

Friday, 10 April 2020

Std. XII - 1.1 An Astrologer's Day

1.1 An Astrologer's Day

The title of the text:

1) 'An astrologer's Day' arouses curiosity as something might have taken place on a particular day. It attracts the readers to go through the text.

2) 'An astrologer's Day' - Here 'a day' is a specific day in life that can be a turning point of somebody's life. The title is very interesting and creates curiosity in the mind of the readers. The writer extended the word with a particular purpose as it was used by Churchill... 'Everyone has his day'.

3) The title creates curiosity in the mind of the reader about astrology and astrologer's life. It also creates interest in reading to find out what is that particular day of the astrologer in the story.

Ice Breakers:

1) Discuss with your partner and complete the activity.
What are your strengths?

Strengths	Why do you feel so?	Dream career
painting and drawing	can visualise, express	commercial artist, cartoonist
dancing	passion, expression	choreographer, artist
singing	voice modulation	Singer
music	passion for musical instruments or to get peace and relaxation	music composer / Musician
acting	enacting as per situations	actor
making various	love to make food	chef

kinds of dishes		
ask questions	can raise critical issues	News anchor, Journalist
write stories	can arrange different ideas and events	Writer
persuade	can convince anyone	salesman/ businessman
weaving and sewing	can design clothes	dress designer

2) The scene in a local market of a village/town/city is very attractive. People with different occupations sell their wares. Discuss with your partner the variety of activities at the local market.

- 1. selling flowers, selling grocery.**
- 2. selling sweets, namkeens, bangles, artificial jewelries, homemade medicines, fruits, vegetables, home utensils, beauty products, clothes etc.**
- 3. bantering, bargaining, discussing, joking, shouting etc.**
- 4. transport of goods and other products.**
- 5. movement of persons and hand carts,**
- 6. use of different dialects or languages.**

3) In a village /town /city it is quite a common sight to see an astrologer sitting by the roadside with his professional equipment.

Discuss with your partner and list the requirements for his trade.

- 1) parrot, cards etc.**
- 2) cowrie shell, obscure things, clothes ,mala, beads, flowers etc**

3) lemon, green chillies, sindoor, books, photos of deity, wand, etc.

4) Panchang, mystic charts, palmyra writing, stick, mat, etc.

4) There are certain unreasonable beliefs among people living in our society. Certain common events are linked with superstitions.

List such events, discuss the superstitions linked with them and the means of their eradication.

1) A cat crossing your path

2) To cut the nails at night.

3) To see the women carrying empty pitchers.

4) To scratch the left hand.

5) To kill the cat.

6) To take salt on the palm.

7) To sit on the threshold.

8) To blow the burning diya.(oil lamp)

9) To touch the trees at night.

10) To remove the foot wears in front of the door.

11) To hear the caws of crow.

12) To blink the left eye.

13) Howling of dog.

14) Boiled milk overflowing from vessel.

15) Belief in supernatural powers.

16) Sacrifice of animals toward of evil.

17) Marriage of animals to ward off drought and bring rain.

18) Hang lemon and chillies.

19) Hang black doll on the door.

20) Seeing owl on the way.

21) Donating amount in figure of 11, 21, 51 and so on.

22) Breaking of mirror brings bad luck.

23) Sweeping of home at night.

24) Painting black spot to the infant.

Means to eradicate the superstitions:

1. By keeping scientific attitude.

2. Finding rationale behind them.

3. By exposing their falsehood.

4. By creating social awareness drive.

5. Through literacy campaigns

6. Through stage shows, films, songs, plays and TV programmes.

7. Taking help of local NGOs.

8. Organising Workshops, seminars and scientific forums at school and colleges.

9. Scientific thinking

10. Practical analysis

11. Tie up with organisation that exposes the truth through analytical thinking.

Guess the meaning:

1) **pies** - a former monetary unit of India and Pakistan equal to 1/12 of an anna

2) **tilting** - move or causing to move in sloping position

3) **bluffing** - trying to deceive someone as to someone's abilities or intentions

4) **glimpse** - a momentary or partial view

5) **passer-by** - a person who happens to be going past something, especially on foot

6) **peep** - look quickly and furtively at something especially through a narrow opening

7) **overwhelmed** - overpowered or have strong emotional effect on

8) **groaned**- made a deep, inarticulate sound conveying despair or pain

9) **surging** – (crowd) moving suddenly and powerfully forward

10) **cosmos** - coloured flowers and pinnate leaves (Mexican herb)

11) **dahlia** - name of a flower plant (a tuberous-rooted Mexican plant of the daisy family, which is cultivated for its brightly coloured single or double flowers.)

