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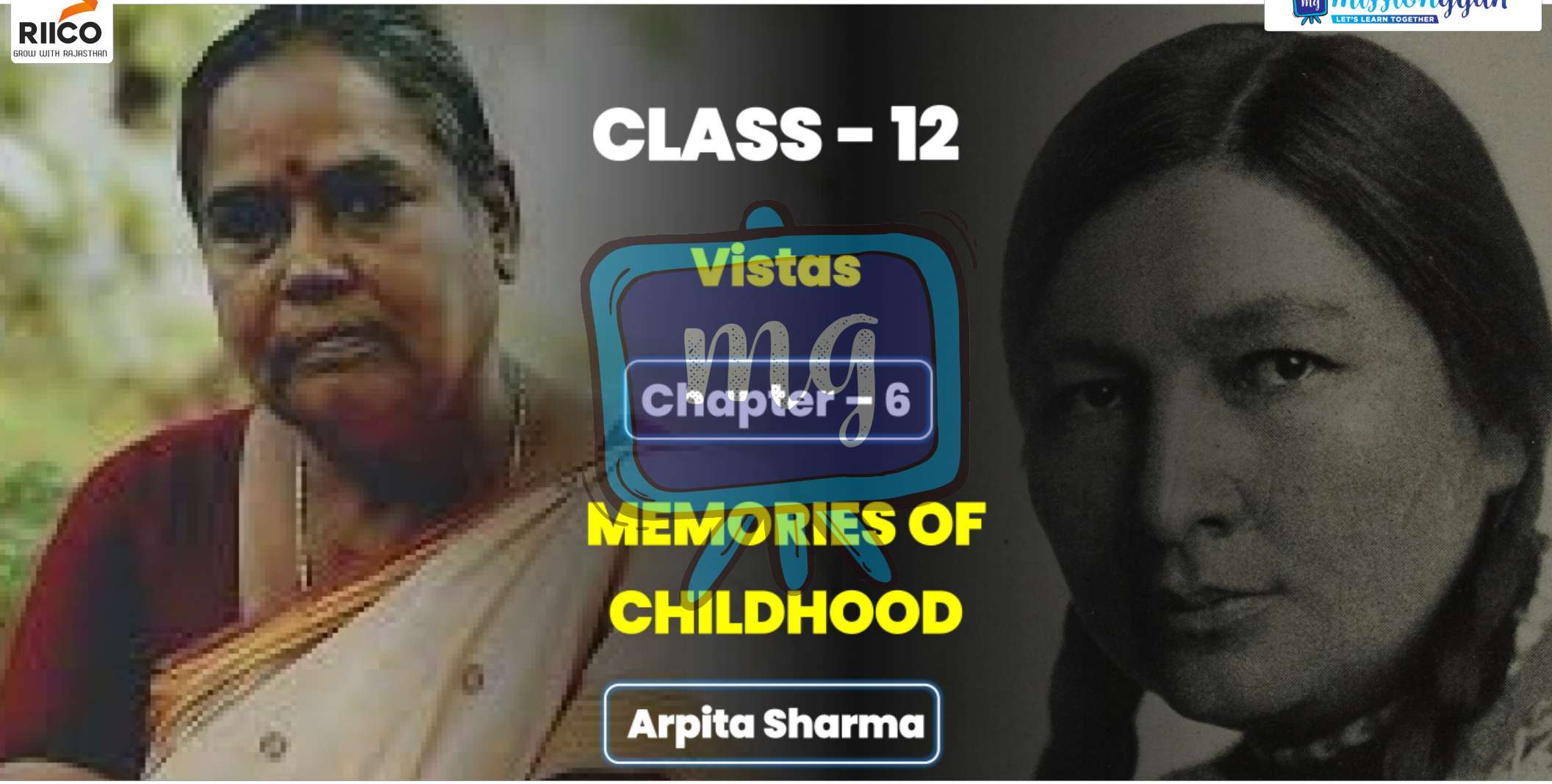
ई-पाठशाला कार्यक्रम

Class 12th ENGLISH

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD



RAPID REVISION


CLASS - 12
Vistas
Chapter - 6
MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD
Arpita Sharma

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MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD





MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

1. This narrative shares the childhood experiences of two women from marginalized (अधिकारहीन) communities, Zitkala-Sa, a Native American, and Bama, a Tamil Dalit, showing their struggles with discrimination and cultural alienation (विलगाव).

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Zitkala-Sa)



2. Zitkala-Sa recalls her first day at a missionary school, where everything felt strange and cold. The loud noises, strict routines, and unfamiliar language created a sense of discomfort and fear.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Zitkala-Sa)



3. During breakfast, she felt confused and out of place due to the strict eating rituals and the constant surveillance of the teachers.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Zitkala-Sa)



4. A friend warned her about their plan to cut the girls' long hair, which held deep cultural significance for her people. Long hair symbolized honor, and cutting it was a mark of defeat or mourning.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Zitkala-Sa)



5. Determined not to give in, she tried to hide under a bed but was eventually caught. Despite her resistance, her hair was forcibly cut, leaving her feeling humiliated and powerless.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Zitkala-Sa)



6. Zitkala-Sa reflects on the series of indignities she faced since being separated from her mother, describing herself as treated like an object without individuality.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Bama)



7. Bama shares her childhood memories of walking home from school and enjoying the sights and activities in the bustling streets of her village.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Bama)



8. One day, she noticed an elder from her community carrying food to an upper-caste landlord. The elder held the package by its string, avoiding direct contact, as the caste system deemed their touch "polluting."

