

# Reading Selection 3.2

## Lesson No. 8

### Lingkuan Gorge.

لنک کو ان گھاٹی

(A Man Should Never Leave

His Post)

ایک انسان کو اپنی ڈیوٹی کی جگہ کبھی نہیں چھوڑنی چاہیے

Tupeng-Cheng

The snow, already more than half a foot deep, obliterated the line between earth and sky behind a hazy white curtain. I had been following the path of the future railway for forty kilometers. Although I could hear the roar of machinery further back in the hills, I had seen neither work sites nor workers.

پہلے ہی آدھے فٹ سے زیادہ برف نے زمین و آسمان کے درمیان افق کی لکیر کو سفید پردے کی دھن میں چھپا لیا تھا۔  
- میں مستقبل کی پٹری کے راستے پر 40 کلومیٹر تک جا چکا تھا۔ اگرچہ میں پہاڑوں کے پیچھے سے بھاری مشینوں کے چلنے کی آوازیں سن سکتا تھا۔ لیکن میں نے کسی کام کی جگہ یا کام کرنے والوں کو نہیں دیکھا تھا۔

Entering Lingquan Gorge, my irritation increased. Even in clear weather, in this gorge the sun never shone. It didn't matter where you looked up along the twisting course — the most you could see of the sky was a patch no bigger than the palm of your hand. Now it was dusk and the swirling snowflakes and the gale made every step a struggle.

لنگ کو ان گھائی میں داخل ہو کر میری پریشانی میں اضافہ ہوا۔ صاف موسم میں بھی اس تنگ گھائی میں کبھی بھی سورج نہیں چمکتا تھا، اس سے کچھ فرق نہ پڑتا تھا کہ آپ اس پریچ راستے پر جہاں بھی اوپر دیکھتے تو آسمان کا ہتھیلی کے برابر چھوٹا سا ٹکڑا ہی نظر آتا تھا۔ اب شام کا دھند لگا پھیل چکا تھا اور برف کے گرتے لہراتے کال اور طوفان ہر قدم کو نہایت مشکل بنا رہا تھا۔

Construction in the gorge was very busy. Everywhere people were at work. Generators, cement-mixers, air, compressors shook the ground. Hundreds of light bulbs gleamed dim and yellow. Electric wires, crisscrossing like a giant spider

web, were scarcely visible, but I could see the overhead cables and their pulley cars sliding back and forth loaded with materials.

کھانی میں تعمیراتی کام بہت زور و شور سے جاری تھا۔ ہر جگہ لوگ کام میں لگے ہوئے تھے۔ جنریٹرز سیمینٹ مکسر اور اینرکپریسر زمین کو ہلا رہے تھے۔ سینکڑوں بجلی کے بلبوں کی روشنی مدھم اور زرد تھی۔ بجلی کی تاریں ایک دیو قامت مکڑی کے جالے کی طرح آ پار پھیلی ہوئی تھی لیکن میں اوپر لگی رسیوں اور چرخی والی گاڑیوں کو سامان سے بھرے ہونے آگے پیچھے سرکتے ہوئے دیکھ سکتا تھا۔

Hungry, cold, I tripped and fell, scraping my hands Enough! I'd find some place under a cliff, out of the wind, and rest a few hours. If I reached the materials depot tomorrow morning by ten o'clock, that still wouldn't be too late. Stumbling around in the dark like this, I was liable to fall into some deep ravine and that would be the end of this Materials Department chief; I'd have to be put on the 'Used up' list!

بھوکا اور ٹھنڈا لگا ہوا، میں نے ٹھوکر کھانی اور گر پڑا۔ اپنے ہاتھوں کو رگڑ رہا تھا۔ بس! مجھے ہوا سے بچنے کے لئے غار میں جگہ تلاش کرنی چاہیے اور چند گھنٹے آرام کرنا چاہیے۔ اگر میں کل صبح دس بجے تک بھی سامان کے گودام پہنچ جاؤں تو تاخیر نہ ہوگی۔ اس طرح کی تاریکی میں ٹھوکر کھاتے ہوئے کسی گہری کھانی میں گرنے کا امکان تھا۔ اور یہ سامان کے گودام کے سربراہ کا اختتام ہوگا اور میرا نام استعمال شدہ اشیاء کی فہرست میں ڈالا جائے گا۔

I noticed a path leading to a cave in the cliff-side. A door curtain hanging in the entrance way showed that the cave was undoubtedly occupied by workers. Grasping branches along the steep path, I hauled myself up to the door and entered.

میں نے ایک راستہ دیکھا جو پہاڑی کے پہلو میں واقع ایک غار کو جا رہا تھا۔ داخلی راستے پر دروازے کا پردہ لٹک رہا تھا جو یہ ظاہر کرتا تھا کہ یقیناً کارکنوں کے زیر استعمال تھا۔ دھلوانی راستے کے ساتھ ساتھ درختوں کی شاخوں کو پکڑتے ہوئے میں نے خود کو دروازے تک پہنچا دیا اور اندر داخل ہوا۔

Strange! Seated on a small stool in the doorway was a little boy, seven or eight years old, elbows on his knees, supporting his face in his hands. His cheeks were red with cold. He had been peering at the opposite cliff-side through a rent in the curtain. He glanced at me briefly as I came in, then went back to his observation.

بہت عجیب! دروازے میں ایک چھوٹے سنول پر ایک کم عمر لڑکا بیٹھا تھا جو سات آٹھ سال کی عمر کا تھا۔ اُس نے اپنی کہنیاں اپنے گھٹنوں پر رکھی تھیں اور اپنے ہاتھوں سے اپنے چہرے کو سہارا دیے ہوئے تھا۔ سردی کی وجہ سے اُس کے گال سرخ تھے۔ اور پردے میں سوراخ کے ذریعے بالمقابل چٹان کی طرف دیکھ رہا تھا۔ جب میں اندر داخل ہوا تو اُس نے مجھ پر سرسری طور پر دیکھا اور دوبارہ اپنے مشاہدات میں کھو گیا۔

The cave was large, but quite warm. It had a stove and eating utensils. On the wall above a bed was a coloured New Year picture of "Chubby Children Pulling the Turnip" All the walls had been papered with old newspapers, now blackened by smoke from the stove.