12) **din** - a loud, unpleasant and prolonged noise

13) **transacted** - carried out or conducted (business dealings)

14) careworn - tired or unhappy because of prolonged worry

15) gasped - panted, catch one's breath with an open mouth, owing to pain or astonishment.

Brainstorming activities:

(A1)

(i) Given below are some descriptions. Discuss them with your partner and find out one word for each of them. An example is given for you.

(a) The scientific study of the universe and the objects in it, including stars, planets, nebulae and galaxies

- Astronomy

(b) The study of the movements of the planets, Sun, Moon, and Stars in the belief that these movements can have an influence on people's lives

- Astrology or (Cosmology or Astrophysics)

(c) A prediction of what will happen in the future.

- Prophet or Foreteller or Oracle

(d) Scientific discipline that studies mental states and processes and behaviour in humans and other animals.

- Psychology

(ii) In the story we are told that the Town Hall Park was a remarkable place in many ways for an astrologer to build his business. Discuss it in a group and list the exceptional qualities of the place.

a) A surging crowd

b) A variety of trades and occupations.

c) An auctioneer of cheap cloth created enough din to attract the whole town.

d) Vociferousness of a vendor of fried groundnut.

e) It does not have the benefit of municipal lighting.

f) The place was lit up by shop lights.

g) Bewildering crisscross of light rays and moving shadows.

h) The astrologer transacted his business by the light of a flare.

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h) The astrologer transacted his business by the light of a flare.

(iii) The astrologer never opened his mouth till the other had spoken for at least ten minutes. Discuss the reasons behind his act.

(a) He is good at reading the people.

b) The information given by people provided him enough stuff for a dozen answers and advices

- c) He got a chance to analyze the troubles of his customer.**
- d) He worked on the policy those who hear a lot learn a lot.**
- e) He won the confidence of the customer.**
- f) He got enough time for searching answers and giving advice.**

(A2)

(i) The tactics used by the astrologer to earn his wages are...

- a) Analysis of human troubles**
- b) A good presence of mind, experience and perception**
- c) Use of equipment and shrewdness.**
- d) Comment on the customer's nature, affairs, efforts and fate.**
- e) Creation of fear in the mind of the customer.**
- e) Use of general statements to endear the customers and win their hearts.**

(ii) An astrologer's appearance helps to create an impression on his clients.

Complete the following

- a) The turban on his head**
- b) Sacred ash and vermilion on forehead**
- c) Dark whiskers, sparkling eyes, dark mustache etc.**
- d) Other equipment**

(iii) Read the following sentences and choose the correct one .

(a) The astrologer says that if Nayak does not leave his village again, he would -

(1) return the money

(2) face danger

(3) go back home and stop looking for the man who tried to kill him

(4) not find the killer.

Answer: face danger

(b) According to the narrator the astrologer's success in his profession is primarily due to -

(1) luck

(2) the bargains he drives

(3) his appearance

(4) his understanding of people.

Answer: his understanding of people.

(c) The story suggests that the astrologer's comments and observations please people by -

- (1) promising them success and good fortune**
- (2) proving, as time passes, to have been true**
- (3) flattering them or supporting their own views**
- (4) helping them to learn to solve their own problems.**

Answer: flattering them or supporting their own views

(d) Guru Nayak consults the astrologer because he wants to -

- (1) understand the past**
- (2) find out who the astrologer is**
- (3) make some money through a bet**
- (4) get the answer to a specific question**

Answer: get the answer to a specific question

(e) Guru Nayak is looking for the man who tried to kill him -

- (1) to take revenge**
- (2) to get an apology**
- (3) to demand an explanation**
- (4) to prove that the man was unsuccessful.**

Answer: to take revenge

(f) The astrologer's remark makes Guru Nayak feel all of the following except-

- (1) relieved**

(2) suspicious

(3) impressed

(4) disappointed.

Answer: suspicious

(g) Reactions of the astrologer's wife to his news suggest that she -

(1) was unaware of his past

(2) has been worried about his safety

(3) has known him since he was young

(4) is concerned about her future with him.

Answer: was unaware of his past

(iv) Read the following sentences and find out True and False sentences. Correct the False sentences.

