

**The English and Foreign Languages University
Hyderabad
School of Distance Education
Post-Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of English**

PRACTICE TEACHING

Assignments (2021-2022)

Instructions:

- Please adhere to the word limit wherever suggested.
- Your answers are to be relevant and appropriate.
- Respond to the questions reflecting on your own experience as a teacher/learner rather than looking for external sources.
- Copying from the blocks or other sources will affect your grades.

Assignment I

(Based on Blocks I & II)

1. A.

- i. How do the personal attributes and professional expertise of a teacher influence her/his teaching? *(150-200 words)*
- ii. Which of these aspects (personal attributes and professional expertise) contribute to the making of a good teacher and why? *(150-200 words)*
- iii. What qualities of a good teacher are trainable? What sort of training makes a good teacher? *(150-200 words)*

1. B. Please observe an online class (during Covid-19) or an offline class (if conditions permit) of a subject teacher and a language teacher and make a list of similarities and differences in their teaching with special reference to:

- a) teacher talk time
- b) nature of tasks
- c) learner involvement
- d) practice/application of the learned concepts
- e) scope for peer interaction and learning. *(400-500 words)*

2. Who and how is the role of a teacher defined? Who/which is the most influential factor in deciding the role of a teacher according to you? Why do you think so? Give examples from your own experience to support your stand. *(400-500 words)*

3. Mention any three decisions a teacher takes in handling the classes. How do these decisions influence the learner and learning in the classroom? *(350-400 words)*

4. Observe two 40-50 minute (online/offline) classes of two different English language teachers (at any level) with the help of the checklist given below (in the format given in pg-28 of Block-II):

- Achieving the lesson objectives
- Execution of the activities planned in the lesson plan
- Additional inputs (apart from the content given in the textbook)
- Use of tasks given in the textbook
- Classroom interaction
- Providing feedback
- Ensuring learning
- Use of visual or audio aids/ digital tools to engage the learners
- Providing a review of the lesson (summarizing)

Rate them as per your observation of their classes on a five point scale.

Write an observation report using the above observed aspects of both the classes. (500-600 words)

5. A. Write a self-evaluation report on one of the two classes from the teacher's point of view. You need to write this report in first person. "*I began the class.....*

(300-400 words)

B. Justify the importance of self-evaluation of a teacher and observation by a third person to improve the performance of a teacher in the class.

(300-400 words)

Assignment II (Based on Block III)

1. Appendix-I has a text. If you are to teach this lesson to develop LSRW skills along with language aspects-vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation, how would you plan the class? You can mention the number of classes required to teach and the order of skills and aspects you would integrate in each class. (Please refer to Blocks III and IV of Methods and Materials courses to answer this question.) (350-450 words)

2. Using the lesson plan format given on Pg 35 of Block-III, prepare a lesson plan for a 40-50 minute class where you would teach one language skill and one aspect (integrated). Please include the task sheets that you would like to use in the class. (500- 600 words)

3. Explain the importance of the details of each row and column you have filled in your lesson plan and elucidate how they help you envision your class. (400-450 words)

Humour

Look at the picture and answer the questions that follow.



1. What did the lion do on looking at its own reflection?

- a. enjoyed its beauty
- b. felt threatened
- c. felt angry

Give reasons for your option.

