

UNIT 7

A BIRTHDAY LETTER

- Jawaharlal Nehru

PROSE

Warm Up

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1. Have you ever received a personal letter from your friends or relatives?

Yes, I have received a personal letter from my friend.

2. If yes, from whom and about what?

I have received a personal letter from my old friend who is far away from me. It is about his new school.

3. Have you ever written a personal letter to anyone?

Yes, I have written a personal letter to my friend.

4. If yes, to whom and about what?

I have written a personal letter to my friend asking him what group to take after std X public exam.



UNIT 7

Summary

'A Birthday Letter' was written by Jawaharlal Nehru to his daughter from Central Prison, Naini on October 26, 1930. Nehru says that he could not send any birthday present to her. Instead of that he would send the letter of mind and spirit. Long advice would not be of any help to anyone. To know what is right and what is not right, we should find out by talking and discussing. Beyond our little world lies other mysterious world. We have plenty to learn in this world.

In history we read of great men and women. Once Indira was fascinated by the story of Joan of Arc and she wanted to become somebody like that. Ordinary men and women worry about their children and food and they are not heroic. But certain time would make people interested in a great cause. At that time even ordinary people would become heroes. Great leaders inspire the people to do great things. In India Gandhi inspired ordinary people to great actions and noble sacrifice.

Gandhi's message made millions of people become soldiers of freedom. If we want to become India's soldiers, we should respect its honour. It is not easy to know what is right

and what is not right. If we do anything in secret or if we want to hide anything it is not right. In India's freedom struggle there was nothing secret. People were not afraid of what they did. He wants Indira to grow up in light, unafraid and serene and unruffled.

Glossary and Meanings Textual

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sermon (n)	– ceremony in which a priest gives a talk on a religious or moral subject
fascinated (adj)	– extremely attracted
deed (n)	– a brave or noble act
starving (adj)	– suffering or dying from hunger
oppressed (adj)	– governed in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom
sacred (adj)	– considered to be holy and deserving respect
serene (adj)	– peaceful and calm
unruffled (adj)	– not nervous or worried, usually despite a difficult situation

Glossary and Meanings Additional

doling	– giving advice to more than one person
mysterious	– secretive
ambition	– desire
inspire	– motivate
eager	– ready or interested
fortunate	– lucky

Textual Questions

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1. From which prison did Nehru write this letter?

Nehru wrote this letter from Central Prison, Naini.

2. Did Nehru send any presents to Indira?

No, Nehru did not send any presents to Indira.

3. Which historical character inspired young Indira?

Joan of Arc inspired young Indira.

4. What helps the ordinary men and women to become heroes?

When ordinary men and women are interested in a great cause, they become heroes.

5. Who is addressed as 'Bapuji'?

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Gandhi is addressed as 'Bapuji'.

6. What should the soldiers of India respect?

The soldiers of India should respect India's honour.

A. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.**1. Why could not Nehru send any presents to Indira?**

Nehru was in the central prison, Naini. So he could not send any presents to Indira.

2. What cannot be stopped even by the high walls of prisons?

The high walls of prisons cannot stop his mind and spirit.

3. Why did Nehru dislike sermonizing?

Sermonizing will not help to advise anybody. So he disliked sermonizing.

4. What does history tell us?

History tells us about great men and women.

5. What do ordinary men and women usually think of?

Ordinary men and women usually think of food, their children and their household works.

6. When do ordinary men and women become heroes?

When the right time comes history helps ordinary men and women to become heroes.

7. What does the phrase 'great drama' refer to?

The phrase 'great drama' refers to India's freedom struggle.

8. Why are freedom fighters under Gandhi not afraid of anything?

The freedom fighters under Gandhi do what is right. They do not do anything in secret. So they are not afraid of anything.