یہ غار وسیع لیکن کافی گرم تھی۔ اس میں چولہا اور کھانے کے برتن تھے۔ بیڈ کے اوپر دیوار پر نئے سال کی رنگین تصویر تھی جس میں گول مٹول بچہ شلجم کھینچ رہا تھا۔ تمام دیواروں کو پرانے اخبارات ڈھانپ دیا گیا تھا جو کہ اب چولہے کے دھوئیں سے سیاہ پڑ گئے تھے۔

"Why isn't anybody home?" I asked, shaking the snow from my coat and hat. The little boy turned his head. His eyes flashed. "Aren't I anybody, uncle?" He rose and walked towards me, his hands behind his back, his chest extended, as if to say: Not only am I somebody, I'm a very grown-up somebody!

میں نے اپنے کورٹ اور ہیڈ سے برف جھارتے ہوئے پوچھا "کیوں گھر پر کوئی نہیں ہے؟" چھوٹے بچے نے اپنا سر موڑ لیا۔ اُس کی آنکھیں چمک اٹھیں اور کہا: انکل! کیا میں کوئی نہیں ہوں؟ وہ اٹھ کر میری طرف آیا۔ اُس کے ہاتھ پیچھے کی طرف تھے، اُس کا سینہ باہر نکلا ہوا تھا، جیسا کہ وہ کہنا چاہتا تھا ہو: نہ صرف میں کوئی شخص ہوں بلکہ میں ایک نوجوان شخص ہوں۔

I cupped his round little face in my hands. "You're pretty sharp, young imp!" He pushed my hands aside Doubling up his fists, he cocked his head to one side and demanded: 'Who are you calling imp! I have a name!' Pointing at the baby girl asleep on the bed, he informed me: "Her name is Pao-cheng, mine is Cheng-yu."

میں نے اپنے کورٹ اور ہیڈ سے برف جھارتے ہوئے پوچھا "کیوں گھر پر کوئی نہیں ہے؟" چھوٹے بچے نے اپنا سر موڑ لیا۔ اُس کی آنکھیں چمک اٹھیں اور کہا: انکل! کیا میں کوئی نہیں ہوں؟ وہ اٹھ کر میری طرف آیا۔ اُس کے ہاتھ پیچھے

کی طرف تھے، اُس کا سینہ باہر نکلا ہوا تھا، جیسا کہ وہ کہنا چاہتا تھا ہو: نہ صرف میں کوئی شخص ہوں بلکہ میں ایک نوجوان شخص ہوں۔

No doubt about it These kids were like thousands of others I had met, born and raised on construction sites The workers liked to name their children after the projects where they were born Cheng-yu probably had first seen the light of day on the railway project between Cheng-tu and Chung-king, also known as Yu. His baby sister Pao-cheng very likely had been born right here at the site of the future Paoki-Chengtuo Railway

اس میں کوئی شک نہیں۔ یہ بچے اُن ہزاروں بچوں کی طرح تھے جن سے میں ملا تھا جو کہ تعمیراتی کام کے مقامات پر پیدا اور بڑے ہوتے تھے۔ مزدور اپنے بچوں کے نام اُن پروجیکٹ کے نام پر رکھنا پسند کرتے تھے جہاں وہ پیدا ہوتے تھے۔ چنگ یو نے شاید دن کی پہلی روشنی بھی چنگ نو اور چنگ کنگ کے درمیان ریلوے پروجیکٹ پر دیکھی تھی جسے "یو" بھی کہتے ہیں۔ اس کی چھوٹی بہن پاؤ چنگ غالباً بالکل اسی مقام پر "پاؤ کی چنگ نو" ریلوے کے مقام پر پیدا ہوئی تھی۔

I sat by the stove smoking and rubbing the drying mud from my hands.

Cheng-Yu crawled on to my lap and looked into my eyes, "Is it going to snow tomorrow, uncle?"

سگریٹ پیتے اور اپنے ہاتھوں سے خوش کچھڑ کو صاف کرتے ہوئے میں چولہے کے پاس بیٹھ گیا۔ چنگ یو میری گود میں آیا اور میری نظروں میں نظریں ڈال کر کہا: انکل! کیا کل بھی برف باری ہوگی؟

I pressed his icy red little nose. "As soon as we get our telephone line connected up with heaven, I'll ask for you...."

میں نے اس کے ننھے سرد سرخ ناک دبایا۔ "جو نہی ہمارے ٹیلیفون کا رابطہ آسمان سے ہوگا، میں تمہارے لئے پوچھ لوں گا۔"

Angrily, he leaped down and stood a meter away, scowling at me. "Quit your kidding! You've got a newspaper in your pocket. Why don't you look at the weather report?"

وہ ناراض ہو کر میری گود سے اتر آیا اور ایک میٹر دور کھڑا ہو کر مجھے تیوری چڑھا کر گھومنے گھورنے لگا۔ "بچوں کی طرح مذاق کرنا چھوڑ دو۔ تمہاری جیب میں اخبار ہے۔ تم موسم کی رپورٹ کیوں نہیں دیکھتے؟"

He resumed his seat in the doorway, clamped his elbows on his knees, rested his face in his hands, and peered out through the rent in the curtain. When I asked him where the kettle was, he ignored me. I certainly was sorry I had offended my small host!

وہ دروازے میں اپنی نشست پر بیٹھ گیا۔ گھٹنوں پر کہنیوں کو رکھ کر پکڑا اور ہاتھ سے اوپر چہرے کو رکھا اور پردے کے باہر دیکھنے لگا۔ میں نے اس سے پوچھا کہ کیتلی کہاں تھی، تو اس نے مجھے نظر انداز کر دیا۔ یقیناً مجھے بہت افسوس ہوا کہ میں نے اپنے ننھے میزبان کو ناراض کر دیا تھا۔

"Why do you want to know about the snow, Cheng-Yu?" I asked him. "Is it because you can't go out and play when it's snowing?"

