

Class: IX-X

National Language Movement

Materials Designed by BRAC University Centre for Languages (BU-CfL)

A.

We all know about "Ekushey February" and its importance. This day also reminds us of the martyrs who gave their lives to give us the right to use Bangla, our mother tongue. Here is a story of the life of one of those martyrs.

He was born at Panchua in Mymensingh in 1919. He had his primary education in a local school, but could not continue because he was too poor. (a)..... he left school and helped his father with agricultural work. At fifteen he left home for Narayanganj in search of fortune. There he met an Englishman who helped him to get a job in Myanmar. (b)..... he learned English language there and returned home after twelve years.

On the 20th of February, 1952, he came to Dhaka with his wife and sick mother-in-law who was a cancer patient. He admitted her into Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and was close by when on the 21st February 1952, there was a gathering of the students. There was a procession demanding recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan and he joined the rally. (c)..... the police fired on the procession, and he was hit. He died in the Medical College Hospital the following night. (d)..... in recognition of his sacrifice, he was awarded the Ekushey Padak (an honour bestowed on someone for great deed) in 2000.

i) Can you guess who is this martyr in the story?

ii) Now read the above story again. Can you make the story clearer by putting one of the linking words from the box below, next to the numbers in the story, (a), (b), (c) and (d) ?

as a result finally so unfortunately

iii) From the story above, we can see that this person had many good qualities. Can you organize the jumbled words to show the qualities? One has been done for you.

Example: raveb - brave

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. cougeousar - | 5. fulpeh - |
| 2. sthone - | 6. trioaptic - |
| 3. ponresibls - | 7. mitiousba - |
| 4. fultidu | |

C.

A Poem on Ekushey February

i) Read the poem below by Sufiya Khatun, a famous poet of Bangladesh, translated by Kazi Rafiqul Islam.

Do not cry, o mother Thousands of your sons are coming Wake up to receive them. This morning everyone is weaving Garlands with flowers of their heart Let the scene pacify, o mother The pains for the lost son. Prepare the bouquet of flowers The morning star has risen Souls of our brothers have come from the heaven We have to receive them. The red 'Palash' has bloomed Also 'Shimul' on the branches. Look o mother, my brothers Are calling me.	Rafiq with a bouquet of flowers Shafiq with a smile on the face Salam and Jabbar in a happy mood Are coming together. Barkat is at the front "O mother" he utters. All of them have come to you, mother Then what makes you cry?
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ii) Look at the underlined words in the poem and read the sentences given below. Now choose the right meaning of the words from the choices provided:

- Sofia was weaving a colourful sari on a loom.
a) washing b) knitting c) cutting
- The President was welcomed at the airport with garlands of marigold.
a) string of flowers b) trees c) seeds
- The mother tried to pacify her crying child by giving him a candy.
a) feed b) calm c) shout at
- My friends gave me a bouquet of roses on Valentine's Day.
a) garden b) plant c) bunch
- In Spring, my garden looks very beautiful when all the flowers bloom.
a) blossom b) die c) rise
- We should not utter anything that would hurt other people.
a) play b) throw c) say

B.

Our "Ekushey Boi Mela"



i) Write a caption for each picture of the Ekushey book fair within 10 words.

ii) There is a book fair throughout the month of February. What else could we do to observe this day? Write your suggestions in the gaps provided. One has been done for you.

- We could commemorate the 21st of February by joining the procession to the Shaheed Minar.
- We should honour our language by
- We could pay tribute to our martyrs by
- We can observe this day by

D.

Poetry Competition

You have read a poem by Sufiya Khatun about our National Language Movement. Now it's your turn. Write a poem of at least four lines on the following theme:

"Our Language"

The best poem will be published in the EIS page and the BRAC University online journal "Resonance". The deadline for sending us your poem is the 8th of April, 2012. Send us your poem to the following address:

Poetry Competition
The EIS Team,
Centre for Languages (CfL), 14th Floor,
BRAC University,
66 Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1212

E.

Many people gave their lives in the language movement in 1952. Do you think we are showing our love for our mother tongue Bangla? Look at the following situations and write what the following people should do.



1. Choukosh thinks he is very smart and modern because he mixes Bangla with other languages whenever he speaks.

He should



2. Ahamika feels very proud of the fact that she cannot speak in Bangla.

She should



3. Lajuk does not know to read and write in Bangla as she grew up abroad.

She can

WE SHOULD BE KIND TO ANIMALS

Animals are always helpful to us and they are very important for ecological balance too.

We should always treat animals with kindness.

Be kind to animals.

