

Class IX-X

Little Tagore

Materials Designed by BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL)

A. Did you know?

Rabindranath Tagore was a writer, educator, composer, editor, artist, and social reformer.

Rabindranath Tagore first wrote poetry at the age of eight.

His first poem was published in 1875 when he was just thirteen.

His first book, a collection of poems, appeared when he was seventeen. Tagore's friend published this book to surprise him.

Rabindranath Tagore moved to Shilaidah which is situated at Kumarkhali Upazila of Kushtia in 1880 to look after his Jamindari. During his stay there, he wrote many of his famous poems and songs.

In 1883, Tagore married Mrinalini Devi Raichaudhuri. They had two sons and three daughters.

In 1901, Tagore founded a school outside Calcutta called Visva-Bharati. This school became a university in 1921.

Tagore was awarded knighthood by the ruling British Government in 1915, but he returned it four years later when British troops killed some 400 Indian people.

Tagore began to paint when he was seventy years old.

In 1961, India's famed director Satyajit Ray wrote and directed a documentary on the life and works of Rabindranath Tagore. It was made on the anniversary of Tagore's hundredth birthday.

Tagore dictated his last poem only hours before he died on August 7 in 1941.

D. Inspiration

There was once a **talented** little boy named Rabindranath Tagore. His father was a rich landlord, a 'Jaminder'. Most of the time his father was busy with his work and his mother had to take care of the whole household. So, Rabindranath Tagore, nicknamed 'Rabi', spent most of his time with the servants. He often felt **lonely** as he did not have any playmates either. He was the youngest in the family and the servants all loved him.

One day, something very interesting happened. Boy Rabi was singing a song which he had composed. The song expressed very interesting and philosophical ideas. He was singing it from his heart and the tune was very beautiful.

His father heard him singing from another room and was very **impressed**. He asked his servants to go and bring the little boy to him. Then the father said to his youngest son, "Can you sing the song for me again?"

Little Tagore felt happy as his father wanted to listen to his song, but he also felt very **scared**. His father encouraged him and he sang. His father liked the song very much. He was so impressed that he wrote the boy a cheque for 500 rupees. In those days, 500 rupees was really a big amount. When he gave it to Rabi, he said, "In the past, the Mughal emperors honoured talented people with gifts. The Mughal emperors are no more, but your talent is so remarkable that you deserve that kind of honour."


Young Rabindranath Tagore was **excited** and **delighted**. He ran and showed the cheque to his servants. The servants were very **proud** that their little hero had become such a great poet. This incident inspired him to write more.

E. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences taking the suitable adjectives from the box.

- Maruf wanted a bicycle on his 13th birthday. When his father bought him the gift he felt
- Imran is a very good student. He is also very creative. So, he is a boy.
- Sharif got very good marks in the final examination. Seeing the result his mother was really
- Maya likes to be alone. She does not have any playmates. She is a girl.
- Tomal had a nightmare last night. He felt very
- Bangladesh cricket team won the series against New Zealand. The people feel of them.
- Tania's father planned to take the whole family to Cox's Bazar after the final examination. So, Tania is very about the upcoming tour.

talented
lonely
impressed
scared
excited
delighted
proud

Years	Events
1875	
	Rabindranath Tagore moved to Shilaidah
	Tagore married Mrinalini Devi
1901	
1915	
	Visva-Bharati became a university
	Tagore died
1961	