(a) The astrologer gave a correct prediction to the client about his past that he was stabbed, thrown into a well and left for dead.- True

(b) When the astrologer came to know that the man whom he killed is alive he felt that he was relieved of his guilt. - True

(c) The astrologer tried to back out of the deal and talked about the client's past. – False (The astrologer demanded more money to tell about the client's past)

(d) The astrologer rescued himself from Guru Nayak's revenge. - True

(e) The moral of the story is that we must be responsible about what we have done and should not run away from

our mistakes. - **True**

(v) The astrologer has changed his appearance and his persona when he arrived in the city. Give specific reasons.

Answer: When astrologer was a silly youngster, he quarreled with Guru Nayak and tried to kill him in wrath. He thought that he had murdered Guru Nayak. So he left the village and settled in the distant city where no one was familiar with him. He changed his attire and also changed the complete appearance and persona so that no one could recognise him and his offence of killing Guru Nayak would not be revealed.

(vi)'The darkness load that was inside the astrologer has disappeared'. Through this sentence, explain the significance of the title 'An Astrologer's Day'.

Answer: An astrologer was living under the burden of thought that he had the blood of man on his hands all those days. But one day he saw a stranger before him. He identified Guru Nayak. When he saw Guru Nayak was alive, he became tension free. The day on which he was relieved from that load, was a special day for him. So that day is called An Astrologer's Day.

(vii) The astrologer feels relieved that Guru is not dead as it relieves a great burden from him. Critically justify the statement and explain it.

Answer: An astrologer was living under the load of thought that he had murdered Guru Nayak. So he felt himself guilty. But one day when he saw Guru Nayak before him alive, he felt relieved from the burden of that thought means he was not dead.

(viii) The astrologer wins/gets the sympathy of criticism of the reader in the end. Express your opinion with the support of the main story.

Answer: The Astrologer gets the sympathy of the readers because he was guilty of his deed and wanted to get away from it. His smartness and the tricks of his trade had

saved him from his past crime. He had accepted his mistake and already started living a new life. Acceptance of mistake is a great quality which is difficult to find. His perception, presence of mind, self-confidence and shrewdness helped him to overcome the problem. He had learnt a lesson hence the astrologer got sympathy from the readers.

(ix) If we have to eradicate the superstitions and other ill practices from our society, what steps would you like to suggest?

Answer: I would like to suggest the following steps for eradicating the superstitions and other ill practices from our society.

a) I will make the people aware of the things which are good and which are bad for our development and also for the development of our society.

b) I will tell them about the ill effects of superstitions on our health.

c) I will try to develop the scientific views in the people.

d) I will also tell them how common persons are deceived under the names of blind beliefs by some so called Sadhus.

e) I will also tell the people not to believe in unknown persons who come to your doorstep and ask you to make double the money or ornaments.

f) I will take the help of the organizations who are working in the field of eradication of superstitions. These organizations will arrange programmes to show the ill impacts of superstitions.

**g) I will try to develop scientific thinking within common people through practical experiences.
etc.**

(x) In the story, astrologer has a great listening power. Listening helps in developing good relations with people. Express your opinion.

Answer: Yes, listening helps in developing good relations with people. a) If we listen carefully what the person before us telling, he / she will respect us.

b) If we listen someone's agony, we can console him / her. It helps us to build good relationship.

c) Listening also helps us to sort out the misunderstanding.

d) Listening is skill which helps one to communicate successfully.

e) If we don't listen others and speak to the people all the time, they get bored and try to avoid us which affects the relations.

f) A good listener is always alert and can judge things in correct perspective. Such person takes proper steps to maintain the relationship.

A3)

(i) In the story, the following characters reveal their qualities through words and actions. Pick out the words that describe them and write before the characters.

Astrologer	Guru Nayak	Astrologer's wife
(1) shrewd	manipulative	caring
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		

Answer

a) Astrologer	b) Guru Nayak	c) Astrologer's wife
shrewd	shrewd	demanding
clever	arrogant	caring
suspicious	overconfident	protective
mean	cunning	rational
manipulative	aggressive	humanistic
worried	antagonistic	
cunning	quarrelsome	
intuitive	gullible	
skeptical		
mystical		
smart		
sharp		
impetuous		

(ii) Match the

suffixes with the words and make nouns. One is done for you.

Word	suffix	noun
auction	able	auctioneer
enchant	ure	
know	ment	
prepare	eer	
proceed	ance	
appear	ledge	
remark	tion	

Answer:-

Word	suffix	noun
auction	able	auctioneer
enchant	ure	enchantment
know	ment	knowledge
prepare	eer	preparation
proceed	ance	procedure
appear	ledge	appearance
remark	tion	remarkable

iii) Astrologer's Day' has ironic elements where the

astrologer pretends to have 'supernatural knowledge' that coincidentally turns out to be the truth.

