SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Class-X

English

Footprints without Feet

Chapter-9



CLAIRE BOIKO

The Book That Saved the Earth

Part - 1

Neha Rajvanshi

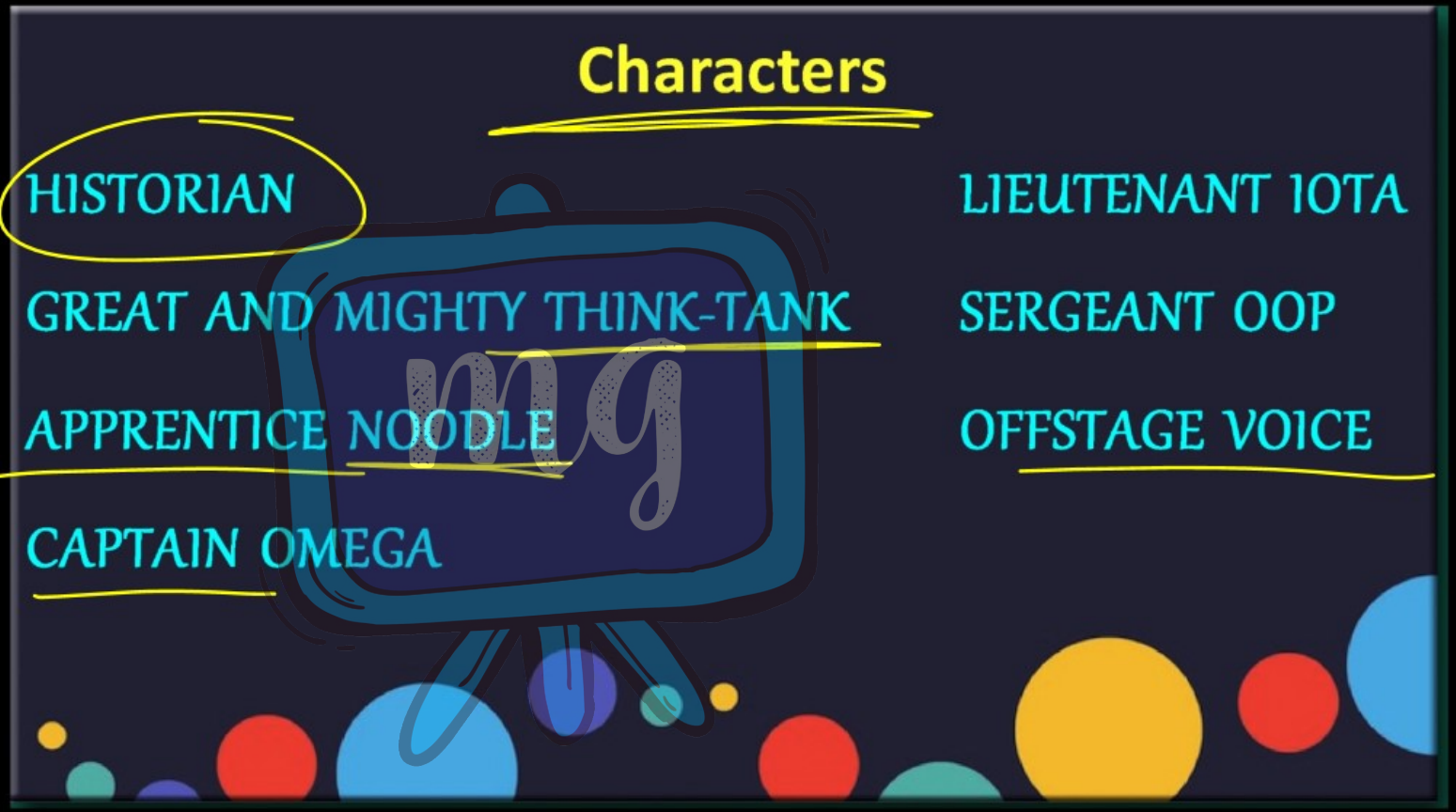
SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

BEFORE YOU READ

❖ Mother Goose is a well-known book of nursery rhymes in English. Do you think such a book can save Planet Earth from a Martian invasion? Read this play, set four centuries in the future, and find out.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



TIME : The twenty-fifth century

PLACE : The Museum of Ancient History: Department of the Twentieth Century on the Planet Earth

