



Subject—English Language

Class-10.

Date-24.6.20

Topic-Comprehension

Worksheet—21.

Time—45 minutes

Read carefully the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. All answers must be based on information given in the passage.

The Greek ships crossed the sea and touched the coast of Asia Minor, near to the city of Troy. The Greeks disembarked here and pitched their tents. They remained in this camp as long as they besieged the city.

Much beyond the beach was a vast plain and further up was a high hill on which Troy stood. The city was strongly fortified against any attack from enemies; besides, the Trojans were sure of the landscape of the region. Quite often they sailed forth against the Greeks but made sure that most of the fighting took place in the plain between the city and the sea.

The Greeks on their part were prudent warriors. They made no attempt to take the city by storm, but were content with skirmishes and single combats. After nine years of fighting in an alien land, the Greeks had little prospect as ever of recovering Helen from the Trojans. The Greek soldiers had become so restless that they were anxious to return to their families.

Soon there fell a calamity which further aggravated the situation.

It came about in this way. The Greeks frequently raided the smaller towns and villages of Troy. On one of the raids a fair maiden called Chryseis was captured together with her friend Briseis and they were taken as slaves to the Greek camp. When the sharing out of slaves took place, Agamemnon chose Chryseis and Briseis was given to Achilles.

Chryseis, who was chosen by Agamemnon, was the daughter of old Chryses, a priest of Apollo. The old man came to the Greek camp, knelt in tears before Agamemnon, offering a rich ransom for his daughter. The Greeks refused to grant his request and the priest departed with great sorrow. As he walked along the shore, he lifted his hands in prayer to Apollo and implored him to avenge the indignities which he had suffered at the Greek camp.

The great Apollo heeded to his prayer and sent a terrible pestilence amongst the Greeks. For nine days the cries of dying soldiers rent the air., so the Greek princes held council together and called upon a seer to explain the reason for this plague.

“ You have offended Apollo”, said the seer ,”because you have insulted his priest The plague will last until you send back Chryseis to her father.”

“Then let us not waste time,” said Achilles.”Let us send her back without delay.”

Agamemnon became furious. “It is easy for you to say so,” he retorted

.”You yourself run no risk of losing your maiden. But I agree to your proposal on the following terms. Chryseis shall be returned to her father but you shall surrender Briseis to me, to compensate me for my loss.’.

a)Give the meaning of the following word and phrases:

i) fortified. ii)to avenge the indignities iii) to compensate.

b)Answer the following questions:

i)What advantage did the Trojans have over the Greeks in the war?

ii)Why did the Greeks besiege Troy?

iii) Explain in your own words the difference between ‘ skirmishes’ and ‘single combats.’

iv) What made the Greeks soldiers restless and dissatisfied?

v) State what happened to the captives taken in the raid?

vi)Who was the leader of the Greek forces: Achilles or Agamemnon? Give reason for your answer

vii)Narrate what the priest of Apollo did when rebuffed by Agamemnon?

viii) what can you learn from the passage the character of Agamemnon?