B. Answer the following in about 80 – 100 words each.**1. Explain the important elements of Nehru's letter.**

'A Birthday Letter' was written by Jawaharlal Nehru to his daughter from Central Prison, Naini on October 26, 1930. In history we read of great men and women. Once Indira was fascinated by the story of Joan of Arc and she wanted to become like her. Ordinary men and women worry about their children and food and they are not heroic. But certain time would make people interested in a great cause. At that time even ordinary people would become heroes. Great leaders inspire the people to do great things. In India, Gandhi inspired ordinary people to great actions and noble sacrifice. It is not easy to know what is right and what is not right. If we do anything in secret or if anything we want to hide anything it is not right.

2. Imagine yourself as Indira and write a reply to your father, Nehru for the letter you received on your birthday.

Delhi,

November 16, 1930.

Dear Papa,

Thank you so much for your kind letter which you wrote for my birthday. I really felt your mind and spirit in the letter. You have made me a very strong girl and I will grow

Indira.

S. No	Word	Synonym	Antonym
1	wide	broad	narrow
2	noble	gentle	ignoble
3	oppress	subdue	freedom
4	honour	privilege	dishonour
5	worthy	valuable	unworthy
6	private	personal	public
7	brave	valiant	coward

Ans: b

3. The wedding anniversary is on _____.

- a) March 2nd b) April 2nd
c) May 2nd d) June 2nd

Ans: b

4. As part of the celebration, the brothers have planned to make their parents to _____.

- a) visit an orphanage b) donate some money
c) plant a mango sapling d) conduct a game

Ans: c

5. State whether the statement is true or false.

The brothers have decided to borrow money for the wedding anniversary celebration.

Ans: False

Reading

Anne Frank's Diary Entry about her birthday.

Sunday, June 14, 1942

Dear Kitty,

I hope I will be able to confide everything to you (the diary), as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support.

I'll begin from the moment I got you, the moment I saw you lying on the table among my other birthday presents. (I went along when you were bought, but that doesn't count.)

On Friday, June 12, I was awake at six o'clock, which isn't surprising, since it was my birthday. But I'm not allowed to get up at that hour, so I had to control my curiosity until quarter to seven. When I couldn't wait any longer, I went to the dining room, where Moortje (the cat) welcomed me by rubbing against my legs.

A little after seven I went to Dad and Mom and then to the living room to open my presents, and you were the first thing I saw, maybe one of my nicest presents. Then a bouquet of roses, some peonies and a potted plant. From Dad and Mom, I got a blue blouse, a game, a bottle of grape juice, a puzzle, a jar of cold cream and a gift certificate for two books. I got another book as well, Camera Obscura (but my sister Margot already has it, so I exchanged mine for something else), a platter of homemade cookies (which I made myself, of course, since I've become quite an expert at baking cookies), lots of candy and a strawberry tart from Mother.

Then Hanneli my classmate came to pick me up, and we went to school. During recess I passed out cookies to my teachers and my class, and then it was time to get back to work. As it was my birthday, I got to decide which game my classmates would play, and I chose volleyball. Afterward they all danced around me in a circle and sang "Happy Birthday."

F. Answer the following questions based on the given reading passage.

1. What is the name of her diary?

Anne Frank's Diary.

2. Why did Anne want to exchange the book 'Camera Obscura'?

Anne wanted to exchange the book 'Camera Obscura' because her sister Margret already had it.

3. Who baked the homemade cookies?

Anne herself baked the homemade cookies.

4. What game did Anne choose to play?

Anne chose to play Volleyball.

5. Which gift did Anne value the most?

Anne valued the diary the most.

Speaking

G. Imagine you are going to celebrate your forthcoming birthday at an orphanage/old age home.

Deliver a short speech about your birthday celebration.

Respected Mr. Suresh, in-charge of the orphanage, my dear inmates of this orphanage, my friends. Today I am very happy to celebrate my birthday with the inmates. First of all, I thank Mr. Suresh for having given me permission to celebrate my birthday here. I am happy to say that my friends have accompanied me to enjoy this day. I asked Mr. Suresh what food would be ideal for these children and as per his wish I have ordered the food. I thanked my friends who helped me. I have something which will be helpful to them for their studies. Now we will have cake cutting and then we will go for some games. After that we will have food.