Irony means a situation or statement characterized by a significant difference between what is expected and what actually happens, or between what is understood and what is meant.

Find out the examples of irony from the story and write them down. One has been done for you.

a) He knew no more of what was going to happen to others than he knew what was going to happen to himself the next minute.

b) He had a working analysis of mankind's troubles.

c) Within five minutes he understood what was wrong.

d) Guru Nayak came to the astrologer for help in finding the man who nearly killed him--and the astrologer himself was the very man he was looking for but he couldn't recognize him.

e) His forehead was resplendent with sacred ash and vermilion, and his eyes sparkled with a sharp abnormal gleam which was really an outcome of a continual searching look for customers, but which his simple clients took to be a prophetic light and felt comforted.

f) Nayak learnt that his attacker was dead. The astrologer learnt that he did not commit murder.

g) The very fact that such pious and sanctimoniously sacrosanct activities are carried out in busy market lanes where day to day businesses are carried out makes quite a few eyebrows to get raised and worry about the real underpinnings of these businesses.

(iv) In the story, many Indian words are used.

'Cowrie shells'. This is an example of code-mixing.

Find out other such words from the story and write them down.

Examples of code – mixing:-

Raja's Delicacy, Bombay ice cream, Delhi Almond, three pies, eight annas, half annas, jutka drivers, lit a cheeroot etc.

Date ____ / ____ / ____

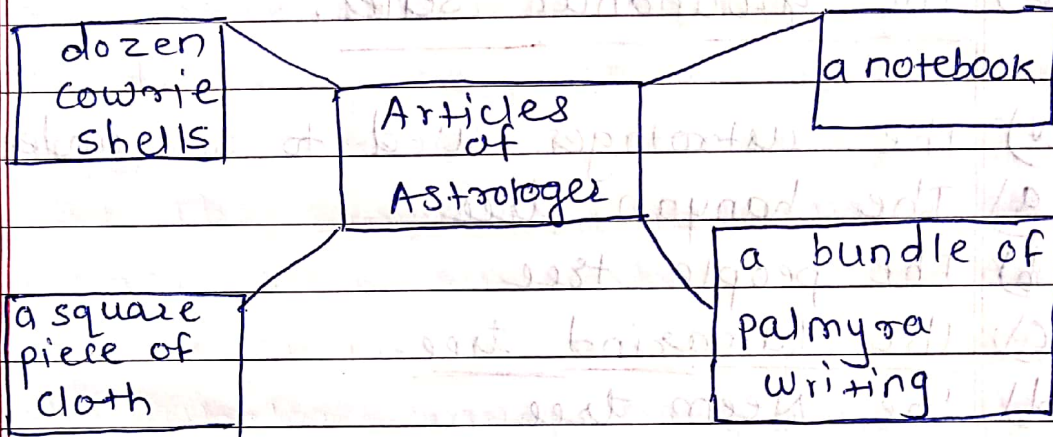
An Astrologer's Day - R.K. Narayan.

Activities with expected answers -

→ Extract No. 01. (Page No. 02 & 03)
[Punctually at ----- before the astrologer too].

A-1 Complete the web by writing down the Articles Astrologer carry. (02)

Ans →



A-2. Choose the correct alternatives and complete the sentence.

i) The astrologer used to begin his business punctually -----

- a) In the evening
- b) In the morning
- c) At midday
- d) At night.

Ans @ ii) The astrologer's eyes sparkled with a sharp abnormal gleam -----

- a) He had spiritual powers
- b) He possessed magical powers
- c) He looked continuously for customers.
- d) He was intelligent.

iii) ----- gave his ware a fancy name each day.

- a) The medicine seller
- b) The magician
- c) The astrologer
- d) The groundnut seller.

iv) The astrologer used to sit under ---

- a) The banyan tree
- b) The people tree
- c) The tamarind tree
- d) The Neem tree

A-2) Describe the appearance of the astrologer to impress his clients. (02)

- Ans - a) The turban on his head.
- b) Sacred ash and vermilion on forehead.
 - c) Eyes sparkled with sharp abnormal gleam.
 - d) Colour scheme, prophetic light.

A-2) Find out proofs and evidences from the extract to prove the following facts.

- i) Town hall place was a remarkable place

- Ans- a) A surging crowd was always moving till night.
- b) Variety of trades and occupations was represented all along its way.
- c) Vendors and business people used to make a lot of noise there.
- d) People used to flock to the vendor and astrologer in the park.

