

St. Xaviers School , Purulia

(Virtual Class)__

Subject : English Literature
Class : X

Date :11.05.2020

Good Morning Students , welcome to your virtual class of English Literature !
Please refer to your book “Treasure Trove” .

Short Story (Chapter 7) : **The Little Match Girl**

The short fiction is composed by Danish Poet and author Hans Christian Andersen . The story is about a child’s dreams and hope . It was first published in December, 1845.

Original Title of the story in Danish (Denmark’s) Language : “ Den Lille Pige med Svovlstikkerne” meaning the little girl with the match sticks .

The little children were actually made to beg in the form of match girls. The story takes place at the juncture of a year end and the new year’s beginning with the essence of Christmas in the background. People needed matchsticks to light the candles, lighten up their houses , Churches and remove the darkness . On such a freezing New Year’s Eve a poor young girl , shivering with cold and barefoot , tries to sell matches in the streets. Afraid to go home because her stepfather will beat her for failing to sell any matches, she huddles in the angle between two houses and lights matches to warm herself . She lights three to four match sticks one after another and in each of the flame of the matches she views her favourite visions which she craved to see inwardly . A warm stove, a holiday feast, a happy family and a Christmas tree . She viewed a shooting star falling from the sky. She remembered her late Grandmother’s saying –“ a star comes down to take a soul up to Heaven ”.

At the end she viewed the vision of her grandmother coming down from heaven in order to meet her. Her grandmother was the only one person who loved her and treated her with kindness. She burnt all of the matches of a matchbox in order to keep the vision of her grandmother alive for a longtime.

She was unable to light anymore matchsticks. She froze to death but happily goes away to heaven with her grandmother. No cold, no hunger , no sadness could touch her soul anymore .

Next day the passersby found the girl stiff and cold and expresses sympathy, which she did not need then. They never knew what beautiful visions she had seen even in that utter sadness. How her soul was carried away by her grandmother, how happy she was with her in Heaven.

Reference Learning : <http://youtu.be/xC7Kgjdmc3A>

Assignments: Refer to your short story workbook, study the notes of “The Little Match Girl”, including the meaning, theme, literary devices , imageries and then solve any two of the questions given at the end of it .

Refer to <http://www.gradesaver.com/the-little-match-girl/study-guide/imagery> for further help .