Thank you all.

Writing

H. Write a meaningful paragraph using the hints given below.

Maresh – celebrates – 14th birthday – an old-age home – family, friends – informs home in advance – delegates tasks – friends buy things necessary – arrives home early – decorates place – balloons, colour papers – inmates gathered – cuts cake – sing song, claps – distributes cakes – expresses his feelings – gets blessings – offers things – bedsheets, footwear etc. needed – fun, entertainment – happy and content.

Answer:

Maresh celebrated his 14th birthday in an old-age home with his family and friends. He informed the home well in advance. He delegated work to his friends. They bought things necessary for the celebration. He arrived home early with his friends and decorated the place with balloons and colour papers. The inmates gathered in time. He cut the cake in front of the inmates. Then he distributed the cake and thanked the people and got their blessings. Then he offered them bedsheets, footwear and other essential things. They had fun and entertainment. At the end, he was happy and contented.

Grammar

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Determiners

Observe the nouns in the following sentences and words before them.

- An apple is a healthy fruit.
- Two cats have drunk a bowl of milk.
- My father has many cars.

Determiners are the words that introduce a noun and provide some information about it (but do not describe it).

Determiners are followed by a noun.

- **The** ball
- **Five** cats
- **His** son
- **Some** students

Types of Determiners :

There are six types of determiners.

Articles	Demonstratives	Possessive Adjectives
a, an, the	this, that these, those	my, our, your, his, her, its, their
Quantifiers	Cardinal Numbers	Ordinal Numbers
some, any, few, little, more, much, many, every	one, two, three, twenty, forty, hundred etc.	first, second, third, twentieth etc.

- The quantifiers **all, any, enough less, a lot of, more, most, no, none of, some etc..**, are used with both countable and uncountable nouns.
- The quantifiers **both, each, either, fewer, neither etc..**, are used only with countable nouns.

A. Choose the correct determiner.

- Could you bring me **those** tools I left in the garden?
- The** Earth revolves around the sun.
- I found **a** one rupee coin in the playground while playing.
- There aren't **many** students in the library.
- It was **an** unforgettable experience.
- I haven't got **any** pictures in my bathroom.
- He said that he wanted to become **an** engineer.
- Kokila gave a pen to **each** child in the classroom on her birthday.
- I've to solve **some** math problems before I go to sleep.
- India is **the** largest democracy in the world.
- My father doesn't drink **much** coffee.
- I always keep **some** money in my wallet for emergencies.

(this, those, these)

(the, a, an)

(a, an, the)

(much, many, a lot)

(a, an, the)

(some, any, many)

(a, an, the)

(any, all, each)

(all, some, many)

(a, an, the)

(much, many, a lot)

(any, every, some)

13. This year we are celebrating my sister's **second** birthday.
 14. I have **three** pencils with me.
 15. 'What is that noise?' I think it is **an** airplane.

(a, two, second)

(a, three, third)

(a, an, the)

Reported Speech

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Look at the following sentences.

She said, "I have won the first prize." (Direct Speech)

She said that she had won the first prize. (Indirect Speech)

- In the first sentence, the reporter conveys the message of the girl using her actual words i.e., ("I have won the first prize.")
- In the second sentence, the reporter conveys her message but in his own words without any change in the meaning. (She said that she had won the first prize.)
- In direct speech, we reproduce the actual words of the speaker. We place spoken words within inverted commas (" ").
- In indirect speech (also called Reported Speech), we report the words of the speaker with a few changes.

Key Terminology

Direct Speech

She said, "I have won the first prize"

Reporting verb,

Direct speech

Reporting Statements

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We make the following changes when reporting the statements.