2. Have you ever heard or read a story of a pet or an animal looking into a mirror? If yes, how did the animal feel?

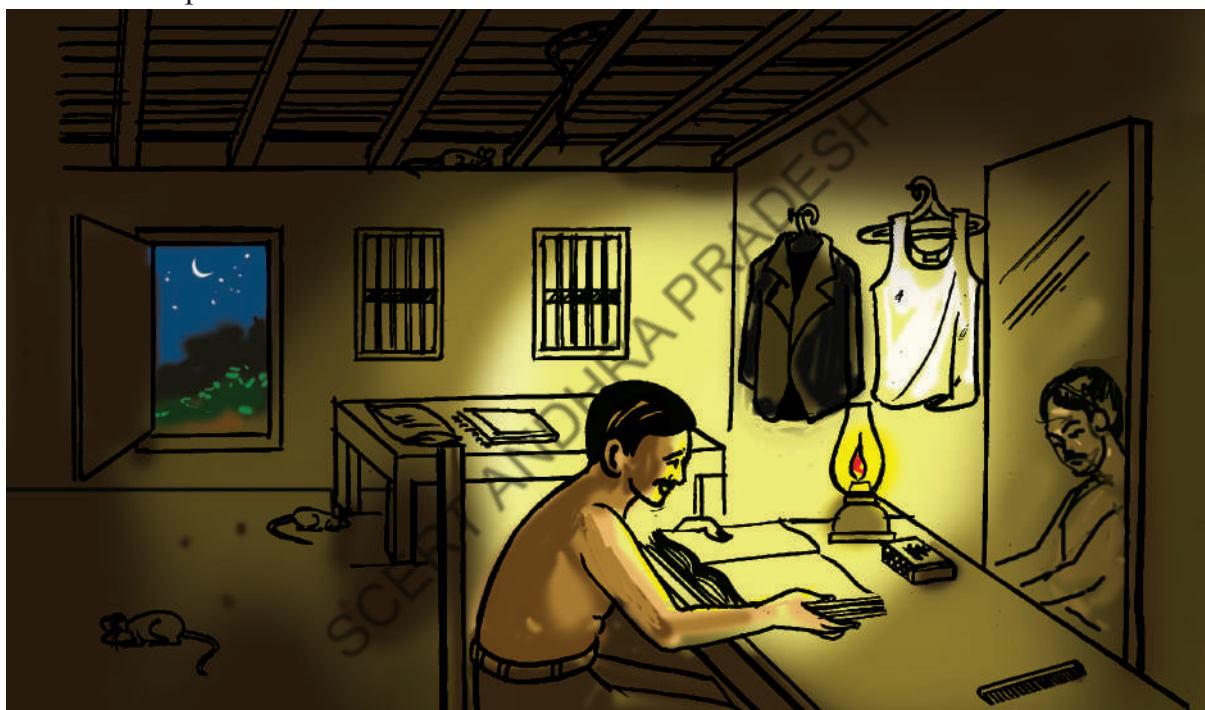


Now read the story, in which a doctor describes a snake that looks into a mirror.

The Snake and the Mirror

“Has a snake ever coiled itself round any part of your body? A full-blooded cobra?” All of us fell silent. The question came from the homeopath. The topic came up when we were discussing snakes. We listened attentively as the doctor continued with the tale.

“It was a hot summer night about ten o’ clock. I had my meal at the restaurant and returned to my room. I heard a noise from above as I opened the door. The sound was a familiar one. One could say that rats and I shared the room. I took out my box of matches and lighted the kerosene lamp on the table.



The house was not electrified; it was a small rented room. I had just set up medical practice and my earnings were meagre. I had about sixty rupees in my suitcase. Along with some shirts and *dhotis*, I also possessed one solitary black coat which I was then wearing.

I took off my black coat, white shirt and not-so-white vest and hung them up. I opened the two windows in the room. It was an outer room with one wall facing the open yard. It had a tiled roof with long supporting gables that rested on the beam over the wall. There was no ceiling. There was a regular traffic of rats to and from the beam. I made my bed and pulled it close to the wall. I lay down but I could not sleep. I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the wind god seemed to have taken time off.

I went back into the room and sat down on the chair. I opened the box beneath the table and took out a book, *The Materia Medica*. I opened it at the table on which stood the lamp and a large mirror; a small comb lay beside the mirror.

One feels tempted to look into a mirror when it is near. I took a look. In those days I was a great admirer of beauty and I believed in making myself look handsome. I was unmarried and was a doctor. I felt I had to make my presence felt. I picked up the comb and ran it through my hair and adjusted the parting so that it looked straight and neat. Again I heard that sound from above.

I took a close look at my face in the mirror. I made an important decision – I would shave daily and grow a thin moustache to look more handsome. I was, after all, a bachelor, and doctor!

I looked into the mirror and smiled. It was an attractive smile. I made another earth-shaking decision. I would always keep that attractive smile on my face . . . to look more handsome. I was after all a bachelor, and doctor too on top of it!