میں نے پوچھا جنگ یو تم برف باری کے متعلق کیوں جانا جاتے ہو۔ کیا اس لئے کہ تم برف باری میں باہر جا کر کھیل نہیں سکتے۔

He didn't even bother to look at me "Papa says if it's still snowing tomorrow, we'll have to quit work "

اُس نے میری طرف دیکھنے کی زحمت گوارا نہ کی، پاپا کہتے ہیں اگر کل بھی برف باری ہوئی تو ہمیں کام بند کرنا ہوگا۔

'What does your pa do?'

"He opens up mountains" the child replied proudly "Where?" Cheng-Yu pointed with pursed lips at the work site opposite

تمہارے پاپا کیا کام کرتے ہیں۔ بچے نے فکریہ انداز میں جواب دیا "وہ پہاڑوں کو توڑتے ہیں"۔ کہاں۔ جنگ یو نے اپنے بھینچے ہوئے ہونٹوں سے مخالف سمت کی طرح کام کی جگہ کی طرف اشارہ کیا۔

I looked All I could see was a searchlight beam, shining through the drifting snowflakes straight up into the heavens. In its light, I could vaguely discern a few dozen men who seemed pasted to the side of the towering cliff, drilling holes for dynamite charges. The holes were like the steps of a ladder to the sky

میں نے دیکھا، میں سرخ لائٹ کی شعاعیں دیکھ سکتا تھا جو کہ برف کے گولوں کے درمیان آسمان کی طرف اٹھتے ہوئے قطروں میں چمک رہی تھی۔ اس روشنی میں میں چند درجن لوگوں کو دیکھ سکتا تھا جو ایک اونچے عمودی چٹان کی طرف چھٹے ہوئے نظر آرہے تھے اور ڈرل مشین کے ذریعہ سوراخ بنا رہے تھے، بارود لگانے کے لئے۔ کاغذ آسمان کی طرف سیدھی کے پائید انوں کی طرح نظر آرہے تھے۔

"How can you tell which one is your father at this distance?" I asked.

"I can't see him plainly but pa says he can see me. He says all he has to do is turn around I often sit here so he can see me."

Ah, so that was it!

اتنے فاصلے سے تم کیسے بتا سکتے ہو کہ تمہارا والد کونسا ہے؟ میں نے پوچھا۔

"میں اُسے صاف نہیں دیکھ سکتا لیکن پاپا کہتے ہیں کہ وہ مجھے دیکھ سکتے ہیں۔ وہ کہتے ہیں کہ اُسے صرف اور صرف مڑنا پڑتا

ہے۔ میں اکثر یہاں بیٹھتا ہوں تاکہ وہ مجھے دیکھ سکیں۔

آہ، تو یہ بات تھی۔

The icy snow melted from my boots. My numbed legs, thawing out, ached painfully. I stamped to help the circulation.

میرے بوتوں سے برف پگھل گئی۔ میرے پاؤں سن ہو چکے تھے۔ برف پگھل گئی تھی اور میرے پاؤں میں شدید درد

ہو رہا تھا۔ میں نے خون کا بہاؤ جاری رکھنے کے لیے پاؤں زمین پر زور سے مارا۔

Cheng-Yu waved his hand warningly. I understood. He was afraid I'd wake his baby sister

چنگ یو نے تنبیہ کے انداز سے اپنا ہاتھ بلایا۔ میں سمجھ گیا۔ وہ ڈر رہا تھا کہ میں اس کی چھوٹی بہن کو جگا دوں گا۔

"You really take good care of your sister," I commended/"Mama says my job is to look after her. When mama comes home, I can knock off."

"واقعی تم اپنی بہن کا بہت خیال رکھتے ہو"۔ میں نے تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا، "ماما کہتی ہیں کہ میرا کام اُس کی دیکھ بھال کرنا ہے۔ جب ماما گھر آتی ہیں تو میں اپنا کام چھوڑ سکتا ہوں۔"

"So, you're on the job every day?" I hugged him. "What does mama do?" He pointed to the road below the cave.

"تو گویا روزانہ تمہارا کام ہوتا ہے؟" میں نے اُسے گلے لگایا۔ "ماما کیا کام کرتی ہیں؟ اُس نے غار سے نیچے سڑک کی طرف اشارہ کیا۔"

I could see a person standing by a telephone pole beside the road. Covered with snow, she looked like a white stone image. Apparently, she was directing traffic. The road, not very wide, had been blasted through the rock. Ordinarily, carts, mules, donkeys and people... no doubt streamed in both directions along that road twenty-four hours a day. Someone had to keep the traffic in order.

سڑک کے کنارے میں ٹیلیفون کے کھمبے کے ساتھ ایک فرد کو دیکھ سکتا تھا۔ برف سے ڈھکی ہوئی حالت میں وہ ایک سفید پتھر کی تصویر کی طرح دکھانی دیتی تھی۔ بظاہر وہ ٹریفک کنٹرول کر رہی تھی۔ سڑک زیادہ کشادہ نہیں تھی چٹانوں نے اسے تباہ کر دیا تھا۔ عام طور پر گھوڑا گاڑیاں، خچر، گدھے اور لوگ دن کے 24 گھنٹے دونوں اطراف سے اس روڈ پر آتے جاتے تھے۔ کسی نہ کسی کو ٹریفک کو ترتیب میں رکھنا پڑتا ہے۔

Today, because of the big snow, there weren't many people or vehicles on the road\_ She could very well have spent the day at home. But there she stood and there she would remain, three months, five months, or three years, five years, if need be. Perhaps, from time to time, she raised her head to gaze up at her child or at her husband who was scaling the cliffs between the mountains and the

sky. When he paused to wipe the sweat from his brow, could he see the determined figure of his wife or the tiny image of his little boy?