- Change the pronouns
- Reporting verb followed by 'that'
- Change the tense, time and place

Eg. Kowsalya said, "We watched a film yesterday."

Kowsalya said **that they had watched** a film **the day before**.

Pronoun

tense

time

Reporting Imperatives

To report an imperative, use the pattern: **request/order/suggest+someone+to infinitive**

Eg. Karthi said to Ram, "Please, switch on the fan."

Karthi requested Ram to switch on the fan.

Reporting Questions:

When reporting questions, we use the pattern:

asked / wanted to know + question word + pronoun + verb

Eg. She said to me, "Where did you go?"

She asked me where I went.

Note: If the 'wh' question is missing, if or whether is added.

Eg. Praveena asked, "Have you watered the plants?"

Praveena asked if/whether I had watered the plants.

Sometimes it is not necessary to report everything that is said word by word. It may be better to use 'reporting verbs' which summarise what was communicated.

Below are some of the most commonly used verbs of this kind.

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accept	advise	apologise	ask	assure	blame
complain	complement	congratulate	explain	greet	hope
invite	offer	order	persuade	promise	remind
regret	say	suggest	tell	thank	answer
warn	encourage	regret	sympathize	refuse	instruct

Pronouns			
Direct Speech	Indirect Speech		
	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
I	he	she	-
You (subject)	he	she	they
you (object)	him	her	them
your	his	her	their
my	his	her	their
myself	himself	herself	themselves
we	-	-	they
us	-	-	them

Denoting Time and Position	
Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
this	that
these	those
now	then
ago	before
last night	the previous night
next day	the following day

Denoting Time and Position	
Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
today	that day
yesterday	the previous day
tomorrow	the next day
next week	the following week
last week	the previous week
here	there

- B. Observe the following call-outs. Reporter (C) has reported the sentence of Speaker (A). Now help the reporter (C) report the rest of the sentences of Speaker (A).**

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A (Speaker)	B (Questioner)	C (Reporter)
I have to go.	What did he say?	He said that he wanted to go. (say)
Can you hear me?	What did she say?	She asked if you could hear her. (ask)
Consult the doctor	What did he say?	He advised you to consult the doctor. (advise)
I won't go to the party	What did he say?	He said that he would not go to the party. (say)
When did you come?	What did she say?	She asked me when I had come. (ask)
Don't touch the wire	What did she say?	She warned me not to the touch the wire. (warn)
Don't eat too much of sweets.	What did he say?	He advised me not to eat too much of sweets (advise)
Please give me a cup of tea.	What did he say?	He requested me to give him a cup of tea. (request)

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- C. Report the following sentences.**

- Pushpa said, "Do not spoil the eco-system."
Pushpa advised us not to spoil the eco-system.
- Ebin said, "Have you booked the tickets to Delhi?"
Ebin asked him whether he had booked the tickets to Delhi.
- Rehman said to Tilak, "When are we leaving for our native?"
Rehman asked Tilak when they were leaving for their native.
- Maha said, "Lakshan, you should get up early in the morning."
Maha advised Lakshan that he should get up early in the morning.
- Gladin said to his mother, "Can you, please, buy me a hot-chocolate?"
Gladin requested his mother to buy him a hot chocolate.
- "Tomorrow I have to take a test in English", said Sudha.
Sudar said that he had to take a test in English the next day.
- Amali said to her sister, "I need your help to arrange the books in the shelf."
Amali told her sister that she needed her help to arrange the books in the shelf.
- "Why don't you use crayons for colouring?" said Prabhu to his son.
Prabhu asked his son why he did not use crayons for colouring.



UNIT 7

THE STICK-TOGETHER FAMILIES

- Edgar Albert Guest

POEM

Warm Up

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At the heart of life lies the relationships you have with other people: with family, classmates and friends close-by and far away. All relationships are based on some commonly accepted values like respect, honesty consideration and commitment. Think about all the important relationships in your life and complete the table given below.



