

## UNIT 2

### PARAGRAPH ANSWERS

#### PROSE – THE NIGHT THE GHOST GOT IN

<b>Prose</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>The Night the Ghost Got in</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>James Grover Thurber</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>A tragedy that turned out to be a comedy</b>

#### Introduction

James Grover Thurber was an American novelist. He was best known for his cartoons and short stories. It is a funny story about the chaos caused by one's imaginary fear.

#### A strange sound

It was about a quarter past one in the morning. The narrator was in the bathroom. He heard a strange sound and was scared. He thought that it was a burglar. So, the narrator and his brother came out and looked downstairs. Nothing was there. They heard the footsteps circling the dining-room table and it started up the stairs towards them. They rushed, slammed the doors and hid themselves in the fear of a ghost.

#### Burglar in the house

Their mother was aroused by the sound and thought that there was a burglar in the house. She threw her shoe at their neighbour Mr. Bodwell's window to seek help. Mr. Bodwell understood the situation and called the police. The police arrived breaking the heavy front door.

#### The extensive search operation

During the search, the police ruined the whole house. They spilled all the things from the drawers. The windows were shut and pulled down. All the furniture fell with dull thumps. A half-dozen policemen ransacked the floor downstairs. They pulled beds away from the walls, tore clothes in the closets, pulled suitcase and boxes from shelves. They even doubted an old zither which was used by their pet, guinea pig to sleep.

#### Chaos in the attic

Five or six policemen went into the attic, where the narrator's grandfather was sleeping. There was chaos when the grandfather mistook the police as the deserters of General Meade's army who were trying to hide in the attic. So, he grabbed a gun from a policeman and started to shoot them. It cracked the rafters. Smoke filled the attic. They all finally got downstairs and locked the door against the grandfather. It was a pity that the police could not get the gun from the oldman.

### **Mystery behind the chaos**

Finally, with great disappointment the police left the house empty-handed. The next morning grandfather said that he was the one who had come to the dinning room for water the previous night. It was clear that the narrator mistook his grandfather as a burglar and ghost.

### **Conclusion**

The narrator Thurber shows a vivid picture of a funny incident that caused a lot of confusion in the house and rewarded a sleepless night to everyone. Like the author, we also face such superficial thoughts. From this story, we can say that too much of imagination and fear will mislead a situation.

**Moral – “ Misunderstanding and exaggerated reaction always leads to chaos and confusion ”**

### **POEM – THE GRUMBLE FAMILY**

<b>Poem</b>	<b>: The Grumble Family</b>
<b>Poet</b>	<b>: Lucy Maud Montgomery</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>: Contentment is the greatest treasure</b>

### **Introduction**

Lucy Maud Montgomery is a Canadian author and poet. One of her works is “The Grumble Family”. The title itself tells the nature of the family she describes. The poetess indirectly advises us to be optimistic in a humourous tone.

**The Family nobody likes to meet**

The grumble family is a pessimistic family. Nobody wants to meet them. They live in “Complaining Street” in the city of “Never-Are-Satisfied”. It is beside the ‘River of Discontent’. The members of the family are always discontented. They complain about everything. Whatever happens it is wrong for them. Their status may be high or low, but they are well known with the name of Grumble.

### **Their never-ending complaints**

**They growl at that and they growl at this:**

In both summer and winter, they will scold the weather in the same way that it is either too hot or too cold. Nothing will happen right for the people we meet in that terrible complaining street. They growl at both rain and sun. There is no ending for their complaints. Though everything is pleased to them, they would growl for not having anything to grumble about.

### **He's adopted to the Grumble family**

The strange thing is that no one in that family would acknowledge that they are always grumbling. A grumbler will not accept that he is connected with the grumbling family. If anyone stays with them, they will learn their habit of grumbling. Before they realize they would be adopted to the grumble family.

### **Never belong to the Grumble family**

So, it is better not to walk into the complaining street and not to complain on everything we do. If we do that we would also be mistaken as grumblers.

**Let us learn to walk with a smile and a song**

Whatever goes wrong in our life, the poetess recommend us to move on with a smile and a song. If we accept life as it is, inspite of our status being high or low but we would never be in the family of grumble.

### **Conclusion**

The poetess insists us not to grumble about everything. Otherwise, we would be listed as a member of grumble family. She also advises us to stay away from the grumblers and lead a happy and contented life.

**Moral – “ Never grumble for the ‘thorns in the roses’ ; Be happy for ‘the roses in thorns’ ”**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY READER – ZIG ZAG**

<b>Story</b>	<b>: Zig Zag</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>: Asha Nehemiah</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>: The commotion caused by a pet bird</b>

#### **Introduction**

Zigzag is a story written by Asha Nehemiah. This story portrays how a family that shelters a new pet is totally taken up by the commotion it creates at home.

#### **Arrival of Zigzag**

Dr. Somu was Dr. Ashok T. Krishnan’s cousin. He called Dr. Krishnan and requested to take care of his pet bird Zigzag as he leaves for Alaska. Mrs. Krishnan was not interested. But their children Aravind and Maya were excited about the bird’s entry. Somu’s cook Visu brought Zigzag. It can talk and sing in about 21 languages. Aravind and Maya tried speaking in English, Hindi, Tamil and French. But Zigzag refused to speak and so they were disappointed.

#### **Snoring Zigzag**

Aravind brought a plate full of sliced fruits and some nuts. Zigzag transferred all the fruits on the plate to the chandelier and onto the blades of the ceiling. The bird perched on a curtain rod while eating big guava and slept there. The moment it slept, it began to snore. The snore grew louder and louder. Maya wondered how the bird could snore. The snore became so unbearable and they shut themselves in the bedroom. Aravind tried to stop the snoring. But he failed. The neighbours rang up to Krishnan asking him to stop the unbearable sound.

#### **The great commotion**

When the maid Lakshmi switched on the fan, it rained papayas and bananas in the room. One slice of papaya splattered on Mrs. Krishnan’s unfinished painting, Sunset at Marina. A guava landed on her cheek and a walnut hit her forehead. Thus, it caused a great commotion

in Dr. Krishnan's house. Dr. Krishnan sent an email to Somu asking for instructions on how to stop Zigzag from snoring. On seventh day Somu's email arrived. It stated that Zigzag hardly ever sleeps.

### **The genius of Zigzag**

Dr. Krishnan took Zigzag to his clinic. Zigzag sat on the nurse's reception table and started to instruct with his clear commanding voice. The clinic changed into a very quiet and orderly place. All were surprised. The bird never slept or snored. Also Mrs. Jhunjhunwala, for whom Mrs. Krishnan painted, was impressed with the new technique and loved the streaky orange bits on the painting which was caused by Zigzag. She bought it for ₹ 5,000 which made Mrs. Krishnan extremely happy.

### **Conclusion**

Dr. Krishnan gave a toffee from his desk as a compliment to the bird. Dr. Krishnan found the secret that Zigzag must be kept engaged, if not it would sleep and snore. Thus, the family finally accepted Zigzag and enjoyed his presence.

**Moral – “ Some things might seem to be hard at first, messy in the middle but they become gorgeous at the end ”**