

**19****READING WITH UNDERSTANDING****OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- understand short theme-based passages and
- answer questions on those passages.

**19.1 SECTION I**

Read the passage and do the activities.

One stormy night many years ago, an elderly man and his wife entered the lobby of a small hotel in Philadelphia. Trying to get out of the rain, the couple approached the front desk hoping to get some shelter for the night.

“Could you possibly give us a room here?” the husband asked. The clerk, a friendly man with a winning smile, looked at the couple and explained that there were three conventions in town. “All of our rooms are taken,” the clerk said. “But I can’t send a nice couple like you out into the rain at one o’clock in the morning. Would you perhaps be willing to sleep in my room? It’s not exactly a suite, but it will be good enough to make you folks comfortable for the night.” When the couple declined, the young man pressed on. “Don’t worry about me. I’ll make out just fine,” he told them. So the couple agreed.

As he paid his bill the next morning, the elderly man said to the clerk, “You are the kind of manager who should be the boss of the best hotel in the United States. Maybe someday I’ll build one for you.” The clerk looked at them and smiled. The three of them had a good laugh. As they drove away, the elderly couple agreed



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that the helpful clerk was indeed exceptional, as finding people who are both friendly and helpful isn't easy.

Two years passed. The clerk had almost forgotten the incident when he received a letter from the old man. It recalled that stormy night and enclosed a round-trip ticket to New York, asking the young man to pay them a visit.

The old man met him in New York and led him to the corner of Fifth Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. He then pointed to a great new building there, a pale reddish stone, with torrets and watchtowers thrusting up to the sky. "That," said the older man, "is the hotel I have just built for you to manage." "You must be joking," the young man said. "I can assure you I am not," said the older man, a sly smile playing around his mouth.

The older man's name was William Waldorf-Aster, and that magnificent structure was the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The young clerk who became its first manager was Geroge C. Boldt. This young clerk never foresaw the turn of events that would lead him to become the manager of one of the world's most glamorous hotels.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 19.1

1. Put a tick mark (✓) against the statements that are correct and a cross (×) against the ones that are wrong.
  - (i) On a moonlit night an elderly couple came to a small hotel in Philadelphia. ( )
  - (ii) The hotel was full and the couple could not get a room. ( )
  - (iii) The clerk was both efficient and strict. ( )
  - (iv) The clerk offered his room to the couple. ( )
  - (v) Complimenting the clerk, the elderly man said he should be working in the best hotel in United States. ( )
  - (vi) The old man sent a letter to the clerk with a round trip ticket to New York. ( )
  - (vii) The old man had built a grand hotel in Philadelphia. ( )
  - (viii) The old man asked the clerk to be the first occupant of that hotel. ( )



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2. Choose the correct alternative.
- (i) The elderly couple came to a hotel which was
    - a) big.
    - b) grand.
    - c) fully occupied.
  - (ii) The clerk told the couple that there were no rooms available in the hotel as:
    - a) most of the rooms were locked.
    - b) the night was stormy.
    - c) there were three conventions being held in town.
  - (iii) The clerk's room was not big but it was
    - a) airy.
    - b) clean.
    - c) comfortable.
  - (iv) The old man told the clerk he would
    - a) send him a cheque.
    - b) build a grand hotel.
    - c) call him to New York.
3. Words from the passage are given on the left. Select words from the box which mean the same and write them in the blanks.

insisted	a hearty laugh	extraordinary
grand	charming	

- Magnificent \_\_\_\_\_
- Winning (smile) \_\_\_\_\_
- Pressed on \_\_\_\_\_
- Exceptional \_\_\_\_\_
- A good laugh \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of these would be a suitable title for this story.
- A friendly man with a winning smile
  - The manager of a magnificent Hotel.



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- The reward of a good deed
- A true story

5. Using the theme of the story write a short paragraph on:

One Good Turn Deserves Another

## 19.2 SECTION II

Read the passage and do the activities:

We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty and charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open. Our own country is a little world in itself with an infinite variety and places for us to discover. I have travelled a great deal in this country and I have grown in years. And yet I have not seen many parts of the country we love so much and seek to serve. I wish I had more time so that I could visit the nooks and corners of India. I would like to go there in the company of bright young children whose minds are opening out with wonder and curiosity as they make new discoveries. I should like to go with them, not so much to the great cities of India as to the mountains and the forests and the great rivers and the old monuments, all of which tell us something of India's story. I would like them to discover for themselves that they can play about in the snow in some parts of India and also see other places where tropical forests flourish. Such a trip with children would be a voyage of discovery of the beautiful trees of our forests and hill sides and the flowers that grace the changing seasons and bring life and colour to us. We would watch the birds and try to recognize them and make friends with them. But the most exciting adventure would be to go to forests and see the wild animals, both the little ones and the big. Foolish people go there with a gun and kill them and thus put an end to something that was beautiful. It is far more interesting and amusing to wander about without a gun or any other weapon and to find that wild animals are not afraid and can be approached. Animals have keener instincts than man. If a man goes to them with murder in his heart, they are afraid of him and run away. But if he has any love for animals, they realize that he is a friend and do not mind him. If you are full of fear yourself, then the animal is afraid too, and might attack you in self-defence. The fearless person is seldom, if ever, attacked.

Perhaps that lesson might be applied to human beings also. If we meet other people in a friendly way, they also become friendly. But if we are afraid of them or if we show our dislike of them, then they behave in the same manner.

*Jawahar Lal Nehru*



**INTEXT QUESTIONS 19.2**



Notes

1. Answer these questions:
  - (i) What is our wonderful world full of?
  - (ii) What would Nehru do if he had more time?
  - (iii) Why would he like to go in the company of bright young children?
  - (iv) Which places would he like to go to?
  - (v) What would be the most exciting adventure?
  - (vi) If we have love in our hearts what do wild animals do?
  - (vii) How do human beings behave if we dislike them?
  
2. Complete these sentences:
  - (i) We can find adventure if we seek it with our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (ii) After visiting monuments we learn something more about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (iii) Flowers give \_\_\_\_\_ and colour to our world.
  - (iv) While watching the birds we should be able to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (v) People who kill animals are \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. Given below are a few words. Find their antonyms (words of opposite meaning from the passage and write them in the blanks given :
 

dull	
foes	
domesticated	
less	
least	
old	
intelligent	
  
4. Give a suitable title to the piece.



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**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS****Intext Question 19.1**

1. (i) F, (ii) T, (iii) F, (iv) T, (v) T, (vi) T, (vii) F
2. (i) c, (ii) c, (iii) c, (iv) b
3. (i) grand, (ii) charming, (iii) insisted, (iv) extraordinary, (v) a hearty laugh

**Intext Question 19.2**

1. (i) Beauty, charm and adventure  
 (ii) Visit the old nooks and corners of India.  
 (iii) Because their minds are opening out with wonder and curiosity.  
 (iv) Mountains, forests, rivers and old monuments.  
 (v) Going to the forests and seeing the wild animals  
 (vi) They don't attack us.  
 (vii) They dislike us in turn.
2. (i) eyes open  
 (ii) Indian's history  
 (iii) life  
 (iv) recognize them  
 (v) foolish
3. bright  
 friends  
 wild  
 more  
 most  
 new
4. Suggested titles  
 (a) Exploring India  
 (b) India: A Rich Experience  
 (c) Discovering India