Relationship	What I value the most about this relationship	What are the things that may/do cause unpleasantness in this relationship?	What could I do to improve this relationship?
Grandparents	The time they spend with me. The morals they teach me.	Unnecessary advice they give.	I will spend a lot of time with them.
Parents	I value everything they do for me. My whole life depends on them.	They may not have enough time to spend with me.	I will try to adjust with them.
Siblings	The time I spend playing with them and the help I receive from them.	My privacy will be spoilt.	I will try to avoid my privacy.
Friends	Togetherness with them. Comfortable to share anything with them.	Too much of dependency on me.	I will try to adjust as much as possible.
Teachers	Their teachings and life-skills they give us	Too much advice.	I will try my best to listen to them.

Summary

Edgar Albert Guest in his poem 'The Stick-together Families' describes how the family members of the stick-together families are happy. The members of the stick-together family are the happiest people. In some families the brothers and sisters are not together. Happiest people are those whose family members sit in a circle at the fireside. The best convention is that the family members sit together after the day's work is done. Many people are ready to break the family ties to search for pleasure. They wander and meet strangers. They get only bitterness and empty joy. The wisest children are those who live in a stick-together family.

Some people think that to be happy they must roam around. For them strange friends are the true friends. They waste their lives in searching for joy in far-off places. But the happiest people are those who sit together as brothers and sisters to share their fun. The stick-together family gets the joy of the earth. The old home gives them happiness and it has gladdest playground. The poet asks the people who wander here and there to find pleasure to come back to their fireside to get true happiness.

Glossary and Meanings Textual

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conventions (n)	– a large formal meeting of people who have a similar interest
shatter (v)	– to break suddenly into very small pieces
astray (adv.)	– away from the correct path or correct way of doing something
mirth (n)	– laughter, humour or happiness
comrade (n)	– a friend

A. Based on your understanding of the poem, answer the questions in a sentence or two.

- The gladdest people living are the wholesome folks who make
A circle at the fireside that no power but death can break.*

a. Who are the gladdest people living?

Gladdest people are those whose family members sit in a circle at the fireside.

b. Where do they gather?

They gather at the fireside.

c. What can break their unity?

Death can break their unity.

- And the finest of conventions ever held beneath the sun
Are the little family gatherings when the busy day is done.*

a. When do they have their family gatherings?

They have their family gatherings when the day's work is done.

b. Where do they have their family conventions?

They have their family conventions beneath the sun.

c. What does the poet mean by 'finest conventions'?

By 'finest conventions' the poet means the best customs.

3. *There are rich folk, there are poor folk, who imagine they are wise,
And they are very quick to shatter all the little family ties*
- What do the rich and poor folk imagine themselves to be?**
The rich and the poor folk imagine themselves to be wise.
 - What do they do to their families?**
They shatter all the family ties.
 - Whom does 'they' refer to?**
'They' refers to rich and poor folk who shatter the family ties.
4. *There are some who seem to fancy that for gladness they must roam
That for smiles that are the brightest they must wander far from home.*
- Why do they roam?**
They roam to get gladness.
 - According to them, when do they get bright smiles?**
According to them, they get bright smiles when they wander far from home.
5. *But the gladdest sort of people, when the busy day is done
Are the brothers and sisters who together share their fun.*
- Who are the gladdest people?**
The gladdest people are those who sit together as brothers and sisters to share their fun.
 - When do they share their fun?**
They share their fun when the day's work is done.
 - What does 'who' refer to?**
'Who' refers to the brothers and sisters who share their fun.
6. *It is the stick-together family that wins this joys of earth,
That hears the sweetest music and that finds the finest mirth;*
- Who wins the joys of earth?**
The stick-together family wins the joys of earth.
 - How do they find their joy?**
They find their joy from the sweetest music.
 - What does the poet mean by 'stick-together family'?**
The poet means by 'stick-together family', the family which has family bond among all the family members.