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Bama)



9. At first, she found this scene funny, but her brother explained the reality of caste discrimination, which deeply saddened and angered her.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Bama)



10. Her brother encouraged her to focus on education, saying it could help them overcome the discrimination and gain respect. His words inspired her to work hard and excel in her studies.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD (Bama)



11. Bama’s determination led to her academic success, and she earned the respect of others, proving that education can be a powerful tool for change.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

12. Both stories highlight the pain and struggles faced by marginalized communities, though they are set in different cultural contexts.



MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

13. Zitkala-Sa's story focuses on cultural suppression and the loss of identity, while Bama's story reveals the humiliations caused by caste discrimination.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

14. Despite their hardships, both women show resilience. Zitkala-Sa resists the erasure of her cultural identity, and Bama uses education as a way to rise above oppression.



MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

15. These narratives show how injustice impacts children deeply, shaping their views and their determination to fight for dignity and equality.



MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

16. The stories inspire reflection on the shared experiences of oppression across different societies and the strength it takes to overcome them.

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MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Questions – Answer

1. Why did Bama feel that the elderly man's behaviour was funny? (2014)



MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Answer :

Bama felt that the elderly man's behavior was funny because he was carrying the package in a very awkward way, holding it only by its string, as though it would be "polluted" if he touched it directly. She found it amusing that he was making such a big deal out of carrying a simple parcel.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

2. How did Annan encourage Bama for study and progress in life? (2016)



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Answer :

Annan encouraged Bama to study and progress in life by telling her that, because of their community's low status, they would not be given respect or dignity. However, by studying hard and excelling in school, she could rise above these indignities, gain respect, and have people come to her of their own accord. He urged her to "work hard and learn."

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3. What was the meaning of third bell? (2022)



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Answer :

The third bell in the story marked the time when everyone could begin eating. It was a signal for the students to pick up their knives and forks and start their meal.

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4. 'We too are Human Beings' who is victim here and why? (2022)



Baama's community
discrimination
low status

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RBSE 11 & 12



Video Live & shorts

playlist

grammar

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Answer :

In "We Too Are Human Beings," the victim is Bama's community, the lower-caste people. They are treated with disrespect and forced into degrading actions, such as the elder carrying the package in a way that avoids touching it. Their humanity and dignity are denied simply because of their caste.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

5. How do the two narrations from "Memories of Childhood" reflect the theme of resistance against the oppression faced by marginalized communities?

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Answer :

The two accounts given in the unit 'Memories of Childhood' are based in two distant cultures. Two grown up and celebrated writers from marginalised communities look back on their childhood. They reflect on their relationship with the mainstream.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Both the girls fight against the inhuman treatment in their own way. The first one kicks and scratches to avoid her hair being shingled. The other one studies hard and earns reputation for herself. hence, both the narrations present the dominance of the so-called upper caste people over the marginalised communities.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Grammar

6. How does the awareness of injustice in children, as depicted in both The Cutting of My Long Hair and We Too Are Human Beings, contribute to the theme of rebellion against oppression?

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Answer :

upper class

'Might is right', as they say, gives way to oppression in the society. The mighty keep the weak deprived of their basic rights. But the oppressed always have the seed of rebellion in them. Sooner or later, this seed germinates and makes them stand for their rights. Truly, even children are aware of the social injustice done to them.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

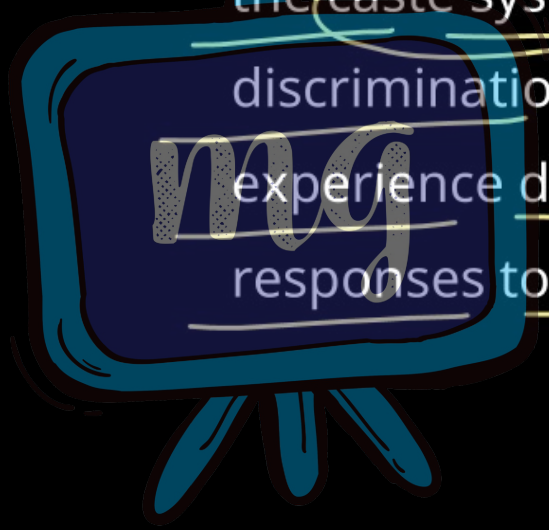
Zitkala-Sa
Bama

How they fought against injustice.

In 'The Cutting of My Long Hair', a little girl finds it unjust to get her hair shingled against her will. She rebels against it. In 'We Too Are Human Beings' a small girl feels the sting of untouchability. When her elder brother tells her the truth associated with the old man carrying vadai, she gets infuriated. Innocent looking children can also feel injustice.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

7. Bama's experience is that of a victim of the caste system. What kind of discrimination does Zitkata-Sa's experience depict? What are their responses to their respective situations?



MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Answer :

The experiences of Bama and Zitkala-Sa depict the humiliation suffered by the oppressed people of the society. They both are from marginalised communities. Bama suffers from the evil of untouchability prevailing in India. The people of her caste have to bow low to the so called upper caste people.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

They have to work for the upper caste people and bear insults. Bama fights against this situation by studying hard and attaining a high position. Zitkala-Sa is a native Indian in America. She sees the Americans imposing their culture on other communities living in their country. Her long and heavy hair is shingled against her will. As a child, she opposes the act by kicking and scratching.

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