A-3 Interpret the statement, "He wound a saffron coloured turban around his head. This colour scheme never failed...." in the context of the above text.

Ans: - The simple rustic fellows of the village were succumbed to the astrologer because of his tactics. They thought that the astrologer must have divine qualities. They might be worried about their Fortune and fate. The astrologer was aware of their worries and use common sense and logic to attract them with his appearance.

A-4 Personal Response -

"The wise man always has long ears and a short tongue." Do you agree with this notion. Justify your answer

Ans - Yes, I do agree because the wise man actually listens to more and

absorbs the knowledge rather than constantly being argumentative or trying to waste words. It is often advised to speak less and doesn't speak without thinking. In short it means that it is better to hear things rather than argue or reply all the time.

A-5 Language study:

i) He opened his bag and spread his professional equipment.

[Make a simple sentence.]

Ans - Opening his bag he spread his professional equipment.

ii) He wound a saffron-coloured turban around his head.

(Frame a 'wh' question to get the underlined part as an answer.)

Ans - What did he wind around his head?

A-6- Find examples of Compound words from the extract.

Ans - Cowrie-shells, notebook, position-placed, half-wit's eyes, saffron-coloured, surging crowd etc.

x x x x x x

→ [The astrologer ---- flowed between] Page No. 03

A-1] Choose and Rewrite the complete sentences.

1. The place did not have the advantage of municipal lighting.
2. The man never had the intention to be an Astrologer.
3. The man had left his village without any previous thought or plan.
4. He was a stranger to the stars as well as his innocent customers.

A-2] Find out the expressions from the extract that describes the Metaphoric use of the "Element of light" used by the writer.

Ans → The astrologer transacted his business by the light of a flare. One or two hissing gaslights. Some had naked flares stuck on poles. It was a bewildering crisscross of light rays and moving shadows.

A-3] Give reasons:- The astrologer deserved the money which he used to earn----

Ans → He said things which pleased and

astonished everyone. He was able to convince his customers because of his study, practice and shrewd guesswork. All the same it was an honest man's labour.

A-4] Find out the words from the extract which mean the following -

- a) Surprising - astonished, bewildering
- b) To plan or mean to do something - intended
- c) Great pleasure or delight = enchantment
- d) Fixed regular payment = wages

A-5] Personal Response

"Astrology is nothing but applying common sense, logic and pure guesswork". Share your views

I think it is true because nobody knows what could happen next.

Astrology consists of a number of belief systems. It has not demonstrated its effectiveness in controlled studies and has no scientific validity.

A-6] Grammar.

1) He had left his village. (Identify the tense)
→ Past Perfect Tense.

2) He could not resist. (use 'be able to')

→ He was not able to resist.

→ [He had a working----- chat with me].

A-1] State whether the following statements are true or false.

- a) The astrologer was able to analyse people's troubles due to his long practice - True
- b) Astrologer use common sense to deal with the clients - True
- c) Astrologer used to be there at the place even after the vender left for home - False
- d) Clients normally disagree with the predictions of the astrologer - False

A-2] Find out the expressions that deal with the fact that Analysis of Character is done by the astrologer!

→ "Most of your troubles are due to your nature. How can you be otherwise with Saturn where he is? You have an impetuous nature and a tough exterior."

A-3] The astrologer could ~~not~~ understand the problem in five minutes. [Give Reasons]

→ The astrologer had a working analysis of mankind's troubles like

marriage, money and the problems of human ties. Due to long practice, he had sharpened his perception to judge people. He used to listen his clients' patiently and understood their problems.

A-4] Find out the words from the extract which mean the following: -

- a) Twist together into a confused mass = **Tangles.**
- b) Attitude or approach to judge someone = **Perspective.**
- c) Impulsive = **Impetuous.**
- d) Liked by somebody = **endeared.**

A-5] Do you believe that Analysis of mankind troubles is possible. Justify.

→ Yes, I do believe as we are going from so many troubles now a days. Each one of us is facing the economic & different problems such as social, economic, political, crime, violence, terrorism and environmental issues. Most of the problems are complex and their solutions elusive. Yet they share a common link, as they are nearly caused by human beings.

A-6] Grammar.

- i) He charged three pies per question.
[Frame a "wh" question" to get the underlined part as an answer.]

→ How much (money) did he charge per question?

- ii) This was a signal for the astrologer?

(Frame a Rhetorical question.)

→ Wasn't this a signal for the astrologer?