

SELF - INTRODUCTION

Neerada Suresh

NEERADA SURESH (b. 1952) is an Indian English poet with over 100 poems to her credit. She has won several prizes for poetry. She has been working as a teacher in Kendriya Vidyalaya.



A. Work in small groups and answer the questions orally:

1. How many members are there in your family?
2. How many among them are female?
3. Do you love your mother?
4. Do you respect her?
5. How does your father treat your mother?

SELF - INTRODUCTION

I am
an ordinary woman
with a creativity confined
To home and children.
To juxtaposing of carpets and curios,
Labelling books, tying up shoe laces.

5

My sensitivity
suffering silent blows
through a decade of togetherness
hardening to a tortoise shell.
My soul entrapped.
Flaps itself into silence.

15

My ordinariness
 A tag to bind me conveniently
 To a home and children
 To be made extraordinary perhaps
 At the cost of a few sad dry tears
 That might dare to crack through!

20

B .1. Answer the following questions very briefly:

1. Why does the woman call herself ordinary?
2. To what is an ordinary woman's creativity confined?
3. Why does the sensitivity of the ordinary woman suffer blows?
4. How long has the woman been living with her husband?
5. Why is the woman unable to express her anguish?
6. What is the tag which is attached to an ordinary woman?
7. With what jobs has the woman been associated?
8. How might the woman be made extraordinary?
9. How does the woman visualise in this connection?

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

juxtaposing : placing side by side

curio : rare or unusual object

decade : a period of ten years.

dare : have the courage or impudence

crack through : break with a sharp sound, give way or cause to give way

C. 1. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Who is the speaker of the poem? How does she introduce herself?
2. The second stanza depicts great mental suffering and physical pain of a woman. Elaborate.
3. Do you think that the 'ordinary woman' of the first stanza becomes rebellious in the last stanza? Which line (s) indicates it? Explain.
4. Write a summary of the poem in your own words.
5. The poem depicts the plight of the housewives in general. Do you agree? Elaborate.
7. Comment on the Juxtaposition of carpets and curio in the poem.

C. 2. GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the following in groups or pairs:

1. Gender discrimination has been taking place since time immemorial.

2. How far will the reservation for women in different walks of life help elevate their status in the society? Give arguments.

C. 3. COMPOSITION

Write a paragraph in about 100 words on the following:

1. The role of a housewife is more difficult than that of a working woman.
2. Behind the success of a man there is always a woman.

D. WORD STUDY

D. 1. Dictionary Use

Ex. 1. Correct the spelling of the following words:

Jukstaposing, labeling, sensitivty, entraped, conveniently, ordinaryness, dair

Ex. 2. Look up a dictionary and write at least two meanings of each of the following words - the one in which it is used in the lesson and the other which is more common.

ordinary
cost
blows

suffering
laces
silence

bind
confined
conveniently

D. 2. Word-formation

Ex. 1. Read carefully the following sentences taken from the lesson:

"I am an ordinary woman with a **creativity** confined." The word creativity is derived from the verb '**create**'. Other words derived from this word are as follows:

creativeness, creatively, creation, creator, creative, creativity, creature etc.

Now make as many words as possible derived from the following root words.

ordinary
sad

home
cost

sense
silence

D. 3. Word meaning

Find from the poem words the meanings of which have been given in **column A**. The last part of each word is given in **column B**.

A	B
normal or usualary
restricted or imprisoneded
placing side by sideing
cord for lacing shoeses
moves up and down, beatsaps
tie or fasten tightlyind
labelag
drop secreted by glands from the eyers.

E. GRAMMAR

Ex. 1. Look at the different forms of the Verb "bind" carefully-
bind - bound - bound - binding - binds

Give different forms of the following Verbs as illustrated above:

tie	make	wind	swear	spend
lie	hide	create	dare	suffer

Ex. 2. Read the following line, taken from the lesson, carefully:

*I am an ordinary woman **with** a creativity confined.*

Here preposition '**with**' has been used to show the woman's unpleasant situation. In fact, 'with' is a preposition which generally expresses association or company with something. It also expresses possession.

He is a man with rare talent.

I saw a man with long beards.

Ex. 3. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:

1. What is wrong you?
2. She has fallen in love me.
3. Don't make friendship bad boys.
4. He doesn't agree me.
5. He agreed my proposal.
6. He is known me.
7. You should not laugh the poor.
8. She is living her mother.
9. Please handle this machine care.
10. He prevented me smoking.

F. ACTIVITIES

1. Meet working women in your locality. Write a profile of them.
2. Visit a slum. Write a report on the condition under which the women are living there.

G. TRANSLATION

Translate the poem into Hindi or your mother tongue.