Just remember that you're standing on a planet that's evolving
 And revolving at 900 miles an hour.
 It's orbiting at 19 miles a second, so it's reckoned,
 The sun that is the source of all our power.
 Now the sun, and you and me, and all the stars that
 we can see,
 Are moving at a million miles a day,
 In the outer spiral arm, at 40,000 miles an hour,
 Of a galaxy we call the Milky Way.
 Our galaxy itself contains a hundred billion stars;
 It's a hundred thousand light-years side to side;
 It bulges in the middle sixteen thousand light-years thick,
 But out by us it's just three thousand light-years wide.
 We're thirty thousand light-years from Galactic
 Central Point,
 We go 'round every two hundred million years;
 And our galaxy itself is one of millions of billions
 In this amazing and expanding universe.
 Our universe itself keeps on expanding and expanding,
 In all of the directions it can whiz;
 As fast as it can go, at the speed of light, you know,
 Twelve million miles a minute and that's the fastest speed
 there is.
 So remember, when you're feeling very small and insecure,
 How amazingly unlikely is your birth;
 And pray that there's intelligent life somewhere out
 in space,
 'Cause there's bugger all down here on Earth!

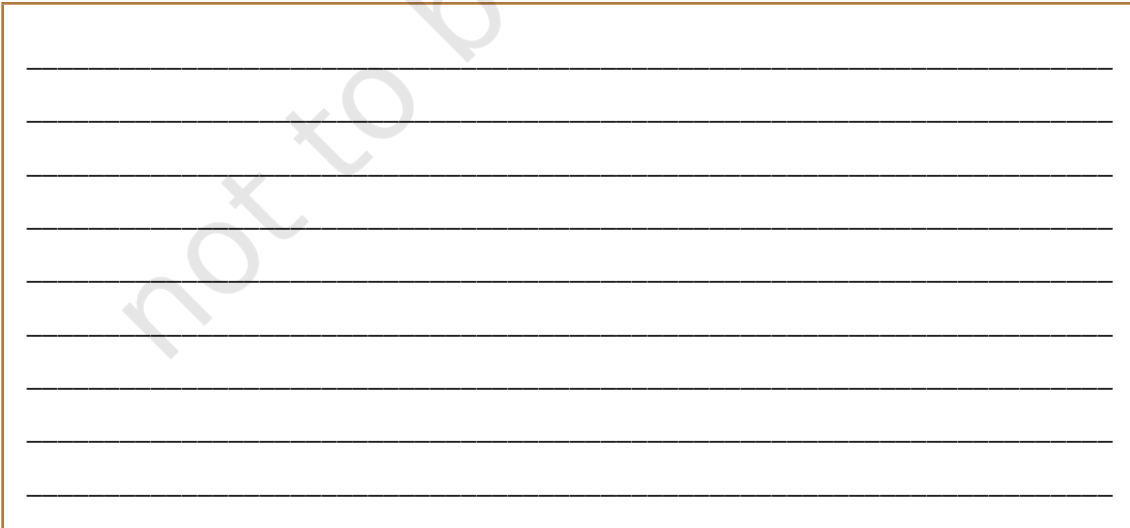
(Source: 'The Galaxy Song', Monty Python, song writers:
 John Du Prez and Eric Idle)

WRITING

1. What did Harriet mean when she said to the reporter that, *"Someday I'll plant apples myself for other young folks to eat. And I guess I did."* Do you know someone who is like Harriet? Write about the person who has worked selflessly for the benefit of others, quoting interesting anecdotes from the person's life.



2. Bully, as you know, is someone who dominates, does not let others speak, insults, and sometimes causes physical harm as well. Write a letter to one such bully in your school or neighbourhood and suggest ways to reflect, analyse and mend their behaviour.



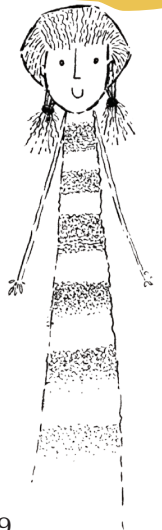
FUN FACTS

USING PRODUCE

The farm was cultivated to produce produce.

Words

Sentences





PROJECT

1. An Indian was conferred with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for his extraordinary contribution and work for child rights. Can you recall his name? There was another person from one of our neighbouring countries who shared the award with him. Do you know the name of this person?

“Every single minute matters, every single child matters, every single childhood matters”.

- Work in pairs.
 - Prepare a poster or a visual presentation on the Nobel Laureate’s work and views in the context of the above quote.
 - Conclude your work with the pointwise summary of U.N. Convention on child rights.
2. ‘The Amul’ cooperative in Anand (Gujarat) is an initiative to decentralise the collection of milk for the benefit of low income milk producers. Prepare a project on Amul. Find information on the following. You can add more points.
 - Collect facts about the functioning of Amul.
 - How has it transformed the lives of small farmers, milk producers, and women?
 - How Information and Communication Technology and banks are giving support?
 - Benefits of having cooperatives
 - Do you know about the ‘Amul Girl’?