آج بہت زیادہ برف باری کی وجہ سے سڑک پر زیادہ لوگ یہ گاڑیاں نہیں تھیں، وہاں گھر پر اچھا دن گزار سکتی تھی۔  
لیکن وہاں کھڑی تھی اور وہاں پر رہے گی۔ تین ماہ، پانچ ماہ، تین سال، پانچ سال، جب تک ضرورت ہوگی۔ شاید وہ  
وقتاً فوقتاً سر اٹھا کر اپنے بچے کو دیکھتی تھی۔ یا اپنے شوہر کو جو کہ آسمان اور پہاڑ کے درمیان چٹان پر چڑھ رہا تھا  
۔ جب وہ اپنی آبرو (پیشانی) سے پسینہ پونچھنے کے لیے زکنا تھا تو وہ اپنی پر عزم بیوی کی شکل یا ننھے بچے کی تصویر دیکھ  
سکتا تھا۔

Even though it was a snowy, windy night, even though the worker, his wife and children couldn't see one another clearly, I was sure they could feel a mutual loving encouragement and sense that each was looking forward to the moment of family reunion.

اگرچہ برفانی اور طوفانی رات تھی۔ یہاں تک کہ مزدور اور اس کی بیوی بچے ایک دوسرے کو صاف طور پر نہیں دیکھ  
سکتے تھے مجھے امید تھی کہ وہ باہمی محبت اور حوصلہ افزائی کو محسوس کر رہے تھے اور وہ اس لمحے کے منتظر تھے کہ ان کا  
خاندان اکٹھا ہو

I glanced at Cheng-Yu. The child had placed his hands in his sleeves and pulled his neck into his collar. He kept dozing off.

"You're liable to catch a chill. Better get into bed and go to sleep."

میں نے جنگ یو کی طرف دیکھا، بچے نے اپنے ہاتھ آستینوں میں چھپا لئے تھے اور لہنی گردن کا لر میں دبائی ہوئی تھی۔  
وہ مسلسل اونکھ رہا تھا۔ ممکن ہے تمہیں سردی لگ جائے، بہتر یہی ہے کہ تم بستر پر جاؤ اور سو جاؤ۔

He looked at me dreamily for a moment, probably thinking that his parents had returned.

اس نے ایک لمحے کے لئے خوابیدہ انداز سے مجھے دیکھا، شاید وہ سوچ رہا تھا کہ اُس کے والدین واپس آچکے تھے۔

When he realized who I was, he shook his head violently. "No I won't!" "Why not?"

جب اُسے احساس ہوا کہ وہ کون تھا۔ اُس نے تیزی کے ساتھ سر بلایا اور کہا۔ میں نہیں جاؤنگا۔ "کیوں نہیں"

He rubbed his eyes with his fists. "Papa and mama say a man should never leave his post."

اُس نے مٹھیوں سے آنکھوں کو رگڑا۔ پاپا اور ماما کہتے ہیں کہ انسان کو لہنی ڈیوٹی کی جگہ کبھی بھی نہیں چھوڑنی چاہیے۔

I hugged him tightly and pressed my cheek against his. Then I rose, buttoned my coat, pulled my hat down firmly, left the cave and walked down the path.

Following the road that had been blasted through the rock, I pushed on, the words of the child echoing in my head, "A man should never leave his post." A job was waiting for me. I wanted to reach my destination without any further delay. [Translated anonymously from the Chinese]

میں نے اُسے تھم سے گلے لگایا۔ اور اپنے گال اُسکے گالوں سے لگانے۔ پھر میں اٹھا، کوٹ کے بٹن بند کیے، بیٹھ کو

مضبوطی سے نیچے کھینچ کر پہنا، غار سے نکلا اور نیچے راستے پر چل دیا۔ میں اُس سڑک پر چلنے لگا جو کہ چٹانوں نے تباہ کر

دی تھی۔ میں آگے چلتا رہا اور بچے کے الفاظ میرے دماغ میں گونج رہے تھے " ایک انسان کو اپنی ڈیوٹی کی جگہ کبھی نہیں چھوڑنی چاہیے۔" ایک فرض میرا منتظر تھا۔ میں مزید کسی تاخیر کے اپنی منزل پر پہنچنا چاہتا تھا۔

### About the Author

After growing up in a poor family in the province of Shenshi (also spelled Shaanxi) TuPeng-cheng (born 1921) worked as a correspondent for the New China News during China's civil war in the late 1940's. His many notes about battles he witnessed, became important sources for his later fiction, including his acclaimed war novel, Defend Yen-an, published in 1954.

Winning praise throughout China for his depiction of military life. Tu enjoyed a flourishing career throughout the 1950s. In 1958 he published his next major novel in Peacetime, which describes workers constructing the Paoki to Chengtu (Baoji to Chengdu) Railway. Tu fell from favour in the 1960s when the government rewrote its history and condemned several former leaders whom Tu had praised in his fiction His work was banned in China until 1978 when a thaw in the nation's totalitarian regime allowed Tu to resume his writing career

### New Vocabulary

Words	Meanings
<b>Apparently</b>	Readily seen or understood: evident, obvious
<b>Crisscrossing</b>	To move or cause to move in a crosswise pattern
<b>Depot</b>	A storehouse or warehouse for supplies, usually the military

<b>Dusk</b>	Twilight or the darker part of twilight; evening; sunset, nightfall
<b>Gale</b>	A strong wind; a blast, storm
<b>Gorge</b>	A deep ravine, esp. one through which a river runs; canyon
<b>Hazy</b>	Characterised by reduced visibility; misty; foggy
<b>Imp</b>	A small demon or devil; a mischievous child
<b>Irritation</b>	Something that irritates, bothers, annoys, enrages, provokes
<b>Mutual</b>	Experienced or expressed by each of two or more persons about the other; reciprocal; common or shared by two or more parties
<b>Numbed</b>	Deprived of feeling in limbs through cold; paralysed
<b>Pretty sharp</b>	Quite intelligent
<b>Ravine</b>	A deep narrow steep-sided valley, esp. one formed by the action of running water; a gorge
<b>Rent</b>	A slit or opening made by tearing, a tear or breach
<b>Snowflakes</b>	Delicate, fluff mass of snow that falls as snow
<b>Swirling</b>	To turn or cause to turn in a twisting spinning fashion; spinning
<b>To clamp</b>	To fix or fasten with a clamp
<b>To cock</b>	To raise, perk up;
<b>To commend</b>	To present or represent as being worthy or regard; recommend; to praise; to express a good opinion of
<b>To discern</b>	To recognise or perceive clearly

