

HANDOUT - I**Honeycomb: Textbook in English for class VII****Fiction 6: Expert Detectives –Part I**

Introduction: The fiction “Expert Detectives” by Sharada Dwivedi is about the curiosity of siblings (Nishad and Maya) about a strange person, their neighbour Mr Nath. Maya imagined him as a crook whereas Nishad could develop a kind of affinity towards him.

A Detective: A detective is a member of the police whose job is to discover information about crimes and find out who is responsible for them. There are generally two types of detectives. Public detectives and Private detectives.

In detective fictions **Sherlock’s Holmes** is a famous private detective created by **Sir Arthur Canon Doyle**. **Biomkesh Bakshi** is also a famous Indian fictional detective created by Sharadindu_Bandyopadhyay. (**PPT Slide3: Detective**)

Characters:

1. **Maya** – Maya is a girl of 10 years who seems dominant in asserting her views about Mr Nath. She is keen observer. She pointed out that her mother had told about the burn marks on the face of Mr Nath. Therefore she confirmed to herself Mr Nath was a crook on run.
2. **Nishad** – Nishad also named as **Seven**, is a boy of seven years. His name is the seventh musical note in Indian music shortened as **“ni”** i.e. *Nishad* .He had opposite views to Maya. He could guess that

Mr Nath was a poor man who required food and friends as well. He grew sympathetic towards him.

3. **Mr.Nath** - A polite, poor man. He was a strange and mysterious figure for both of them. He was absolutely ignorant about people's views about himself. He doesn't talk much. He was friendly to his Sunday visitor only. The ideas of siblings (Nisahd and Maya) revolve around Mr Nath. He stays in Shankar House, Room No.10.
4. **Ramesh** – Ramesh is a waiter who supplies food to Mr. Nath. He gets good tips of money by Mr. Nath.
5. **Dr. Pandit**- She is mother of Maya and Nishad. She is a Doctor by profession. Mr. Nath is her patient. She was unknown about the childish investigations of her off springs Maya and Nishad.

Summary cum Analysis

- The story opens with the disagreement between Maya and Nishad about Mr. Nath. Mr.Nath was supposed to be very strange and mysterious character to Maya. She thought that Mr. Nath was an escaped crook or a criminal. She had different viewpoints from Nishad. Nishad never thought of him as a criminal. But she had ready answers to all the doubts of Nishad. She thinks that Mr. Nath had hidden millions of rupees in his room. It was her wild speculation which hold the plot of the story compact. **(PPT Slide 6: Was Mr. Nath a crook or not?)**
- Maya seems dominant character in the story. When she gets valuable information from her mother that Mr. Nath had burn marks on his face, she supplies her views that Nath might have

got these scars during a fire set by police to force him out. But Nishad looked unsure. In this way the story gets developed with the viewpoints of the siblings which were altogether different.

- Children by nature are curious. They are keen to observe the world around. They are sensitive enough to receive and interpret the information. This is one of the important themes in the story. **(PPT Slide 5: Main Themes)**
- Once Nishad goes alone to his Mother's clinic at *Girgaum*. He gets upset to see Mr. Nath who looks very thin, poor and starving. Thereafter he alone went to Mr. Nath's room and gave him a bar of chocolate. Out of sympathy, out of humanity, Nishad took first step of friendship towards Mr. Nath. **(PPT Slide 8: Nishad's Kind Endeavor)**. Here a bar of Chocolate was perhaps the token of intended friendship.
- When Nishad knocked the door of Mr. Nath to offer him a bar chocolate, he had asked a question whether Nishad had lost another marble. It means, while playing, children (including Nishad) had lost their marbles sometimes back and it had gone into his room. Thereby Nishad also had watched his face. **(PPT Slide 7: Nishad at Play)**
- This was one of the significant and very brief meeting between Nishad and Mr. Nath that had raised the expectations of Maya to get the answer of her question. She asked Nishad very clear question, did you get a chance to

peek into the trunk, Seven”? Nishad was not even asked to get in.

- But, Nishad had played an active role in collecting enough information about Mr. Nath through a waiter (Ramesh) who supplied food to Mr. Nath. He got to know that Mr. Nath takes simple food, pays in cash and offers tips also. **(PPT Slide 9: Ramesh :A Source of Information)**
- Furthermore, Nishad derived very significant piece of information that a tall, fair and spectacled man visits him on almost every Sunday. Mr. Nath talks a lot with him.
- Again, both Nishad and Maya continued to put their arguments and counterarguments about Mr. Nath. But, the vital question whether Mr. Nath was a crook or not remained yet to be solved.
- In the end of the first part they get an unexpected holiday due to heavy rainfall and flood. **(PPT Slide 10: Unexpected Holiday!)** Maya, elder sister of Nishad wanted to utilise that holiday for a systematic investigations (though childish) about Mr. Nath. **(To be continued in second part.....)**

Glossary:

- Monster – demon
- Afford – bear
- Clinic – dispensary
- Rubbish – nonsense
- Interrupt – to disturb or halt by interfering suddenly
- Annoyed- angry/irritated

- Stout- strong
 - Trap- catch
 - Fury- anger
 - Roaring rolls of thunder – thundering of cloud
 - Gaunt- sickly(due to hunger/suffering)
- **Additional vocabulary to describe a person based on physical appearance.**

Characteristics

Build	Height	Complexion	Hair
plump	petite	tan	blond
lanky	gigantic	freckles	frizzy
pudgy	towering	pasty	curly
skinny	Medium-height	rosy	receding

Note: students are advised to look up dictionary for the detail meanings of the words in the above table. If possible, add a few more for your own enrichment .

Pramod Bhivsan Nikalje. (TGT- English)

AECS 2 – Tarapur

Emp Id -3126