KOLORS
make life better

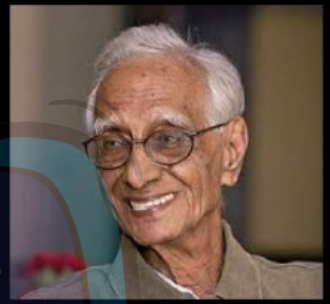
missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Class-XII

English

Flamingo

Chapter-6



Ashokamitran

Poets and Pancakes

Part - 1

Neha Rajvanshi

KOLORS
make life better

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Before you read —

The Gemini Studios, located in Chennai, was set up in 1940. It was one of the most influential film-producing organisations of India in the early days of Indian film-making. Its founder was S.S. Vasan. The duty of Asokamitran in Gemini Studios was to cut out newspaper clippings on a wide variety of subjects and store them in files.

KOLORS
make life better

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER





Pancake was the brand name of the make-up material that Gemini Studios bought in truck-loads. Greta Garbo must have used it, Miss Gohar must have used it, Vyjayantimala must also have used it but Rati Agnihotri may not have even heard of it. The make-up department of the Gemini Studios was in the upstairs of a building that was believed to have been Robert Clive's stables.

KOLORS
make life better

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

remote : पिछडे इलाके

A dozen other buildings in the city are said to have been his residence. For his brief life and an even briefer stay in Madras, Robert Clive seems to have done a lot of moving, besides fighting some impossible battles in remote corners of India and marrying a maiden in St. Mary's Church in Fort St. George in Madras.

KOLORS
make life better

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

incandescent : चमकीला



The make-up room had the look of a hair-cutting salon with lights at all angles around half a dozen large mirrors.

They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery of those subjected to make-up.

The make-up department was first headed by a Bengali who became too big for a studio and left.

integration : एकता

broadcasting : प्रसारण करना



He was succeeded by a Maharashtrian who was assisted by a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and the usual local Tamils. All this shows that there was a great deal of national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan began broadcasting programmes on national integration.

KOLORS
make life better

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

hideous : बहुत गंदा/ भद्दा
crimson : गहरा लाल

This gang of nationally integrated make-up men could turn any decent-looking person into a hideous crimson hued monster with the help of truck-loads of pancake and anumber of other locally made potions and lotions. Those were the days of mainly indoor shooting, and only five percent of the film was shot outdoors.

KOLORS
make life better

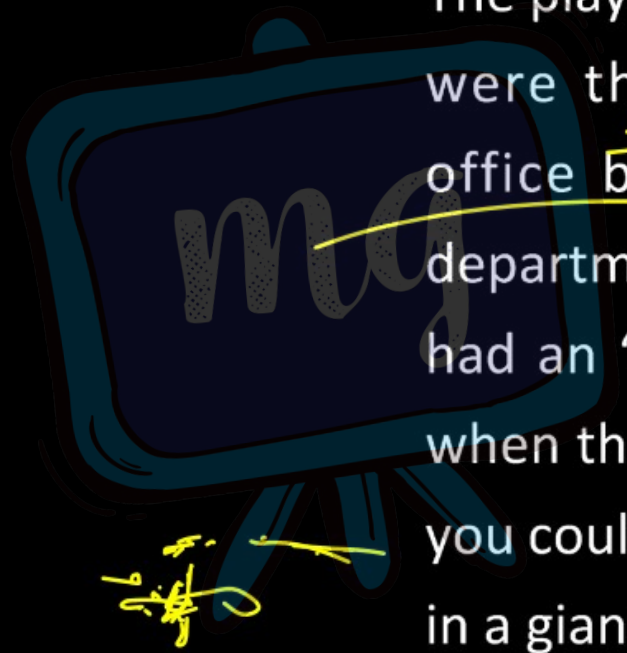
missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

hierarchy : पदक्रम

I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie. A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department. The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly, his senior assistant the 'second' hero and heroine, the junior assistant the main comedian, and so forth.

KOLORS
make life better

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy. (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an 'office boy'!) On the days when there was a crowdshooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players.

KOLORS
make life better

missiongyan
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

pore : रोएँ, छोटे छेद

The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up. He wasn't exactly a 'boy'; he was in his early forties, having entered the studios years ago in the hope of becoming a star actor or a top screen writer, director or lyrics writer. He was a bit of a poet.