<b>To gleam</b>	A small beam or glow of light appearing momentarily
<b>To doze off</b>	To fall into a light sleep
<b>To flash</b>	To burst or cause to burst suddenly or intermittently into flame; to move very rapidly like a flash
<b>To gaze</b>	To look long and fixedly, in wonder or admiration; to stare
<b>To haul</b>	To drag or draw something with effort; to transport as in a truck
<b>To knock off</b>	To finish work;
<b>To obliterate</b>	To destroy every trace of; to wipe out completely
<b>To offend</b>	To hurt the feelings, sense of dignity of someone
<b>To peer</b>	To look intently with or as if with difficulty
<b>To scale</b>	To climb to the top of a mountain by a ladder
<b>To scowl</b>	To contract the brows in a threatening or angry manner
<b>To stamp</b>	To put the foot down heavily on the ground
<b>To stumble</b>	To trip or fall while walking or running
<b>Undoubtedly</b>	Without any doubt;
<b>Vaguely</b>	Not clearly; fuzzily dim

## STUDY QUESTIONS

### Recalling

1. What is the narrator's job and the purpose of his journey? What physical conditions persuade him to rest for a few hours?

**Ans: Narrator's Job:**

The narrator is the chief of the material department depot. His job is to supervise all the ongoing construction work for the future Paoki-chengtu Railway.

**Purpose of Journey:**

The purpose of his journey is to supervise the ongoing construction work at the site of the future Paoki-chengtu Railway. He had to reach the material department by 10 o'clock in the morning and attend his duties.

**Physical Condition:**

The weather is intensely cold due to continuous snow falling. The narrator is hungry and feels cold. In the dusk, the swirling snowflakes and the gale make every step a struggle and so he trips and falls badly. He was stumbling. There was dark all around. He was liable to fall into some deep ravine. These conditions make him so irritating and restless that he wants to rest for a few hours in some shady place under a cliff.

(OR)

The narrator is the chief of the Material Department Construction going on in the Lingkuan Gorge for the future railway and his job is to supervise that. The purpose of his journey is to reach his department depot and attend his duties by ten o'clock next morning.

The physical conditions that persuade him to rest for a few hours are the cold, twisting course with more than a half foot deep snow, darkness, intense

hunger, irritation that has increased upon entering Lingkuan Gorge, tiredness due to tough journey, and swirling snowflakes and gale making every step a struggle posing a threat that, while stumbling, he is liable to fall into some deep ravine.

**2. About how old is Cheng-yu? What does he respond when the narrator asks, "Why isn't anybody home?"**

**Ans: Age of Cheng-Yu:**

The child Cheng-Yu whom the narrator sees sitting on the small stool in the doorway of a cave is almost seven or eight years old.

**Response to Narrator:**

When the narrator asks, "Why isn't anybody home?" the child replies in cross question form: "Aren't I anybody, Uncle?" He in fact minds the remark of the narrator that suggest as if he was no body

(OR)

The child, Cheng-yu, is about seven or eight years old. When the narrator asks. "Why isn't anybody home?" the child turns his head, flashes his eyes and asks him in a cross-question form: "Aren't I anybody, uncle?" He, in fact, minds the remark of the narrator that suggests as if he is nobody So, he rises and walks towards the narrator, with his hands behind his back and his chest extended, as if to say: "Not only am I somebody, I'm a very grown-up somebody!"

**3. What work do Cheng-yu's parents do? What "job" has Cheng-yu been assigned, and what explanation does he give for refusing the narrator's advice to go to sleep?**

**Ans: Cheng-Yu's Parents Job:**

Cheng-Yu parents are very hard working and very true to their profession. His father being a labourer opens up the mountains and drill holes for dynamite charges. Cheng-Yu's mother as a traffic controller stands on the narrow and dangerous road that has been blasted through the rock.

**Cheng-Yu's Job:**

Cheng-Yu has been given the responsibility to take care of his baby sister Pao-Cheng when his parents are out on their specific jobs.

**Narrator Advice and Cheng-Yu's Explanation:**

When the narrator sees little Cheng-Yu dozing on a small stool in the doorway of the cave and advises him to sleep, he at once shakes his head violently in negative and says his papa and mama say that "one should never leave his post"

(OR)

Cheng-yu's parents are very hard-working fellows: his father drills holes for the dynamite charges on the mountains', whereas, his mother directs the traffic, standing beside the road below the cave Cheng-yu has been assigned the job of looking after his baby sister. Pao-Cheng, till the arrival of his mother When the narrator advises him to go to sleep because he was dozing, Cheng-yu replies that he will not do so because his papa and his mama say that a man should never leave his post

**4. What does the narrator do in the final paragraph? What does he realize is waiting for him?**

**Ans:** In the last paragraph the narrator is really moved by the determination of little Cheng-Yu who says that "A man should never leave his post" To hear this his lost spirits reawaken He rises buttons up his coat, puts his hat down firmly and

leave the cave. He realizes that his job in the material department as a chief is waiting for him.

(OR)

In the final paragraph, when Cheng-yu utters very inspiring remarks about his duty, the narrator hugs him tightly and presses his cheeks against that of Cheng-yu. He, then rises, buttons his coat, pulls his hat down firmly, leaves the cave and walks down the path to reach his department without any further delay. Following the road that has been blasted through the rock, he pushes on. The words of the child are echoing in his head, "A man should never leave his post." He realizes that his duty in the material department as a chief is waiting for him.

### Interpreting

**5. What sort of child is Cheng-yu? What attitude does he display towards his parents and his responsibilities?**

**Ans: Cheng-Yu as a Child:**

Cheng-Yu is the central character of the story. The whole story revolves around him. Cheng-Yu is very sensible, strong, bold and determined. He is just seven or eight years old but his spirits are so high and he has a greater sense of responsibility.

**Attitude towards parents and responsibilities:**

His attitude towards his parents is like that of remarkable obedient son, who sacrifices his rest and performs his duty assigned to him by them. He looks after his baby sister till the arrival of his mother. He complies with the advice of his parents that "A man should never leave his post".