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- B. Based on the understanding of the poem, fill the blanks using the words and phrases given to make a meaningful summary of the poem.**

brothers and sisters	bitterness	joint family	share their fun
rich and the poor folk	shatter their family	charm of life	separate ways
the joy of earth	stick-together families		

The poet brings out the difference in the attitudes of children living in joint family and nuclear family. The stick-together families are the happiest of all. Whereas the brothers and sisters of nuclear families take separate ways. The gladdest people are the children from joint family who circle near the fireside. No power other than death can break them. The rich and the poor folk imagine themselves to be wise and in the process they shatter their family ties. Each of them goes searching for pleasure in their own selected way. They harvest only bitterness and find empty joy. But the wisest among them are the children of the stick-together families. When the busy day is done, they together share their fun. The stick-together family wins the joy of earth. The old house shelters all the charm of life. The pet invites wandering brothers to come and join the stick-together families in their fireside and have fun.

C. Answer the following questions in about 80 – 100 words.

1. The stick-together families are the happiest of all. Explain.

Edgar Albert Guest in his poem 'The Stick-together Families' describes how the family members of the stick-together families are happy. The members of the stick-together family are the happiest people. In the families the brothers and sisters are not together. Happiest people are those whose family members sit in a circle at the fireside. The best convention is that the family members sit together after the day's work is done. The stick-together family gets the joy of the earth. The old home gives the happiness and it has gladdest playground. The poet asks the people who wander here and there to find pleasure to come back to their fireside to get the happiness.

2. Bring out the difference between the children of the joint family and nuclear family.

The poet brings out the differences in the attitudes of children living in joint family and nuclear family. The stick-together families are the happiest of all, whereas the brothers and sisters of nuclear families take separate ways. The gladdest people are the children from joint family who circle near the fireside. The rich and the poor folk imagine themselves to be wise and in the process they shatter their family ties. Each of them goes searching for pleasure in his/her own selected way. They harvest only bitterness and find empty joy. But the wisest among them are the children of the stick-together families. When the busy day is done, they together share their fun.

Figure of speech

Personification:

Personification is a figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is given human qualities or abilities.

Eg: *It's the stick-together family that wins the joys of earth,...*

Imagery

Imagery means to use figurative language to represent objects, actions, and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our physical senses.

Eg: *That hears the sweetest music...*

Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics

Eg: *It's the old home roof that shelters....*

There you find the gladdest play-ground...

D. Answer the following.

1. *There are rich folk, there are poor folk, who imagine they are wise....*

Pick out the words in alliteration.

there, there, they

folk, folk

2. **Mention the rhyme scheme of the poem.**

aa, bb, cc.

Listening**E. Listen to the passage and fill in the blanks with appropriate answer.**

1. A person is valued based on his family and upbringing.
2. Family bonding does not happen overnight.
3. A close family bond is like a safe harbour.
4. A strong foundation for any individual comes from being with a supportive family.
5. A gift not only with lovable parents but siblings who care and love us beyond themselves.

Speaking**F. "The building actually rests on the well laid out foundation and hence is strong and still." How can this be related to a family? Discuss with your partner and share your views in the class.**

The success of a family depends on its strong foundation. It is almost like the foundation of a building. The family foundation is created by the parents and siblings. The foundation is nothing but the bond among the members of the family. The bonding does not happen overnight. It is cemented by the relationship among the family members. The close family bond is like a foundation of a building. The family stays together if the bond is strong.

Writing**G. Write a four-line poem with rhyming words describing your family.**

*My family success is the bond have we with others
We every night pray sitting together near the fire place
Before starting anything new, we discuss
To find the method we try not anything to miss.*



UNIT 7

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

- Aaron Shepard

Supplementary

Warm Up

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1. Name one festival which you like the most.

I like Deepavali the most.

2. How do you celebrate that festival?

I celebrate with fireworks.

3. Narrate a memorable incident which happened during that celebration?

My playmates and I came together to put out the fire.

