

"POLYTHENE BAG"

Durga Prasad Panda

Durga Prasad Panda occupies a prominent position in Oriya literature. Primarily a linguist, Panda also writes poetry in English and sometimes translates Oriya poems into English and vice versa. His famous works are 'Sawarani' and 'Rays'. In the present poem, "Polythene Bag", he touches on the pressing issue of polythene bag and the evil consequences it has on environment. The strength of the poem is the correlation between human emotion and a mundane thing like a polythene bag.

A. Work in a small group and discuss the questions given below:

- 1. You and your family members go to market to purchase several things. After you have purchased goods you need some sort of bag to carry these goods.**
 - (a) What sort of bag do you use to carry the goods - bag made of cloth, paper or a polythene bag?**
 - (b) What do you do with these bags after you have carried the purchased items?**

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'Hurt' is such a strange polythene bag
which never gets
dissolved into the earth's crust

When touched it makes a squeaky noise,
when burnt it exudes a pungent smell,
when left to itself
it pollutes the environment.

B.1. Answer the following questions very briefly:

1. Who has composed the poem ?
2. Does a polythene bag get dissolved?
3. When does a polythene bag make a noise?
4. What does it give out when it is burnt?
5. How does it affect environment?

Just like the polythene bag
his 'hurt' too melts down
with a little touch of warmth.

But deep inside the grief's garbage bin
far away from everyone's gaze
the germs of the disease
keep on growing.

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The polythene bag
remains buried within

Only the pain caused by the 'hurt'
keeps coming back
again and again.

B 2. Answer the following questions briefly:

1. How do the germs of disease grow?
2. What does the word "Hurt" stand for?
3. What causes pain?
4. Whose hurt melts down like polythene bag ?
5. What comes back again and again?
6. Where is the polythene bag buried?

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

dissolved (v) : disappeared gradually, ceased to exist

crust (n) : outer surface

squeaky (adj) : short and shrill

exudes (v) : comes or passes out slowly

pungent (adj) : poisonous

melts (v) : becomes liquid through heating

grief (adj) : deep sorrow

garbage (n) : rubbish, waste things

bin (n) : a large for rubbish container

gaze (n) : long and steady look

growing (v) : developing, increasing in size

buried (v) : placed under the earth

C.1. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How does a polythene bag pollute our environment ?
2. Why does the poet compare 'hurt' with a polythene bag, ? Give any two reasons.
3. "The polythene bag remains within." Explain.
4. Have you ever been hurt ? Write your feelings in your own words.

C.2. GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the following in groups or pairs:

1. Good environment makes our life happy and healthy but most of us fail to understand it.
2. The sources of pollution are limitless.

C.3. COMPOSITION

1. Write a paragraph in about 100 words on pollution.
2. Narrate your experience of a badly polluted colony in your locality that you have recently visited.

D. WORD STUDY

D.1. Dictionary Use

Ex. 1. Correct the spelling of the following words:

Polethen, disolved, squacky, disees, remeins, burried, coused.

Ex. 2. Give the 'ANTONYMS' of the following words:

strange, never, noise, little, warm, pain, back, deep, inside.

E. GRAMMAR

Ex. 1. Look carefully at the different forms of verb 'get':

get, got, got (gotten), getting, gets.

Now give different forms of the following verbs as illustrated above:

dissolve, touch, make, burn, pollute, keep, remain, bury, come, cause.

Ex. 2. Go through the poem minutely and fill in the blanks given below:

1. Which never dissolved.
2. When touched it a squeaky noise.
3. Only the pain caused by the

E.1. Figures of Speech

'Hurt' is such a strange polythene bag.

In the above sentence we find that 'Hurt' which means 'being wounded' is compared to the polythene bag. These are two different things. One is a feeling and another is a thing. This kind of comparison without any obvious link of comparison such as 'like' or 'as' makes the polythene bag a metaphor.

1. Metaphor is a figure of speech in which an implicit comparison is made between two different things or feelings. Here the real meaning is different from the literal meaning of words.

ex. She is the moon on the earth.

He is a lion in the fight.

He is the star of the family.

She is a book worm

Nature is our best teacher.

2. The other figure of speech is simile. This figure of speech stands for an explicit form of comparison which is made between two different things or feelings, using words 'like' or 'as'.

I wandered lonely as a cloud - 'Wordsworth'

My love is like a red, red rose - Burns

Now fill in the following sentences with the following phrases given below.

as a dove, as a lion, as coal, a lion, the ship, walking shadow, a dagger.

1. She is as gentle _____.
2. He is _____ in the fight. ✓
3. He is as strong _____.
4. Life is but a _____. ✓
5. The camel is _____ of the desert. ✓
6. She is as black _____.
7. The news was _____ to her tender heart. ✓

F. ACTIVITY

1. Visit slum colonies of your area and prepare a list of the problems of the people who reside there.

G. TRANSLATION

Translate into English :

- (i) पोलीथीन घुलता नहीं है।
- (ii) यह बहुत आवाज (ध्वनि) उत्पन्न करता है।
- (iii) यह काफी दुर्गंध देता है।
- (iv) यह कविता किसने लिखी?
- (v) तुम से यह किसने कहा ?