(OR)

Cheng-Yu is very cute, caring, sensible and responsible child. He is very obedient to his parents. He shows tremendous loyalty to his assigned responsibilities. He looks after his baby sister till the arrival of his mother; He complies with the advice of his parents that a man should never leave his post.

**6. What change in mood or outlook does the narrator experience in the course of the story? What causes the change?**

**Ans:** At the beginning of the story, the narrator is tired and hungry and wants a place to rest. His mood changes from pessimistic to optimistic. Meeting the boy, seeing his responsibilities for his baby sister and observing the family's mutual encouragement for one another has caused this change. The actions of the parents in their workplace affects him. The mother was directing traffic in the snowstorm and the father was placing dynamite charges on a steep slope.

**The Causes for the Narrator's Change of Mood:**

When the narrator advises the child to sleep, the child refuses him by saying that his papa and mama say that "A man should never leave his post". This sentence of the boy changes the outlook and mood of narrator. The narrator is really moved by the determination of little Cheng- Yu. The cause for the narrator's change of mood is seeing the boy's attitude towards work and responsibility. The boy, for example, takes care of his baby sister as his parents have asked him to do.

It is clear to the reader since he even tells the narrator to be quiet when he stamps his boots for fear of awaking the baby. He himself learns a great lesson that "A man should never leave his post" He goes back in order to get the job in the material department as a chief. He is prompted to set off for his destination and perform his duty there.

(OR)

The mood and outlook of the narrator changes gradually. When he hears the comments of the child, he himself learns a great lesson that a man should never leave his post. He is prompted to set off for his destination and perform his duty there.

**7. What ideas about work does the story convey? What else does the story suggest is valuable?**

**Ans: Ideas about work:**

**First Idea:** The story "Lingkuan Gorge" conveys the lesson that one should be dutiful. The work should not be considered burdensome; rather one must realize the importance of responsibility and perform it with devotion.

**Second Idea:** The story also suggests that "A man should never leave his post". This principle of life makes one responsible, determined, committed and successful.

**Third Idea:** The story also suggests that one should never be as vulnerable as to be defeated by physical conditions. One should rather be true to one's commitment. The story also suggests that one should be dutiful and obedient to his parents.

**Fourth Idea:** Sometimes a younger person, perhaps more innocent and purer, may influence an older person to change his or her thinking. Some people are able to learn by example. (the boy's example helps the narrator to learn)

(OR)

**i.** The story conveys the ideas about work that one should never leave one's place of duty and be sincere and patriotic.

**ii.** One should perform one's duty even if the circumstance is not favorable. The story suggests that if men, women and children work sincerely for the

development the county only then our country can make rapid progress as China has done.

**8. Do you think the story is overly moralistic? How does Tu make his story entertaining despite its rather heavy-handed message?**

**Ans:** Yes, I think that the story is overly moralistic. The writer narrates the story in a very beautiful way. The writer is highly skillful to present the truth and importance of the duty. "A man should never leave his post", is rightly a heavy — handed message. It is simple but has a powerful effect. The account of surroundings and the way of the writer's observations expressed in the story, have made the story more interesting and digestible

(OR)

The story is moralistic. The writer has tried to make it entertaining despite the roughness of the area, and season.

### Extending

**9. Do you think the motto, "a man should never leave his post", has any significance in different spheres of life? Discuss.**

**Ans: Significance of Motto:**

"A man should never leave his post" has its significance in different spheres of life A man who is not steadfast, never gain the objectives of his life.

My View:

The one who is stick to his objectives will achieve them. In my opinion it is true that "A man should never leave his post" at any cost.

For example, in the battle of Uhud, the band of archers on the mound left the post contrary to the orders of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) and started collecting booty.

As a result, the commander of Quraish army attacked from behind killing ten Muslim archers. The Muslims were surrounded from all sides. That changed the course of the battle. This tells us to never undermine the importance of our post and should stand by it until the end of our duties.

(OR)

I think that the motto, "A man should never leave his post" has great significance. If a man adopts this motto in life, he is always successful

### Oral Communication Skills

- After reading the lesson, the students will be asked to express their views about the character of the narrator of the story and the small child, Cheng-Yu.
- The students will be asked to find out and explain, who was more dutiful, the narrator or Cheng-Yu?

### Writing Skills

- The students will be assigned the task of writing the character of Cheng-Yu.

**Ans: Character of Cheng-Yu:**

Cheng-Yu is the central character of the story. The whole story revolves around him. Cheng-Yu is very sensible, strong, bold and determined. He is just seven or eight years old but his spirits are so high and he has a greater sense of responsibility. Cheng-Yu is very cute, caring, sensible and responsible child. He is very obedient to his parents. He shows tremendous loyalty to his assigned

responsibilities. He looks after his baby sister till the arrival of his mother: He complies with the advice of his parents that a man should never leave his post

- **Write an essay on "A man should never leave his post".**

**Ans: A MAN SHOULD NEVER LEAVE HIS POST**

### **(DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY)**

"Duty (Post)" means "moral or legal obligation in general" It can also mean a particular task or action that a person is bound to perform for moral or legal reasons.

We have specific posts/duties to different people. To our parents and teachers, we owe love, respect and obedience. Parents have the duty to love and bring up their children properly. Teachers have to guide and impart knowledge to their pupils. All of us have the duty to help the poor and the needy. We have also duties as citizens of a country.

Our basic duty to ourselves is to live good and virtuous lives, because that is what God want us to do, and what is necessary to attain everlasting happiness in the next world. It is our duty, too, to strive hard to succeed in our profession or occupation and to take reasonable care of our bodies.

Without being responsible and do whatever you are supposed to do, practically, you are out of your job.

We have responsible for our post or place of duty. If a man does not care his post or place of duty it can affect all unit cohesion (collective efforts of the group). A unit generally shares a common goal and should be motivated to coordinate their efforts as a team to achieve that goal. Now, if you leave your post and does not show up to help complete that goal, that you have not only placed more work on unit members, but has effectively let unit down.