Summary

Aaron Shepherd writes this lesson in the form of a letter from a British soldier to his sister Janet. The British soldiers and German soldiers were close to the No-man's land which was protected by barbed wires. On Christmas Eve, the British soldiers went to their dugouts. Tom, the writer of the letter was also in the dugout. There was no shooting but he had little doubt about the attack from Germans. So he was keeping his weapon ready. They had a good Christmas weather. The Germans must have also been thinking about the possible attack.

Suddenly John came to Jim and told him that the Germans had a wonderful Christmas tree. It was decorated with candle or lantern. They heard the Germans singing 'Stille nacht, heilige nacht... It was the German version of 'Silent Night, Holy Night'. Then the British soldiers sang: The first Nowell, the angel did say... In this way, they exchanged many Christmas carols.

In a few minutes, German invited the British officers to the No-man's land. The German officer climbed over the barbed wire and came inside the barbed wire. So the British officer also went there. They had a talk and decided not to shoot till Christmas was over. Then the soldiers of both the sides met in the no-man's land and exchanged wishes and many of them wanted permanent peace. Disputes may arise, but if the leaders offered good wishes in place of warnings, songs in place of insults, gifts in place of reprisals, the wars would come to an end. Anyway the soldiers had a perfect Christmas.

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truce (n)	– an agreement to stop fighting or arguing for a period of time
dugout (n)	– a trench that is dug and roofed over as a shelter for troops
carols (n)	– a religious folk song or popular hymn, particularly one associated with Christmas
trenches (n)	– a long, narrow ditch
maim (v)	– injure or wound seriously and leave permanent damage to body or parts
splatter (n)	– a small quantity of something moist or liquid
slog (v)	– work hard over a period of time
muck (n)	– dirt, rubbish, or waste matter
stumble (v)	– trip or momentarily lose one's balance; almost fall
bewilderment (n)	– a feeling of being perplexed and confused.

Ans: a

Ans: d

Ans: a

Ans: b

Ans: c

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1. Our first complete silence in months! – Tom
2. Come and see! See what the Germans are doing! – John
3. Hold your fire. – British Captain
4. You no shoot, we no shoot. – One of the German soldiers
5. My God, why cannot we have peace and all go home? – an old German soldier

C. Answer the following questions in about 100 – 120 words.**1. Narrate the Christmas celebration as happened in the war field.**

Aaron Shepherd writes this lesson in the form of a letter from a British soldier to his sister Janet. John came to Jim and told him that the Germans had a wonderful Christmas tree. It was decorated with candles or lanterns. They heard the Germans singing 'Stille nacht, heilige nacht... It was the German version of 'Silent Night, Holy Night'. Then the British soldiers sang: The first Nowell, the angel did say... In this way, they exchanged many Christmas carols. In a few minutes, German invited the British officers to the No-man's land. The German officer climbed over the barbed wire and came inside the barbed wire. So the British officer also went there. They had a talk and decided not to shoot till Christmas was over. Then the soldiers of both the sides met in the no-man's land and exchanged wishes and many of them wanted permanent peace.

D. Think and answer.**1. Do you envision a similar truce taking place in any wars or fighting today? Explain.**

Now the fighting in Syria is not a defined one, but it causes the death of many people. I don't want to bring in the kind of people who lose their lives. If any truce comes among themselves, it will be good for the whole world.

2. Today, much of what we know about the truce comes from soldiers' postcards home. In the postcard given below, Write a short message home, imagine that you took part in the 1914 Christmas Truce.

On Christmas Eve, I saw the Christmas tree on the opposite side. Suddenly the soldiers from the other side started singing Christmas carols. From our side, we repeated the carols. It went on for sometime. Then the Officer from the other side came to the no-man's land. Our side officer joined them. They decided to come for a truce till the Christmas celebration. Then all the soldiers joined together and conveyed their wishes. It was a wonderful Christmas.

