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Class-12, subject -English, Date-28/5/2020

STUDY MATERIAL Teacher -L.P.SINGH

PASSAGE

1. My first tryst with Shakespeare several years ago was an enforced one. The Merchant of Venice Was prescribed book in class 9 when I was at school. I had read the wonderful Lamb's Tales from shakespeare and considered himself an authority on the stories. I didn't think it necessary to read the antiquated language or trudge through several seemingly abstruse paragraphs to get to the main point.To spend whole year to decipher a play when I had understood the story in a few pages seemed to be a sheer waste of time.Yet, somewhere along the way, I was drawn into the world of the Merchant of Venice,their portly argosies,the signors and the rich burghers and the news on the Rialto. The language yielded its riches slowly, the characters become well drawn, more rounded and the impatient speeches of shylock and portia stirred up a flurry of unexamined questions.Since then, I have read several other plays, have seen a couple of theatrical performances and watched young Leonardo Di Caprio in a modern Romeo and Juliet film . Shakespeare has been around.

- 2. Shakespeare has shaped the writing and storytelling in the English language like no other writer has. He liberally borrowed, bent and brought new words into the English language from addiction, bump critic to worthless and zanny. The phrases that he coined roll off our tongues as over-used adages-- All that glitters is not gold(The merchant of Venice), jealousy is a green-eyed monster(Othello), and the perennial 'All is well that ends well'. He has influenced several writers and been quoted by many of them. one of my favourite authors P.G. Wodehouse had the odd shakespearean phrase popping up in whacky situations like the 'milk of human kindness' sloshing inside someone or references to Banquo and Macbeth explained to Bertie by the estimable Jeeves who knew his Shakespeare. the plays has been translated into most languages, including several regional Indian Bhashas. they have lent themselves to film adaptations, including the Vishal Bhardwaj 's Maqbool (Macbeth) and Omkara(Othello).**
- 3. The tragedies and comedies of Shakespeare cover every possible theme, and idea-love, greed, jealousy, racism, friendship, mistaken identities, Murder, mutiny, politics, feminism and revenge. like any other celebrity, he has been the subject of speculation and controversy. There have been several conspiracy theories afloat on the 'real' authorshio of the plays, including a recent claim by a professor in Sicily that Shakespeare was actually Italian.**

Despite everything , Shakespeare's appeal is universal, the stories transcend language and nationalities.

However,more than 400years after Shakespeare's birth, I can't help wondering if anyone will read works in the days to come.

4. The average attention span in front of a television channel is about 4 seconds before flicking on the remote to move to another. It is perfectly acceptable to Massacre the rules of grammar and syntax b4 u can say'Why dis kolaveri di?) when you can tell the whole story in 140 characters, reading 14 sentences can be a chore. who will have the Desire or patience dredge up that treasures that lie within?

5. Shakespeare's works have proved to be sturdy, unshakable through the centuries, moving with the times, landing themselves to newer forms.I hope they don't get relegated to a few die hard literature students or Musty libraries. who knows, we migh yet have a different form of Shakespeare that will appeal to the generation next, a form that will induce them to approach an original play with a sense of anticipation,of beginning a quest to understand and appreciate a good story, well told.

Nothing of him that does fade,

But doth suffer a sea -change

Into something rich and strange.

on the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any five of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

(a) The writer considered himself an authority on Shakespeare after reading

- I. The Merchant of Venice**
- II. Romeo and Juliet**
- III. Lamb's tales**
- IV. Leonardo DiCaprio**

(b) The best known Shakespearean quote is

- I. All that glitters is not gold**
- II. All is well that ends well**
- III. Jealousy is a green- eyed monster**
- IV. Milk of human kindness**

(c) The claim of the Italian professor from Sicily was that

- I. Shakespeare was an Italian**
- II. he covers every possible theme and Idea**
- III. there have been several conspiracy theories**
- IV. Shakespeare was a subject of speculation**

(d) The writer read The Merchant of Venice when he was a student of class

- I. 9**
- II. 8**
- III. 7**
- IV. 12**

(e)As per the passage ,when a story can be told in 140 characters,what reading can become a chore?

- I. 14words***
- II. 14sentences***
- III. 14letter***
- IV. 14phrases***

(f)Shakespeare has been a subject of

- I. Authority on English***
- II. Speculation***
- III. Controversy***
- IV. Both (ii) and (iii)***

Answer the following.

- (a) In The Merchant of Venice, the impassioned speeches of shylock and portia----- a flurry of unexamined questions.***
- (b) Shakespeare has shaped the writing and-----in English language like no other writer has.***
- (c) Despite everything, Shakespeare's appeal is Universal,the stories -----language and nationalities.***
- (d) Like any other celebrity, Shakespeare is undoubtedly the subject of speculation and controversies.(True/False)***

(e) Shakespeare's works have proved to be shakable through this centuries, lending themselves to newer forms.(True/False)

Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

(a) Go beyond the usual limits (para 3)

(b) Deliberated and brutual killing (para4)

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