

K.T.S.P. Mandal's

Hutatatma Rajguru Mahavidyalaya, Rajgurunagar

Rajgurunagar, Pune- 410505

SYBA (CBCS 2019 Pattern)

SEMESTER - III

SUBJECT- COMPOLSORY ENGLISH

Prof. S. S ALHAT

(Department of English)

Topic- Prose

Sub Unit- The Homecoming by Tagore

Question Answer section- The Homecoming By Rabindranath Tagore

1. What did Phatik and his friends decide to do?

Phatik Chakravati was a typical naughty village boy about fourteen years old. He was the ring leader of his gang. He never went to school but spent the whole day flying kites, swimming in the river and playing mischief. He was inventive and full of ideas. One day a new mischief got into his head. There was a heavy log lying on the mud flat of the river waiting to be shaped into to mast for a boat. Phatik and his friends decided that they should shift the log by force from its place and roll it away. The owner of the log would be angry and surprised and they would enjoy all the fun. Thus Phatik and his friends decided to perform a new mischief.

2. How did Makhan spoil the fun?

Phatik and his friends decided to perform a new mischief. They decided that they should shift the log by force from its place and roll it away. The owner of the log would be angry and surprised and they would enjoy all the fun. But the fun was spoiled before it started, as Phatik's brother Makhan went against this plan. He decides not to allow them to roll the log way. So he quietly sat down on the log without uttering word. This made everybody puzzled for a moment. Phatik asked him to get up. But Makhan sat more confidently and appeared like a young philosopher meditating. Now it was the question of Phatik's dignity before his gang and so he ordered the gangs to roll the log along with Makhan. As the log moved, Makhan fell into mud. So he quarreled with Phatik and went home crying. All in this way Makhan spoiled the fun.

3. Who arrived at Phatik's house?

Bishambar brother of Phatik's mother or his maternal uncle came to Phatik house. Bishambar had gone away soon after the marriage of Phatik's mother and his sister and he also started business at Bombay. Bishambar now come back to Calcutta and was visiting his sister after a long period.

4. Why did Phatik go to Calcutta?

Phatik Chakravati was a typical naughty village boy about fourteen years old. He never went to school but spent the whole day flying kites and making mischief. He was a perpetual nuisance and his widow mother did not know how to manage him. He was lazy, disobedient and wild, so not studying properly. Once his maternal uncle Bishambar visited his sister after a long. He volunteered

to take Phatik to Calcutta where he would be educated. Phatik's mother readily agreed and Phatik also was excited to go. So he readily went to Calcutta expecting a new exciting life there.

5. Why was Phatik unwelcome to his aunt?

When Phatik and his uncle reached Calcutta, Phatik made the acquaintance of his aunt for the first time. His aunt was not all happy to see him. For her, Phatik was an unnecessary addition of her family because she had already three children who were quite unmanageable. To bring a village boy of 14 was very much upsetting to her. So Phatik was unwelcome to his aunt.

6. Why was Phatik unhappy in Calcutta?

Phatik was sent to Calcutta by his mother. She hoped that the boy would get good education and be happy there. Phatik too expected to have an exciting life but his aunt did not show him any love. She was rude with and found fault with him. He was despised and insulted every now and then his cousins also made fun of him. He was the most backward boy in the whole school. He was beaten unmercifully by the teacher day after day. He could not make any friends. He longed for his village where he was a ring leader and where he had enjoyed life. The house became a prison for him. He wanted to run away to his village. The whole his life was miserable and unhappy in Calcutta.

7. What happened to Phatik at school?

Phatik was the most backward and the dullest boys in his school. He remained silent when the teacher asked him a question, and like an ass patiently suffered all the blows that came down on his back. One day, he lost his lesson book. It was impossible to prepare lesson without it. Day by day he was beaten unmercifully by the teacher. His conditions became so miserable that even his cousins were ashamed of him. He was insulted by his classmates. These all the troubled faced by Phatik when he was at school.