Being responsible refers to our ability to make decisions that serve our own interests and the interests of others. We first need to be responsible for ourselves before we can be responsible for others. In learning to be more responsible it is important that we know our limitations. It does not matter how smart we are, there is only so much responsibility that a person can handle. It is also important to remember that we are not responsible for things that are out of our control, for example, how other people feel or how they react to ourselves or others. Sharing responsibility for both success and failure can lead to increased responsibility to oneself and others.

Being Responsible makes our life better. When we do what we have promised, people see us as a responsible and reliable person. This boosts a person's self-esteem and self-worth.

## **Language Study (Grammar)**

### **The Meaning and Uses of the Modal Verbs**

Modal verbs, also known as modal auxiliaries or modals, are mainly used to add to the lexical verb a feeling of the action being, for example, possible, likely, necessary, certain, compulsory, allowed or advisable.

The modal verb can is used to express the idea that something is possible or that someone is able to do something or allowed to do something. Could is the past tense of can but is also used in a number of other ways.

The modal verb may is used to express the idea that something is possible or permitted. It is also used to express opinions and wishes. Might is the past tense of may but has a number of other meanings and uses as well.

The main use of the modal verb will is to form the future tense of lexical verbs, but it has other uses as well, such as asking someone to do something or

saying that you are willing to do something. Shall is sometimes used to form future tenses with / and we, expressing intentions

Would and should are the past tenses of will and shall but they too have a number of other uses.

The modal verb must is used to express the idea that something is necessary or obligatory or that something is certain or probable. Need to and have to also express the idea of being necessary or obligatory.

### **The Meaning and Uses of Can and Could**

The modal verb can is used with a bare infinitive to express the idea that something is possible or that someone is able to do something or allowed to do something.

Could is the past tense of can but is also used in a number of other ways.

#### **Present tense:**

Past tense I know I can help them.

I knew I could help them. They say they can't come.

They said they couldn't come. 'I can help you', he said.

He said he could help us. 'We can come back tomorrow', I told them.

I told them we could come back the next day. 'can' I have another biscuit? He asked.

He asked if he could have another biscuit.

#### **Describing Possibilities:**

Can is used to talk about what is possible or what someone or something is able to do.

You can see for miles from the top of that hill.

Nowadays you can use Online search facilities to find the best bargains.  
Elephants can run surprisingly quickly.

You can no doubt understand how upset I was when I heard the news.  
Can a python really swallow a whole antelope?

I simply cannot answer all these questions in the time we have left.  
Ostriches are birds but they can't fly.

We'd like a new car but we can't afford one.

I can't reach the packets of soup on the top shelf. Can you reach them?  
In this sense of can, the past tense is could:

From the top of the hill, we could see for miles.

Could mammoths run as fast as elephants can now?

Like ostriches, the moan that once lived in New Zealand couldn't fly

When I was young, we couldn't afford a car.

It's a pity they couldn't come with us yesterday.

- Can and could are often used with verbs that describe the use of the mind or the senses (sight, hearing, touch, etc) but without much idea of 'possibility' or 'ability' at all:

I can see you. (= I see you)

We know that the lions can hear us from the way they are looking in this direction. (=... the lions are hearing us)

I can't remember where I put the money. (= I don't remember where I put it)

I could feel something crawling up my leg. (= I felt something crawling up my leg)  
We could see he wasn't happy. (= We saw that he wasn't happy)

When I got to the shop, I couldn't remember what I had wanted to buy. (= I didn't remember what I had wanted to buy)

I couldn't understand a thing she said. (= I didn't understand her)

- Couldn't is used when politely refusing an offer of something to eat or drink: 'would you like another piece of cake?

'Oh, I couldn't eat another one'.

- Couldn't and couldn't have are used as a way of simply emphasizing what you are saying.

I couldn't agree with you more. (= I don't agree with you completely) They couldn't have been more surprised to find they had won the prize.

Could is used to refer to less certain or more doubtful possibilities in the present or the future.

Could a python really swallow a whole antelope? (= would it be possible for a python to eat an antelope)

You'd better take your umbrella with you. It could rain later on. (= it might rain) The parcel could arrive tomorrow.

That could be the explanation for this strange behaviour.

When referring in this way to more doubtful possibilities, we use I could have when referring to the past.

Could a python really have swallowed a whole antelope?

I suppose a bird could have stolen the ring but it rather doubted it.

The police are not sure what was used to kill him. It could have been a pipe or an axe handle.

Could is also used to refer to something that is possible in theory but which does not actually happen or is not actually done:

The police could do more to prevent riots, (but they don't)

A lot of crime could be prevented if people take more care.

When referring to the past, you again use I could have:

I suppose I could have gone with them, but I didn't really want to. (so I didn't go)

We could have stayed another day, but we decided not to.

Can and could may both be used when you are wondering about something.

Who can be knocking at our door so late at night?

I wonder who that could be, knocking at our door so late at night. What on earth can have happened to him?

Where on earth could he be at this time of night?

In this sense, there is little difference between can and could. The past tense is could have.

Who could have been knocking at my door so late in the night?

Could is used to describe something a person wants to do but which they may or may not do: could have is used to describe what a person wanted to or felt like doing but didn't do.

I feel so angry, I could just stamp my feet and scream.

I feel so angry, I could have hit him.

Sometimes cannot, can't and couldn't are used to express the opinion or hope that something is not possible or not true.

- o That story in the paper can't be true, surely.
- o What she told you couldn't be true.
- o The conflict in the Middle East can't last forever.
- o The town council surely can't be expecting us to pay for the repair to the pavement.
- o They can't be out. I can hear a radio playing in the front room.

Couldn't have is used to refer to the past;

They couldn't have been out. I could hear a radio playing in the front room.

- Can't, couldn't, can't have, etc may express surprise or disbelief or disapproval:
- But we can't have spent all our money yet! We should have at least another \$200.
- How could we have spent all that money in just two days?
- That can't be your parents here already! They are not due to arrive until this evening.
- She couldn't have been one of the terrorists! The same is true of question forms:
- How could you have been stupid? OR
- How could you be so stupid?