Again came that noise from above.

I got up, lit a *beedi* and paced up and down the room. Then another lovely thought struck me. I would marry. I would get married to a woman doctor who had plenty of money and a good medical practice. She had to be fat; for a valid reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me!

With such thoughts in my mind I resumed my seat in the chair in front of the table. There were no more sounds from above. Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground. . . surely nothing to worry about. Even so I thought I would turn around and take a look. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. The snake's landing on me and my turning were simultaneous.



I didn't jump. I didn't tremble. I didn't cry out. There was no time to do any such thing. The snake slithered along my shoulder and coiled around my left arm above the elbow. The hood was spread out and its head was hardly three or four inches from my face!

It would not be correct to say merely that I sat there holding my breath. I was turned to stone. But my mind was very active. The door opened into darkness. The room was surrounded by darkness. In the light of the lamp I sat there like a stone image in the flesh.

I felt then the great presence of the Creator of this world and this universe. God was there. Suppose I said something and He did not like it. I tried in my imagination to write in bright letters outside my little heart the words 'O God!'

There was some pain in my left arm. It was as if a thick leaden rod – no, a rod made of molten fire – was slowly but powerfully crushing my arm. The arm was beginning to be drained of all strength. What could I do?

At my slightest movement the snake would strike me! Death lurked four inches away. Suppose it struck, what was the medicine I had to take? There were no medicines in the room. I was but a poor, foolish and stupid doctor. I forgot my danger and smiled feebly at myself.

It seemed as if God appreciated that. The snake turned its head. It looked into the mirror and saw its reflection. I do not claim that it was the first snake that had ever looked into a mirror. But it was certain that the snake was looking into the mirror. Was it admiring its own beauty? Was it trying to make an important decision about growing a moustache or using eye shadow and mascara or wearing a vermilion spot on its forehead?



I did not know anything for certain. What sex was the snake, was it male or female? I will never know; for the snake unwound itself from my arm and slowly slithered into my lap. From there it crept onto the table and moved towards the mirror. Perhaps it wanted to enjoy its reflection at closer quarters.

I was no mere image cut in granite. I was suddenly a man of flesh and blood. Still holding my breath I got up from the chair. I quietly went out through the door into the veranda. From there I leapt into the yard and ran for all I was worth.”

“Phew!” Each of us heaved a sigh of relief. All of us lit *beedis*. Somebody asked, “Doctor, is your wife very fat?”

“No,” the doctor said. “God willed otherwise. My life companion is a thin reedy person with the gift of a sprinter.”

Someone else asked, “Doctor, when you ran, did the snake follow you?”

The doctor replied, “I ran and ran till I reached a friend’s house. Immediately I smeared oil all over myself and took a bath. I changed into fresh clothes. The next morning at about eight-thirty I took my friend and one or two others to my room to move my things from there. But we found we had little to carry. Some thief had removed most of my things. The room had been cleaned out! But not really, the thief had left behind one thing as a final insult!”

“What was that?” I asked.

The doctor said, “My vest, the dirty one. The fellow had such a sense of cleanliness . . . ! The rascal could have taken it and used it after washing it with soap and water.”

“Did you see the snake the next day, doctor?”

The doctor laughed, “I’ve never seen it since. It was a snake which was taken with its own beauty!”

- *Vaikom Muhammad Basheer*
(Translated by V. Abdulla)

About the author

Vaikom Muhammad Basheer (21 January 1908 – 5 July 1994) was a Malayalam fiction writer from the state of Kerala in India. He was a humanist, freedom fighter, novelist and a short story writer. He is noted for his down-to-earth style of writing that made him equally popular among literary critics as well as the common man. He is regarded as one of the most successful and outstanding writers from India. Translations of his works into other languages have won him worldwide acclaim. The story ‘*The Snake and the Mirror*’ was translated into English. His notable works include *Baalyakaalasakhi*, *Shabdangal*, *Mathilukal*, and *Anarga Nimisham*. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1982. He is fondly remembered as the Bepore Sultan.

