

CLASS NOTES

Class: XII

Topic: THE ENEMY

Subject: English Core

Author: Pearl S. Buck

Theme - 'The Enemy' gives the message that humanism transcends all man made prejudices and barriers Dr. Sadao upholds the ethics of medical profession in treating an enemy. The story is a great lesson of peace, love, sympathy, fellow, feeling and humanism.

Setting: Japan (World War II)

Main Characters: Dr. Sadao, Hana (his wife), Dr. Sadao's father, POW, General, Yumi and other servants

About the author-

Pearl Sydenstricker Buck known by her Chinese name Sai Zhenzhu was an American writer and novelist. A daughter of missionaries, Buck spent most of her life in China. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for her Rich and truly epic descriptions of peasant life in China and for her biographical masterpieces.

Main points to remember:

- The story is set in the times of World War II. Dr. Sadao is a Japanese doctor who is an expert surgeon and scientist. He finds an American prisoner of war, at his threshold, who is bleeding and on the verge of death. Initially, Dr. Sadao and his wife Hana think of throwing the unconscious man back into the sea but cannot do so. Finally, they bring him home. Dr.Sadao operates upon him with the help of his wife. They both have to face the protests of the servants as they refuse to clean the man and leave their job in protest.
- The man starts recovering slowly. One day, Dr. Sadao had to go to see the General. Dr. Sadao, while treating the General, tells him about the American in his house. The General promises to send his personal assassins to quietly kill the American. Dr. Sadao does not tell his wife about this

plan and keeps on waiting for the assassins for three nights. But they do not turn up.

- By this time, the American had recovered. Now Dr. Sadao decides to send him to an

unguarded island in the sea. He gives him a boat, a torch, lots of food and water and a flashlight.

He instructs him to stay on the island and wait for a Korean boat. He also tells him to signal him two flashes if he runs out of food, before he takes a boat.

- Dr. Sadao is again called by the General and this time, he has to be operated upon. Dr. Sadao tells

tells the General that the American has escaped. The General keeps quiet about all this. Finally, Dr.

Sadao does not see any flash of light and realizes that the prisoner has escaped safely.



(Image Courtesy: Google) NCERT

Important Expressions:

YONDER - At some distance in the direction pointed at

KIMONO: A traditional Japanese garment.

Staggered: Walk unsteadily

Solemn : Serious and concerned

Beachcomber: A vagrant who makes a living by searching beaches for articles of value and selling them.

Stupor: A state of unconsciousness

Battered: Torn and worn out.

Think As You Read:

1. What did the doctor do on seeing American prisoner in a dreadful state?
2. How did Yumi react when Hana asked her to obey the command of her master?
3. Why was the General not in favour of Sadao's arrest?
4. What measures did Dr. Sadao take for the safety of the American?
5. What did Dr. Sadao's old American professor of Anatomy tell him?

Content prepared absolutely from home.