### **Describing Knowledge of Skills**

Can is used to say that someone knows how to do something.

- Her brother can speak German.
- My little daughter is only three but she can already write her name.
- Help! I can't swim.
- Some children still cannot read by the time they leave school. In this sense, the past tense is could:
- I could speak French when I left school but I can't any more.
- I never could speak French.

- He could compose music by the age of four.

### **Referring to What is Permitted**

Can is used to ask for or give permission or to say that something is allowed

- Can I borrow your bike? "No, you can't."
- Can we ask questions at the meeting?
- We can take book with us into the exam room.
- European Union regulations now tell us what fish we can and cannot catch.
- Could is also used to ask permission. It is slightly more polite than can:
- Could I possibly borrow your car?

If I could just interrupt you for a moment, there is something I would like to say. Note that although you can use could to ask for permission, you use can when giving permission.

Could I possibly borrow your car?' Yes, of course you can.

### **Making requests and Suggestions**

Can is used to make a request or to invite someone to do something.

- Can you tell me what time it is?
- Can you help me, please? I'm afraid I'm lost.
- Now, if you can just wait here a moment, I'll see whether the manager is free to speak to you.

Requests formed with could are slightly more polite;

- You couldn't move along a bit, could you?

- Could I open a window, please? It's very hot in here.

Requests formed with can and could may also show some annoyance or impatience.

- Can you make a little less noise, please!
- Could you hurry up there!

In negative questions, can't also expresses impatience or angry requests or complaints.

Can't you be a little quieter when you're playing? I'm trying to get some sleep.  
Why can't men be as sensible as women?

- Could is used to make suggestion:

If the car won't start, you could try pushing it along the road. You could always ask your father to lend us the money. Sometimes could and could have are used to make suggestions that show that the speaker is annoyed;

You could be more of a help to me, you know!

Well, you could have told me you weren't coming.

Other uses of Can and Could

- Can maybe use to describe something that sometimes or frequently happens:

She can be a little rude at time but she doesn't mean it.

It can get very cold here in winter.

Schools in London can have pupils from many different ethnic backgrounds. In this sense, the past tense is could:

- She could be very rude at time but then at other times she could be very kind
- Cannot and can't are used to suggest that something should not happen

- o We can't leave yet. We've only been here five minutes.
- o We can't just walk out in the middle of the meal, can we? We'll have to stay till the end. Both couldn't and couldn't have are used to refer to the past:
- o We couldn't leave after only five minutes.
- o We couldn't have left after only five minutes.
- Can and could are used to express willingness:
- o Yes, I can come back again tomorrow if you want me to.
- o I could come back tomorrow if that is more convenient.
- o The management cannot accept any responsibility for damage to customers cars left in the car park.
- o It's kind of you to offer to pay for my trip, but I'm afraid, I can't accept your help.
- Could and could have are used to say that something is like something else or has the appearance of something else;
- o The sea is so smooth, it could be glass. (= it looks like glass)
- o From the top of the hill, the cars looked so small that they could have been little insects.
- Can is sometimes used to express an order.
- You can stop that nonsense right now!
- Since you can't behave yourself, you can just go home.

## PRACTICE EXERCISE

**A: Correct the following sentences using can, could or could have**

1. I want to get some sleep this afternoon so that I **could** stay awake all night tonight.
2. If animals **could** talk, what would they tell us?
3. We weren't very busy yesterday, so we **could have** come if you'd asked us.
4. Do you have anything in this shop that **can** take ink for fingers?
5. I was so pleased when the girl told me she had the shoes I wanted in my size that I **could** praised her.
6. Let's make a list of the things we **can** do this weekend.
7. Try to think of all the places where you **could** leave your umbrella.
8. When I was young, I **could** run a marathon.
9. All of his brothers **could have** been avoided if you had asked my advice in this first place.
10. **Can** I have a clean knife, please?

**B: Complete the answers to the questions given below, using, Can't, couldn't, or couldn't have.**

1. Why didn't you phone me?  
Because I **couldn't** remember your telephone number
2. Why are the police so sure that those boys didn't kill the old man?  
Because they have not been in the area at the time he died.
3. Why don't you switch the light on?  
Because I **can't** find the light switch.

4. Why didn't you take the money he was offering you?  
Because I felt I **couldn't** be in his debt
5. How do you know the key is still here?  
Because it **couldn't** have disappeared into thin air.
6. Why didn't you introduce me to that woman you were talking to?  
Because I couldn't think what her name was.
7. Why didn't you come with us to the concert?  
Because I **couldn't** stand modern jazz. You know I don't like jazz.
8. Why don't you come with us to the concert?  
Because the orchestra would be too loud. I **can't** stand the noise.
9. Why did you leave the room when Mary was practicing on her violin?  
Because I **couldn't** stand the noise.
10. Why did you leave the room when Mary brought out her violin?  
Because I knew she was going to start playing and I **couldn't** have stood the noise.

**C:** Read the following sentences and say whether the subject of each sentence containing the word **can't** is unable to do what is described in the sentence, is unwilling to do it, is not allowed to do it or doesn't know how to do it.

- 1) We can't smoke here. There is a "No smoking" sign over there on the wall.

**Ans:** not allowed to do it

- 2) She sings beautifully but she can't read music.

**Ans:** unable to do it

3) Could you switch the light on, please? I can't read my book when the room is as dark as this.

**Ans:** unable to do it

4) You can't go any faster than seventy miles an hour on a motorway.

**Ans:** not allowed to do it

5) You can't go faster than seventy miles an hour in this old car anyway. Its engine isn't powerful enough.

**Ans:** unable to do it

6) I can't come with you to the cinema this evening. My mum says I've got to do my homework first.

**Ans:** not allowed to do it

7) I can't come with you to the cinema this evening because I don't have any money.

**Ans:** unable to do it

8) She can't drive a car in her own because she hasn't passed her driving test yet.

**Ans:** doesn't know how to do it

9) Surprisingly she still can't drive. She is never wanted to and she has never taken any lesson.

**Ans:** unwilling to do it

10) I really can't accept this award I just don't deserve it

**Ans:** unwilling to do it

