

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ

WORKSHEET - 4

SESSION: 2020 – 2021

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

CLASS – 6 (A – F)

CHAPTER – Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture

INSTRUCTIONS: Parents please ensure that your ward reads the lesson carefully and answers the questions that follow.

Now, read the story on how Uncle Podger creates a nuisance as he attempts to hang a picture.

You never saw such a commotion up and down a house, in all your life, as when my Uncle Podger undertook to do a job. A picture would have come home from the frame-maker's, and be standing in the dining-room, waiting to be put up; and Aunt Podger would ask what was to be done with it, and Uncle Podger would say:

"Oh, you leave that to ME. Don't you, any of you, worry yourselves about that. I'LL do all that."

And then he would take off his coat, and begin. He would send the girl out for sixpen'orth of nails, and then one of the boys after her to tell her what size to get: and, from that, he would gradually work done, and start the whole house.

'Now you go and get me my hammer, Will,' he would shout; 'and you bring me the rule, Tom; and I shall want the step-ladder, and I had better have a kitchen-chair, too; and Jim! Your run round to Mr Goggles, and tell him, 'Pa's kind regards, and hopes his leg's better; and will he lend him his spirit-level?' And don't your go, Maria, because I shall want somebody to hold me the light; and when the girl comes back, she must go out again for a bit of picture-cord; and Tom! -where's Tom? -Tom, you come here; I shall want you to hand me up the picture.'

And then he would lift up the picture, and drop it, and it would come out of the frame, and he would try to save the glass, and cut himself; and then he would spring round the room, looking for his handkerchief. He could not find his handkerchief, because it was in the pocket of the coat he had taken off, and he did not know where he had put the coat, and all the house had to leave off looking for his tools, and start looking for his coat; while he would dance round and hinder them.

'Doesn't anybody in the whole house know where my coat is? I never came across such a set in all my life-upon my word I didn't. Six of you! – and you can't find a coat that I put down not five minutes ago! Well, of all the –'

Then he'd get up, and find that he had been sitting on it, and would call out: 'Oh, you can give it up! I've found it myself now. Might just as well ask the cat to find anything as expect you people to find it.'

And, when half an hour had been spent in tying up his finger, and a new glass had been got, and the tools, and the ladder, and the chair, and the candle had been brought, he would have another go, the whole family, including the girl and the charwoman, standing round in a semi-circle, ready to help. Two people would have to hold the chair, and a third would help him up on it, and hold him there, and a fourth would hand him a nail, and a fifth would pass him up the hammer, and he would take hold of the nail, and drop it.

‘There!’ he would say, in an injured tone, ‘now the nail’s gone.’

And we would all have to go down on our knees and grovel for it, while he would stand on the chair, and grunt, and want to know if he was to be kept there all the evening.

The nail would be found at last, but by that time he would have lost the hammer.

‘Where’s the hammer? What did I do with the hammer? Great heavens! Seven of you, gaping round there, and you don’t know what I did with the hammer!’

We would find the hammer for him, and then he would have lost sight of the mark he had made on the wall, where the nail was to go in, and each of us had to get up on the chair, beside him, and see if we could find it; and we would each discover it in a different place, and he would call us all fools, one after another, and tell us to get down. And he would take the rule, and re-measure, and find that he wanted half thirty-one and three-eighths inches from the corner, and would try to do it in his head, and go mad.

And we would all try to do it in our heads, and all arrive at different results, and sneer at one another. And in the general row, the original number would be forgotten, and Uncle Podger would have to measure it again.

He would use a bit of string this time, and at the critical moment, when the old fool was leaning over the chair at an angle of forty-five, and trying to reach a point three inches beyond what was possible for him to reach, the string would slip, and he would slider on to the piano, really fine musical effect being produced by the suddenness with which his head and body struck all the notes at the same time.

And Aunt Maria would say that she would not allow the children to stand round and hear such language.

At last, Uncle Podger would get the spot fixed again, and put the point of the nail on it with his left hand, and take the hammer in his right hand. And, with the first blow, he would smash his thumb, and drop the hammer, with a yell, on somebody’s toes.

Aunt Maria would mildly observe that, next time Uncle Podger was going to hammer a nail into the wall, she hoped he’d let her know in time, so that she could make arrangements to go and spend a week with her mother while it was being done.

‘Oh! You women, you make such a fuss over everything,’ Uncle Podger would reply, picking himself up. ‘Why, I LIKE doing a little job of this sort.’

And then he would have another try, and, at the second blow, the nail would go clean through the plaster, and half the hammer after it, and Uncle Podger be precipitated against the wall with force nearly sufficient to flatten his nose.

Then we had to find the rule and the string again, and a new hole was made; and, about midnight, the picture would be up – very crooked and insecure, the wall for yards round looking as if it had been smoothed down with a rake, and everybody dead beat and wretched – except Uncle Podger.

‘There you are,’ he would say, stepping heavily off the chair on to the charwoman’s corns, and surveying the mess he had made with evident pride. ‘Why, some people would have had a man in to do a little thing like that!’

- *From Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog) by Jerome K. Jerome*

Exercises:-

- 1) Write the meanings of the underlined words (Use dictionary) and learn their spellings.
- 2) Fill in the blanks :-
 - a. He would send the _____ out for sixpen’orth of nails.
 - b. I shall want somebody to hold me the _____
 - c. I shall want you to hand me up the _____
 - d. He did not know where he had put the _____
 - e. I never came across such a _____ in all my life.
 - f. Two people would have to hold the _____ and a _____ would help him up on it.
 - g. We would find the _____ for him.
 - h. We would each discover it in a different _____.
 - i. Aunt Maria would say that she would not allow the _____ to stand round and hear such _____.
 - j. Then we had to find the _____ and the _____ again.
 - k. He loses sight of the mark on the _____.
 - l. He smashes his _____ with the hammer.
 - m. Uncle Podger tries to save the _____ on the frame and cuts himself.
- 3) Who said these words and to whom:
 - a. ‘I’ll do all that’?
 - b. ‘Now you go and get me my hammer’.
 - c. ‘You run round to Mr Goggles’.
 - d. ‘Now the nail’s gone’.
 - e. ‘There you are’.
- 4) Reference to the context:
 - a. ‘Oh! you women, you make such a fuss over everything’.
 - i. Who is the speaker of this line?
 - ii. Who is she?
 - iii. What kind of fuss she was making according to the speaker?
 - b. ‘Why, I LIKE doing a little job of this sort’.

- i. Name the lesson.
 - ii. Who liked to do little job?
 - iii. What kind of job the speaker is talking about?
- c. 'Oh, you can give it up!'. I've found it myself now. Might just as well ask the cat to find anything as expect you people to find it'.
 - i. What had the speaker found?
 - ii. Who are 'You people'?
 - iii. Name the author.
- d. When the old fool was leaning over the chair at an angle of forty-five, and trying to reach a point three inches beyond what was possible for him to reach, the string would slip.
 - i. Who was the 'old fool'?
 - ii. What kind of an opinion does the narrator have about Uncle Podger?
 - iii. In a trail of mishaps, what do you think will happen next?

5) Answer these questions :-

- a. There was a commotion in the house. Why?
- b. What was the work given to the girl?
- c. How many people were there to help Uncle Podger. Name them.
- d. Name the tools Uncle Podger required for hanging the picture.
- e. Where did Uncle Podger find his handkerchief?
- f. Who was Aunt Maria?
- g. How did Uncle Podger finally put up the picture? How did the people in the house help him?
- h. What was the effect of Uncle Podger's venture on his family?
- i. Did you find the story amusing? Yes / No (Give reasons to support your answer).

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