8. Why did Phatik run away?

Phatik was sent to Calcutta by his mother. She hoped that the boy would get good education and be happy there. Phatik too expected to have an exciting life but his aunt did not show him any love. She was rude with and found fault with him. He was despised and insulted every now and then his cousins also made fun of him. His life at school was no better. He was the most backward boy in

the whole school. The house became a prison for him. The whole his life was miserable and unhappy in Calcutta. Now He longed for his village where he was a ring leader and where he had enjoyed life. He also remembered his mother. One day he fell sick and he feared that in such condition, he would be nuisance to his aunt. So he ran away from home.

9. Who come to see Phatik?

Phatik was very unhappy at his uncle's house in Calcutta. He received no love and affection. His aunt found fault with him and insulted him. Once in the state of malarial fever, He ran away from home. He was brought back in serious condition. The boy told his uncle that he wanted to go home to his mother. His uncle assured him that he would send him when holidays would come. In his delirium he kept on asking his uncle if holidays had come. Finally his mother was sent for she arrived just in times to see her son die. His mother came to see her son dying.

10. Justify the title of the story "The Homecoming" by Rabindranath Tagore.

The title of Rabindranath Tagore's short story "The Homecoming" applies to PhatikChakravorti's struggle to find a home where he feels loved. Phatik is on the move throughout the story, and running away leads to his death. Just before he dies, Phatik is visited by his mother, who makes a rare display of affection toward him. Phatik implies that this love from his mother represents the idea of home he desires.

The title "The Homecoming" is appropriate because Phatik has several different crossroads in the story that involve coming home—both symbolically and literally. The first homecoming Phatik experiences is at the beginning of the story. His younger, favored brother was injured in a scuffle and ran home to tattle to their mother. Phatik delays returning home because he knows that he'll face an unjust punishment. When he finally goes home, however, he has the opportunity to go to another home. His uncle Bhishamber offers to take him to Calcutta, where he'll be educated and live with his cousins. Phatik is very excited to go—and even makes peace with his brother Makhan for the first time when he gives him his treasured goods. That homecoming was another disappointment. Though Phatik was excited to go to Calcutta, he quickly learns that his aunt resents him and he's out of place there. Despite his attempts to please her, he's never able to. He also dislikes the city of Calcutta itself and misses his life in the country. When he asks whether he can go home, his uncle says, "Wait till the holidays come." When two police officers return him to his uncle's home after he runs away, it's his third homecoming. This one is even worse, as he's ill from his escape. It's implied that Phatik is dying.

The final potential homecoming is Phatik's impending death. He waits for his mother, looking disappointed when she isn't there (despite his negative hallucinations about her beating him). She finally comes, but the doctor says his condition is critical. Tagore writes, "Phatik very slowly turned his head and, without seeing anybody, said: "Mother, the holidays have come." It's the first time his mother has shown him affection in a long time, calling him her darling and throwing herself onto his bed.

Basically, Phatik is a boy who enjoys popularity among his friends and a vast expanse of land in which to play and grow. He has a family and a home. Unfortunately, Phatik does not realize what he has until it is gone. He is rude to his mother, antagonizes his brother and continually tries to maintain his "regal dignity" among his friends. Only when it is too late, and Phatik has been sent to live with his uncle and his family, does he realize the value of his home. One aspect of the title refers to the physical ideal of a home. This includes the geography, the physical structure, the family members and the culture. Phatik, once he moves to Calcutta, understands how much he misses his rural village. He longs to return home and is promised this homecoming at the holidays.

Tagore describes Phatik in Calcutta as "a stray dog that has lost his master." Suddenly he is unwelcome and unloved. He does poorly in school, has no friends, and nothing to do but dream of home. Ironically, it is when Phatik becomes critically ill that he decides to physically go home. However, his illness gets the better of him, and he can only suffer in his uncle's home dreaming of his own. At the sight of his mother from his deathbed, he utters, "Mother, the holidays have come." This ambiguous line is significant because it represents being reunited with his mother, who obviously loves him, and it represents death - the other homecoming.