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UNIT – 7

PARAGRAPH ANSWERS

PROSE – THE DYING DETECTIVE

Prose	**: The Dying Detective**
Author	**: Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle**
Theme	**: Deception and revenge**

Introduction

Sherlock Holmes, the detective, pretended to be seriously ill. Holmes was fasting for three days and wore some makeup to look sick. He asked his landlady Mrs. Hudson to being his friend Watson.

The sick Homes

Mr. Watson was horrified when he heard of Holmes and wanted to treat him but Holmes did not allow him to go near and examine. He saw Holmes having a gaunt face. His eyes had the brightness of fever. His cheeks were flushed. His hand twitched all the time. He was laying lifeless.

Mr. Culverton Smith

Holmes instructed Watson to bring Smith. Mr. Culverton Smith is a planter. He lives in Sumatra and now visited London. He was the only one who had the knowledge of the Tarpaunli disease, Holmes was suffering from. He was the criminal who killed Victor Savage, the nephew of Holmes. Holmes wanted Watson to return and hide in his house before Smith arrives. He asked Watson to put money in his pockets, light the gas lamp half on, place some letters, papers and the ivory box on the table within his reach.

The trap

Watson reached Smith and pleaded to save Holmes. Smith agreed and visited Holmes without knowing that it was a trap. While discussing the illness, Smith confessed that Victor Savage, his nephew was the victim of the same disease. Holmes told Smith that he knew

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Smith had murdered Victor but he would forget it if he cured him. According to Smith, Holmes had no proof of Victor's murder. Holmes told about the ivory box and a sharp string inside it had drawn his blood. This made Smith reveal that Holmes had crossed his path and knew too much about Victor's murder. Smith threatened Holmes that his end was near as he had sent the box to murder Holmes. Smith pocketed the ivory box as it was the last piece of evidence.

Conclusion : The arrest of Smith

Holmes asks Smith to turn the gas up full to see him better. Inspector Morton was hiding outside the door. The full gaslight was the signal for Inspector Morton to arrest Smith. He was charged with the murder of Victor Savage and the attempt of murdering Holmes similarly. Watson emerges as the witness to the happening. Thus, Holmes traps Smith to confess the murder. Watson helped Holmes to arrest the criminal and save his friend though he didn't know about Holmes' trap and plan initially.

Moral – " An intelligent man is the strongest because of his ability to control emotions and apply reason "

POEM – THE HOUSE ON ELM STREET

Poem	**: The House on Elm Street**
Poet	**: Nadia Bush**
Theme	**: Human tendency to be curious about the unknown**

Introduction

"The House on Elm Street" is written by Nadia Bush. The poem describes a mysterious house and a never-growing tree.

A mysterious house

A mysterious house is located on the Elm Street. It is a lonely house. It is a mysterious house because no one knows what happens inside. The house has a ton of space inside but it is empty since no one lives in it. At night, the lights in the house flicker on and off.

Poet's fear

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The poet is tempted to go in to see what happens but fear stops her from entering the house. She passes the house every day. It seems bright on the summer day of May. There is a bare tree next to the house. The tree grows no leaves all through the four seasons – summer, winter, spring and autumn. It is another mystery to the poet as it neither grows not becomes small.

Conclusion

There are plenty of rumours about the house. The poet does not know what happened inside the house. As time passes, it becomes dim. The poet finds that the house will remain a mystery forever.

Moral – " Curiosity and questions will get you further than just answers "

SUPPLEMENTARY READER – A DILEMMA

Story	**: A Dilemma**
Author	**: Silas Weir Mitchell**
Theme	**: The constant oscillation between dilemmas**

Introduction

Tom is the narrator of this story. Philip was his uncle. Uncle Philip was an ingenious mechanical engineer and had a lot of money. He was a bachelor who lived alone and cooked his own meals. He was cunning. He had an interest in collecting precious stones, especially rubies and pearls.

The iron box and a letter

One day, on his deathbed, Uncle Philip called Tom and declared Tom as his sole heir. He handed over a safe and said it contained an iron box with precious gems. He told that Tom should pay for his funeral. He warned Tom to read the letter carefully which lay on top of the box. After his uncle's death, Tom opened the safe. He found an iron box and a letter.

Contents of the letter

The letter mentioned that the box contained a large number of fine pigeon blood rubies and a lot of diamonds including one blue diamond, hundreds of pearls – one of which was the

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famous green pearl and a necklace of blue pearls. The letter instructed an interesting mechanism to unlock it. It would explode because there is a dynamite fixed to it. It mentioned him to open the box with the belief to increase his expectations. If he doubted and opened, the dynamite would explode. He had told Tom to be very careful in handling the box.

Efforts taken by Tom

Tom started thinking of all the possible ways, to open the iron box. He became afraid. It became a headache for Tom. For hours he sat looking at the box. He began to dread that the box might be lost or stolen. In despair, Tom consulted Professor Clinch and Dr. Schaff about his dilemma. The doctor warned that his obsession with the box might result in the loss of his mind. He lost his peace and hence his salary was reduced. The narrator spent hours in libraries reading books on dynamite.

Conclusion

The box remained unopened for two years. He moved to the suburbs and changed his name and occupation. He became afraid of the succession tax. He failed in all his attempts to open the box. Finally, he donated the iron box to the Society for the Preservation of Human Vivisection.

Moral – " There is no right or wrong answer to a dilemma; there is only the choice we make at the end "

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