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

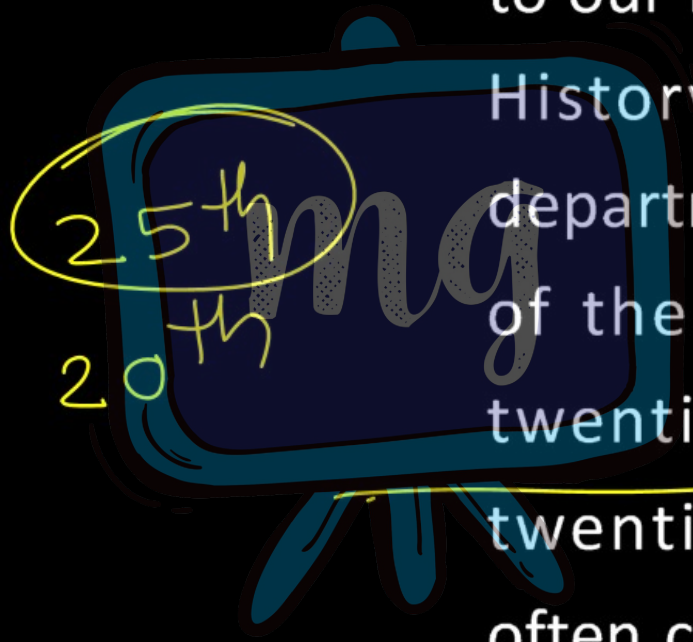


BEFORE RISE : Spotlight shines on Historian, who is sitting at a table down right, on which is a movie projector. A sign on an easel beside her reads: Museum of Ancient History: Department of the Twentieth Century. She stands and bows to audience.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

HISTORIAN : Good afternoon. Welcome to our Museum of Ancient History, and to my department — curiosities of the good old, far-off twentieth century. The twentieth century was often called the Era of the Book. In those days,



SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

Zulus: दक्षिणी अफ्रीका की जनजाति

illustrated: उदाहरण सहित समझाना





there were books about everything, from to Zulus. Books taught people how to, and when to, and where to, and why to. They illustrated, educated, punctuated, and even decorated.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

invasion : हमला

But the strangest thing a book ever did was to save the Earth. You haven't heard about the Martian invasion of 2040? Tsk, tsk. What do they teach children nowadays? Well, you know, the invasion never really happened, because a single book stopped it.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

encyclopedia: विश्वकोष

tome : बड़ी पुस्तक



What was the book, you ask? a noble encyclopedia? A tome about rockets and missiles? A secret file from outer space? No, it was non of those. It was — but here, let me turn on the historiscope and show you what happened many centuries ago, in 2040. (She

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST





turns on projector, and points it left. Spotlight on Historian goes out, and comes up down left on Think-Tank, who is seated on a raised box, arms folded. He has a huge, egg-shaped head, and he wears a long robe decorated with stars and circles.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

Apprentice : प्रशिक्षार्थी

elaborate : विशाल



Apprentice Noodle stands beside him at an elaborate switchboard. A sign on an easel reads:

MARS SPACE CONTROL

Great and Mighty Think-Tank,

Commander-in-Chief

(Bow low before entering)

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

NOODLE : (bowing) O Great and Mighty Think-Tank, most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe, what are your orders?

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

THINK-TANK : (peevishly) You left out part of my salutation, Apprentice Noodle. Go over the whole thing again.

peevishly: नाराजगी से
salutation: अभिवादन

NOODLE : It shall be done, sir. (in a singsong) O Great and Mighty Think-Tank, Ruler of Mars and her two moons, most powerful and

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

intelligent creature in the whole universe — (out of breath) what-are-your-orders?

ridiculous : अजीब



: That's better, Noodle. I wish to be placed in communication with our manned space probe to that ridiculous little planet we are going to put under our generous rulership.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

What do they call it, again?

NOODLE : Earth, your Intelligence.

THINK-TANK : Earth — of course. You see how insignificant the place is? But first, something important. My mirror. I wish to consult my mirror.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

NOODLE : It shall be done, sir. (He hands Think-Tank a mirror.)



THINK-TANK : Mirror, mirror, in my hand. Who is the most fantastically intellectually gifted being in the land?

OFFSTAGE VOICE : (after a pause) You, sir.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

THINK-TANK : (smacking mirror) Quicker. Answer quicker next time. I hate a slow mirror.

smacking : तोड़ना



(He admires himself in the mirror.) Ah, there I am. Are we Martians not a handsome race?

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

So much more attractive than those ugly Earthlings with their tiny heads. Noodle, you keep on exercising your mind, and someday you'll have a balloon brain just like mine.

NOODLE : Oh, I hope so, Mighty Think-Tank. I hope so.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

primitive : प्राचीन

THINK-TANK : Now, contact the space probe. I want to invade that primitive ball of mud called Earth before lunch.

NOODLE : It shall be done, sir. (He adjusts levers on switchboard. Electronic buzzes and beeps are heard as the curtains open.)

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

catalogue : सूची

SCENE 2

TIME : A few seconds later

PLACE : Mars Space Control and the Centerville Public Library

AT RISE : Captain Omega stands at centre, opening and closing card catalogue drawers in a confused fashion.

SMT. C.M. MUNDHRA
MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST

Lieutenant Iota is up left, counting books in a bookcase. Sergeant Oop is at right, opening and closing a book, turning it upside down, shaking it and then riffling the pages and shaking his head.