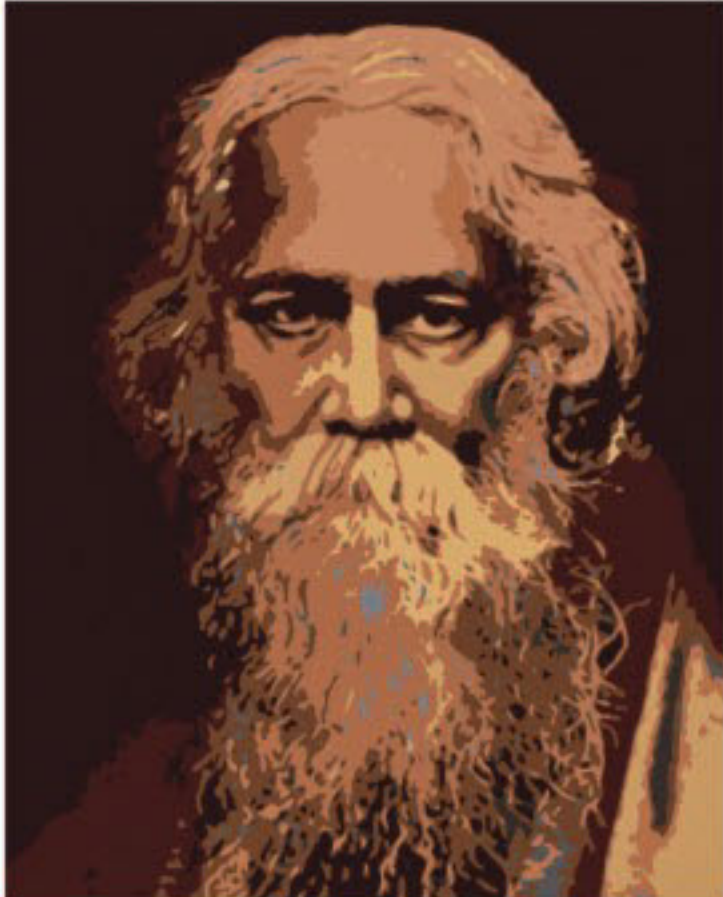


Answer C:

- an editor
- an essayist
- a playwright
- a novelist
- a composer
- a poet
- an artist
- a social reformer

Answers E:

- delighted
- talented
- impressed
- lonely
- scared
- proud
- excited.



F. Engineer Rabindranath!

Like any other child Rabindranath loved flowers. One day a strange idea came to his mind. He wanted to write using the colourful juice of flowers as ink. He requested his elder brother Jyotirindranath Tagore to manage a wooden mortar so that he could crush flowers to collect their juice. Without saying anything the brother ordered a carpenter to make a special mortar for little Rabindranath. Boy Rabindranath filled the mortar with flowers, crushed them but no juice came out of them. Jyotirindranath saw everything but still he did not laugh at such strange activity. That was the first and the last time Rabindranath Tagore ever attempted at any engineering!

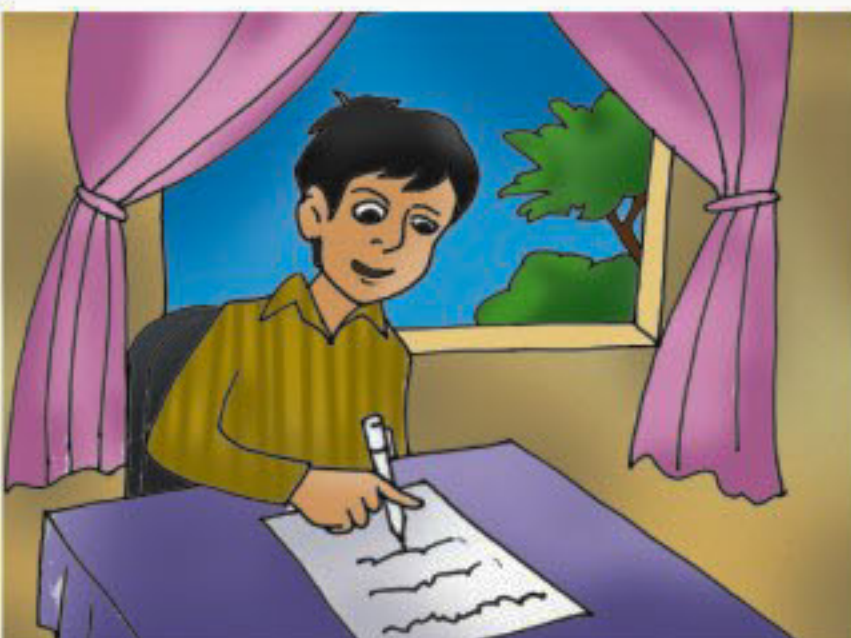
There are NINE different main verbs in this text. Can you find them out and put them in the boxes?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

All these verbs indicate the same tense. Can you identify what tense that is?

a) present b) past c) future


Answer:.....



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English in Schools, Centre for Languages, BRAC University
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The joy of a wedding at Nimtali, old Dhaka, was torn apart as fire struck, burning 142 people alive. Originating in a chemical factory, the fire closed the happy chapters of many innocent lives.

In remembrance of all who fell victim to the fire.
Our condolences and thoughts are with them, always.



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