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## The Great Stone Face-II

*Nathaniel Hawthorne*

## SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Many years passed. Ernest was now a middle aged man. Age brought white hairs upon his head and wrinkles across his face. But it also made him very wise. He became famous in the valley. Learned men from cities came to see him and talk with him.

When Earnest had been growing old, a new poet who was previously the native of that valley arrived there. He had spoken high of the Great Stone Face also in his poem. His songs also reached Ernest's ears. It appeared to him that his face had the likeness of the Stone Face.

The poet too had heard of Ernest's wisdom and wished to meet him. One summer day he arrived at Ernest's door. He sought a night's shelter. Ernest readily agreed. The two talked together. The poet found his host very wise, gentle, kind and hospitable. Ernest looked into the poet's eyes and features. He compared the poet's face with that of the Stone Face. When the poet asked him why he was looking sad he told that all through his life he had awaited the fulfilment of a prophecy and when he read his poems he became convinced that the poet was the real Stone Faced man.

The poet, however, claimed that he did not bear the likeness to the stone face. It was true that he had high dreams in his mind but sometimes he himself had no belief in those dreams. The eyes of both were wet with tears. In the evening, together they went to a meeting place. Ernest spoke out his thoughts. His words had power because they had depth. They were the words of life, a life of good deeds and selfless love. His face took on a grand expression. The poet cried out that Ernest was the real likeness of that Stone Face. The people agreed with him. The

prophecy was fulfilled, the poet thought so. But Ernest still kept hoping that some wiser and better man than himself would appear looking very much like the Great Stone Face.

## TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

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Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following statements.

- Ernest's words reminded people of the wise old sayings. \_\_\_\_\_
- Total strangers from far away, who visited Ernest in the valley, found his face familiar. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Great Stone Face confirmed Ernest's view that the poet could be worthy of its likeness. \_\_\_\_\_
- When Ernest and the poet met, they respected and admired each other equally. \_\_\_\_\_
- The poet along with Ernest addressed the inhabitants of the valley. \_\_\_\_\_
- The poet realised that Ernest's thoughts were far nobler than his own verses. \_\_\_\_\_

Ans. 1. True 2. True 3. False 4. True 5. False 6. True

## WORKING WITH THE TEXT

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Answer the following questions.

1. How was Ernest different from others in the valley?

Ans. Ernest was unlike other commoners in the valley. He was a good, simple hearted, noble and thoughtful person. He had been under observation. He did not go with the crowd. He welcomed total strangers as the prophets.

2. Why did Ernest think the poet was like the Stone Face?

Ans. The poet wrote wonderful songs. He had celebrated the Great stone Face in one of his poems. When Ernest read this poem he became convinced that the poet was like the stone face.

3. What did the poet himself say about his thoughts and poems?

**Ans.** The poet confessed that he was not worthy to be compared with the Stone Face. His actions did not match with his thoughts. He had only grand dreams but he lacked faith in his own thoughts.

**4. What made the poet proclaim Ernest was the Stone Face?**

**Ans.** Ernest and the poet together went to a meeting place. Ernest addressed the gathering. His words had power and his thoughts had depth. They were the words of life, a life of good deeds and selfless love. The poet was convinced that Ernest was much nobler than him. Ernest's face had such a grand expression that he declared that Ernest bore the likeness of the Great Stone Face.

**5. Write 'Ernest' or 'Poet', against each statement below.**

- (i) There was a gap between his life and his words.
- (ii) His words had the power of truth as they agreed with his thoughts.
- (iii) His words were as soothing as a heavenly song but only as useful as a vague dream.
- (iv) His thoughts were worthy.
- (v) Whatever he said was truth itself.
- (vi) His poems were noble.
- (vii) His life was nobler than all the poems.
- (viii) He lacked faith in his own thoughts.
- (ix) His thoughts had power as they agreed with the life he lived.
- (x) Greatness lies in truth. Truth is best expressed in one's actions. He was truthful, therefore he *was great*.

**Ans.** (i) Poet (ii) Ernest (iii) Poet (iv) Poet (v) Ernest  
(vi) Poet (vii) Ernest (viii) Poet (ix) Ernest (x) Ernest

**6. (i) Who, by common consent, turned out to be like the Great Stone Face?**

**(ii) Did Ernest believe that the old prophecy had come true? What did he say about it?**

**Ans.** (i) Ernest was accepted by common consent exactly like the Great Stone Face.

(ii) No, Ernest still was not convinced that the old prophecy had come true. He hoped that some day, a man wiser and nobler than him would come, and would look truly similar to the Great Stone Face.

**WORKING WITH LANGUAGE**

(Page 137)

**1. Mark the meaning that best fits the word or a phrase in the story.**

- (i) (sun) going down
  - (a) becoming smaller
  - (b) weakening
  - (c) setting
- (ii) brightening
  - (a) making (it) look bright and cheerful.
  - (b) lending (it) a special glow
  - (c) causing (it) to appear hopeful
- (iii) spacious
  - (a) lonely and wild
  - (b) big and wide
  - (c) special and important
- (iv) prophecy
  - (a) proverb
  - (b) prediction
  - (c) rumour
- (v) marvellous
  - (a) wonderful
  - (b) surprising
  - (c) shocking
- (vi) proclaim
  - (a) reveal
  - (b) declare
  - (c) shout
- (vii) cease
  - (a) happen
  - (b) stop
  - (c) remain
- (viii) (a night's) shelter
  - (a) stay
  - (b) safety
  - (c) hospitality
- (ix) gazed
  - (a) wandered about
  - (b) stared at
  - (c) thought of
- (x) took on (an expression)
  - (a) challenged
  - (b) resembled
  - (c) assumed

- Ans. (i) (c) (ii) (a) (iii) (b) (iv) (b) (v) (a)  
 (vi) (b) (vii) (b) (viii) (a) (ix) (b) (x) (c)

2. (i) Read the following sentences.

