

### 3.4 The Two Gentlemen of Verona

#### WARMING UP !

#### CHIT - CHAT

- (1) What is your favourite pastime?
- (2) Do you read books for entertainment?
- (3) What is your favourite story / poem / book?
- (4) What role do books on the lives of great people play?
- (5) How can we decide if a story is average / good / excellent?

A book review is an analysis of a newly published book, by an expert, who expresses his/her opinion about the contents, style and merit.

Book reviews are published in newspapers, magazines and are also available online.

**Make suitable groups in the class. Decide upon a favourite book or story in the following details, as many as possible.**

- Name of the story/book : .....
- Writer : .....
- Some information about the writer : .....
- Background or setting : .....
- Main characters : .....
- Central idea/summary of contents : .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- Style and language used : .....
- Illustrations (if any) : .....
- Strong (positive) aspects : .....
- Drawbacks : .....
- Conclusion : .....

## The Two Gentlemen of Verona

- **carve an idea** : create or establish an idea

◆ *What is the story about?*

◆ *How does the narrator meet the two brothers?*

- **encounter** : meet face to face unexpectedly
- **forbids** : disallows
- **emphasize** : stress upon
- **intimacy** : close relationship
- **reveal** : show, make known

◆ *What kind of odd jobs do the two brothers do?*

◆ *How does the narrator help the two brothers, one day?*

- **resembles** : have a similar appearance
- **intruding** : coming to a place where one is uninvited.
- **heart rending** : causing great sorrow

A.J. Cronin has very well **carved the idea** of selfless help and explained the importance of dedication towards relationships in the story, The two Gentlemen of Verona. The story revolves around the two boys named Nicola and Jacopo who do numerous things to earn money only to pay for their sister's treatment who suffers from tuberculosis of the spine.

The story begins with the narrator driving down the foothills of the Alps. Here is when he first **encounters** the two brothers selling wild strawberries. Even after the driver **forbids** the narrator to buy the wild fruits, he buys the biggest basket and drives towards the town. This scene **emphasizes** on the first step of growing **intimacy** between the narrator and the two boys.

Next day, the boys are found shining shoes in the public square. This amazes the narrator. This is when they **reveal** the fact that they do numerous kinds of things to earn money. Here, the narrator is shown to develop a soft corner for them in his heart. He finds them to be innocent, serious, pleasant and earnest.

The boys are very useful to the narrator. They are very willing to satisfy all that the narrator requires. They are also found selling newspapers, by the narrator, one stormy night. One day, when the narrator asks if he can help them in any, they say they will be very grateful if they get a lift to the nearby village Poleta. Although it doesn't come in the narrator's way he takes them there. The boys get down in a building and ask the narrator to wait in a nearby cafe, until they return within an hour.

Eagerness leads the narrator to follow the boys up to a place which is actually a hospital. On peeping through a room, led by a nurse, he realizes that boys are talking to a girl who **resembles** them. He does not feel like **intruding** and thus asks the nurse the details about the boys. This is when the nurse tells him there **heart rending** story about their father being killed in a war and their home being destroyed in the war and their sister suffering from tuberculosis. The brothers live



**3. Answer in your own words and write in your notebook.**

- (1) What illness did the sister suffer from?
- (2) What surprised the narrator, when he saw the brothers, the second time?
- (3) What did the narrator find about the boys at the hospital?
- (4) What was the touching story told by the nurse?
- (5) If the narrator offered the boys a large amount of cash, would they have accepted it? Say why? Or why not?

**4. Read the text and find the Noun forms of the following words used in the text:**

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| (i) important - importance | (v) eager - .....      |
| (ii) dedicate - .....      | (vi) appear - .....    |
| (iii) treat - .....        | (vii) amplify - .....  |
| (iv) narrate - .....       | (viii) realize - ..... |

**Language Study**

**We have already learnt that Clause is a group of words that has a Subject and a Verb and is a part of a larger sentence. In the sentence, ‘We returned home, when school was over.’ there are two clauses – 1<sup>st</sup> ‘We returned home’ and 2<sup>nd</sup> ‘when school was over.’**

**The first one makes complete sense. So it is called Main/ Principal Clause.**

**The second one is not complete by itself. It depends on the main clause to convey a proper sense. So it is called Dependant or Subordinate Clause. ‘When’ is the joining word and it is called a Subordinator.**

**Identify the Main / Principal Clauses and Subordinate Clauses and encircle the Subordinator.**

- (1) They pay for their sisters treatment, who suffers from tuberculosis.
- (2) When he asks the nurse, she tells him their story.
- (3) They have shown that war has not shaken their spirit.
- (4) Although it doesn’t come in the narrator’s way, he takes them there.

