

padhai | Class X

English

Notes



**Full
Explanations**



**Character
Sketch**



**Word
Meanings**



**Tone, Central
idea, devices....**

First Flight

Glimpses of India

Detailed Explanation:

Glimpses of India offers three distinct portrayals of India through the regions of **Goa, Coorg, and Assam**, highlighting the nation's **cultural diversity, scenic beauty**, and enduring **traditions**. In the opening section, "A Baker from Goa," the narrator reflects on the earlier Portuguese era in Goa, when the village baker, known as the **pader**, occupied a significant position in society. The older generation speaks with longing about "those good old Portuguese days," and this sense of **nostalgia** shapes the overall mood. The baker's arrival is conveyed through auditory imagery in the "**thud and jingle**" of his bamboo staff, enabling the reader to sense his presence even before he appears. As a child, the narrator eagerly rushed to meet him, not so much for the bread loaves intended for elders as for the **bread-bangles** meant for children. The narrator's playful innocence is evident in the humorous remark that "**the tiger never brushed his teeth**," which introduces lightness into the narrative. The baker is depicted as **disciplined, diligent, and socially valued**, since bread played a crucial role in marriages, engagements, Christmas, and other celebrations. His "**plump physique**" serves as an indirect indication of prosperity, suggesting that baking was once a respected and profitable occupation. Through these recollections, the author not only portrays an individual but also preserves a tradition that is gradually disappearing.

– LUCIO RODRIGUES

In the second section, "Coorg," the narrative shifts from memory to descriptive travel writing, presenting Coorg as a region of **exceptional beauty**. It is described as "a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God," a metaphor that elevates its charm to a divine level. Situated between Mysore and Mangalore, Coorg, also known as **Kodagu**, is the smallest district of Karnataka and is famous for its **evergreen rainforests, spices, and coffee plantations**. The expression "the air breathes of **invigorating** coffee" is an example of personification, suggesting that the atmosphere itself seems infused with freshness. The inhabitants, known as **Kodavus**, are portrayed as **proud, courageous, and strongly independent**. The narrator includes intriguing historical suggestions that they may have descended from **Greeks or Arabs**, adding an element of mystery to their identity. Their martial tradition is highlighted through references to the highly decorated **Coorg Regiment** and **General Cariappa**, the first Chief of the Indian Army. The river Kaveri, dense forests, mahaseer fish, kingfishers, langurs, squirrels, and elephants create vivid natural imagery, making the landscape appear lively and dynamic. Adventure activities such as river-rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock-climbing, and mountain biking reveal that Coorg is not only picturesque but also full of energy and excitement. The presence of Buddhist monks in red, ochre, and yellow robes at Bylakuppe introduces an additional cultural dimension. Altogether, Coorg is depicted as a harmonious blend of natural splendour, bravery, wildlife, and culture.

– LOKESH ABROL

In the final section, "Tea from Assam," the focus shifts to a train journey and a conversation that combines observation with factual information. Rajvir travels with his classmate Pranjol to Assam during the summer holidays, where Pranjol's father manages a tea estate in Upper Assam. As the train progresses, Rajvir, naturally curious and observant, looks attentively at the passing scenery, while Pranjol, accustomed to the surroundings, remains **indifferent**. The repetition in "green, green everywhere" creates strong visual imagery and emphasizes the lushness of the landscape. Gradually, the paddy fields are replaced by tea plantations, and Rajvir observes "a sea of tea bushes," a metaphor indicating their vast expanse. The tea-pluckers working among the rows are described as "**doll-like** figures," a simile that presents them as small and graceful against the extensive plantations. Rajvir's personality is clearly revealed—he is inquisitive, well-informed, and eager to relate what he observes to historical and legendary accounts. He informs Pranjol that the discovery of tea is uncertain and narrates both a Chinese legend of leaves accidentally falling into boiling water and an Indian legend involving Bodhidharma, whose severed eyelids led to the growth of tea plants. He further mentions that tea was consumed in China as early as **2700 B.C.** Upon reaching **Dhekiabari Tea** Estate, Rajvir impresses Pranjol's father by correctly identifying the **second flush**, the May-to-July period that produces the finest tea. This conclusion highlights Rajvir's dedication and awareness while also emphasizing Assam's significance as a major tea-producing region.

- ARUP KUMAR DATTA

Reference Information

- 1. Meaning of pader:** In Goa, a traditional baker or bread-seller is referred to as a pader, and the profession continues across generations even after the Portuguese era.
- 2. Frequency of the baker's visits:** The baker visited the village at least twice daily—once while going out to sell bread and again while returning after completing his round.
- 3. Why children waited for him:** Children eagerly waited for the baker mainly to receive bread-bangles and occasionally sweet bread, rather than the regular loaves meant for households.
- 4. Importance of bread in Goan life:** Bread was essential for marriages, feasts, parties, engagements, Christmas, and other festivals, making it a vital part of Goan culture.
- 5. Dress of the baker:** Traditionally, the baker wore a kabai, a long single-piece garment reaching the knees; later, bakers were seen in shirts and shorter trousers.
- 6. Proof that baking was profitable:** The baker's family was always well-fed and appeared cheerful and prosperous; their plump appearance served as social proof of success.

7. **Location of Coorg:** Coorg lies between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore in Karnataka and is also known as Kodagu.

8. **Best season to visit Coorg:** Although the monsoon brings heavy rainfall, the most suitable time for visitors is from September to March.

9. **Historical background of Kodavus:** The Kodavu people are believed to possibly have Greek or Arabic origins, and their customs differ from mainstream Hindu traditions.

10. **Military pride of Coorg:** The Coorg Regiment is among the most decorated in the Indian Army, and General Cariappa, the first Army Chief, belonged to Coorg.