- (a) I do hope **I'll live** to see him.  
 (b) He **will come!** Fear not, Earnest: the man **will come**.  
 (c) Gathergold **is arriving** tomorrow, people said.  
 (d) Blood-and-Thunder **starts** his journey back to the valley next week, everyone proclaimed.  
 (e) The great man is **going to** spend his old age in his native town.

Notice that in the above sentences, verbs in bold type are in four different forms, denoting four important ways of expressing future time. None of these can be said to be exclusively used to show future time, though each is used to refer to some action in future.

(ii) Which form of the verb is more natural in these sentences? Encircle your choice.

- (a) I'm not free this evening. I **will work/am working** on a project.  
 (b) Have you decided where you will go for your higher secondary?  
 Yes, I have. I **will go/ am going** to the Kendriya Vidyalaya.  
 (c) Don't worry about the dog. It **won't hurt/isn't hurting** you.  
 (d) The weatherman has predicted that it **will snow/ is snowing** in Ranikhet tonight.  
 (e) Swapna can't go out this evening. Her father **will come/is coming** to see her.

- Ans. (ii) (a) am working (b) am going (c) won't hurt  
 (d) will snow (e) is coming.

3. (i) Complete these pieces of conversation using *will* or *going to* with the verbs given.

- (a) Rani : Why are you turning on the radio?  
 Ravi : I \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to the news.

- (b) Rani : Oh, I can't buy this book. I have no money.  
 Ravi : Don't worry. I \_\_\_\_\_ (lend) you some.

- (c) Rani : Look at those dark clouds.  
 Ravi : I think it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain).

- (d) Rani : What shall we have for dinner?  
 Ravi : I can't decide.

- Rani : Make up your mind.  
 Ravi : All right, then. We \_\_\_\_\_ (have) fried rice and dry beans.

- (e) Rani : Why are you filling the kettle with water?  
 Ravi : I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) coffee.

- (f) Rani : We need some bread and butter for breakfast.

- Ravi : All right. I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the bakery and get some.

- (g) Ravi : I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) some bread and butter. Do you want any thing from the bakery?

Father : Yes, I want some salt biscuits.

- Ravi : Fine, I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) you a packet.

(ii) Let pairs of children take turns to speak aloud the dialogues.

- Ans. (i) (a) am going to listen (b) will lend  
 (c) is going to rain (d) will have  
 (e) am going to make (f) will go  
 (g) am going to get, will get

(ii) For class activity.

SPEAKING AND WRITING

(Page 139)

1. Each of the following words has the sound/f/ as in feel. The words on the left have it initially. Those on the right have it finally. Speak each word clearly.

flail	life	fact	tough
philip	puff	fail	laugh
flowed	deaf	fast	stiff

Ans. Do yourself.

2. Underline the letter or letters representing/f/in each of the following words:

file	slough	faint	lift
cough	defence	afford	enough
photograph	staff	tough	aloof
affront	philosophy	sophistry	

Ans. file      slough      faint      life  
 cough      defence      afford      enough  
 photograph      staff      tough      aloof  
 affront      philosophy      sophistry

3. Imagine that you are the poet. You have come to your native valley to meet a famous preacher called Ernest. Narrate the incident of your first meeting with him.

Ans. I lived so far away from the valley. But I had heard about Ernest's character and wisdom. One summer day I called on him. I found him reading a book. We sat down together and talked. I found Ernest wise, gentle and kind. Ernest greeted me warmly and called me a 'gifted guest' Then I introduced myself as one who wrote the poems Ernest was reading.

Ernest compared my face with the Stone Face. He had hoped to see the fulfilment of the prophecy but he was disappointed. I told him I was not worthy of that likeness. I said that my thoughts and actions had no harmony.

I went with my host to a meeting place. I heard his address and found depth in his thoughts. In the golden light of the setting sun, Ernest appeared to me exactly like the Great Stone Face. The gathering also agreed with me.

4. (i) Put each of the following in the correct order to construct sentences.

- a resident of Noida near Delhi/is visually impaired/George Abraham.

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- confidence and competitive spirit/and infuses discipline among the participants/It provides.

- he has helped/The brain behind the World Cup Cricket,/the disabled to dream.

- to the blind school in Delhi/It was a chance visit/that changed his life.

- sport is a powerful tool/the disabled/He believes that/for rehabilitation of.

(ii) Now rearrange the sentences above to construct a paragraph.

George Abraham \_\_\_\_\_

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- Ans. (i) • George Abraham, a resident of Noida near Delhi, is visually impaired.
- It provides confidence and competitive spirit, and infuses discipline among the participants.
  - The brain behind the World Cup Cricket, he has helped the disabled to dream.
  - It was a chance visit to the blind school in Delhi that changed his life.

- He believes that sport is a powerful tool for rehabilitation of the disabled.

(ii) George Abraham, a resident of Noida near Delhi, is visually impaired. The brain behind the World Cup Cricket, he has helped the disabled to dream. It was a chance visit to the blind school in Delhi that changed his life. He believes that sport is a powerful tool for rehabilitation of the disabled. It provides confidence and competitive spirit and infuses discipline among the participants.