11. **Special right of Kodavus:** Kodavus are considered the only community in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

12. **Wildlife and attractions of Coorg:** Visitors may encounter macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs, slender loris, and wild elephants; key attractions include Brahmagiri hills, Nisargadhama, and Bylakuppe.

13. **Adventure activities in Coorg:** Activities such as river-rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock-climbing, and mountain biking attract adventure enthusiasts.

14. **Who are Rajvir and Pranjol:** Pranjol is a student from Assam studying in Delhi, while Rajvir is his classmate who visits Assam during the summer vacation.

15. **Assam's tea importance:** Assam has the largest concentration of tea plantations globally, making it a major tea-producing region.

16. **Legends about tea:** The text includes a Chinese legend about an emperor discovering tea accidentally and an Indian legend involving Bodhidharma.

17. **Tea history facts:** Tea was consumed in China around 2700 B.C. and reached Europe in the sixteenth century, where it was initially used as a medicinal drink.

18. **Second flush:** The second flush refers to the May-to-July growth period, which yields the finest tea leaves.

19. **Tea estate reached by the boys:** After alighting at Mariani junction, the boys travel to Dhekiabari Tea Estate, managed by Pranjol's father.

20. **Main literary strength of the chapter:** The chapter blends nostalgia, travel writing, descriptive imagery, cultural insights, and factual details, making it rich and diverse rather than a simple narrative.

Detailed Character Sketches

Goan Baker / Pader

The Goan baker, or pader, represents tradition, reliability, and cultural continuity. He is punctual and hardworking, visiting homes regularly with his bamboo staff and basket filled with bread. His “musical entry” and the rhythmic “jhang, jhang” sound of his staff make his presence distinctive and almost ceremonial. He is not merely a vendor but an integral part of Goan social life, as bread is closely associated with celebrations and rituals. His well-fed appearance and “plump physique” indicate that baking was once a respectable and profitable occupation. Thus, the pader symbolizes an enduring cultural practice.

The Narrator in “A Baker from Goa”

The narrator is reflective, observant, and subtly humorous. He recalls his childhood in Goa with affection, particularly the excitement of awaiting the baker and the aroma of freshly baked bread. His narration is enriched with sensory details and playful innocence, as seen in statements like “The tiger never brushed his teeth.” Through his vivid memories, he preserves a cultural tradition that is gradually fading. His tone is warm and engaging, making the account both personal and memorable.

The Kodavu People

The Kodavu community of Coorg is depicted as proud, courageous, and fiercely independent. They maintain a deep connection with their land, traditions, and martial heritage. Their hospitality stands out, as they willingly share stories of bravery associated with their ancestors. Their unique dress and customs distinguish them from mainstream society and give them a strong identity. The achievements of the Coorg Regiment and the association with General Cariappa reinforce their image as a valiant and honourable community.

Rajvir

Rajvir is portrayed as curious, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic. Unlike Pranjol, who is accustomed to the tea plantations, Rajvir views everything with fascination and interest. He carefully observes the changing landscape and relates it to historical and legendary contexts. His awareness is evident when he discusses the Chinese emperor, Bodhidharma, and the early history of tea. At the same time, he remains modest and eager to learn, admitting that he has prepared himself beforehand. Rajvir represents an ideal student—curious, informed, and open-minded.

Pranjol

Pranjol is practical, composed, and familiar with the environment of tea plantations. Having grown up in Assam, he does not display the same excitement as Rajvir. He appears calm and somewhat indifferent to the scenery, which for him is ordinary. This contrast highlights the difference between familiarity and curiosity. His character serves to emphasize Rajvir’s enthusiasm more clearly.

Pranjol's Father / Mr Barua

Mr Barua, Pranjol's father, is a professional and knowledgeable tea estate manager. Though his role is brief, it is significant, as he acknowledges Rajvir's knowledge. His reaction to Rajvir's correct identification of the second flush shows his appreciation for awareness and learning. He represents the practical functioning of Assam's tea industry and adds authenticity to the narrative.

Central Message

The central idea of Glimpses of India is that the true richness of India lies in its diversity of culture, landscape, traditions, and occupations. The chapter illustrates that everyday professions and local customs—such as baking in Goa, coffee cultivation in Coorg, and tea production in Assam—carry deep cultural significance. It also emphasizes that India's beauty extends beyond monuments and is present in daily life, natural surroundings, and inherited traditions. Another important message is that curiosity and careful observation enable a deeper appreciation of the country.

Narrator's Tone

The narrator's tone varies across the three sections while maintaining an overall sense of admiration and description.

In "A Baker from Goa," the tone is nostalgic, affectionate, and lightly humorous.

In "Coorg," it becomes admiring, romantic, and descriptive, reflecting wonder at the landscape and people.

In "Tea from Assam," the tone is curious, informative, and observant, blending scenic description with factual knowledge.

Word Meanings

Reminiscing — recalling past experiences with fondness.

Nostalgically — with a longing for the past.

Heralding — announcing or signalling arrival.

Rebuke — an expression of mild disapproval.

Fragrance — a pleasant smell.

Kabai — a long traditional garment worn by Goan bakers.

Plump physique — a well-fed, slightly fat body.

Testimony — evidence or proof.

Martial — related to warfare or military qualities.

Canopies — coverings formed by tree branches.

Mainstream — commonly accepted tradition.

Valour — bravery or courage.

Abound — to exist in large numbers.

Panoramic view — a wide, comprehensive view.

Trails — paths or tracks.

Invigorating – refreshing and energizing.

Ardent – passionate or enthusiastic.

Magnificent – extremely impressive or beautiful.

Densely wooded – thickly covered with trees.

Dwarfing – making something appear smaller in comparison.

Plantation – a large farm for crops like tea or coffee.

Ascetic – a person living a simple, disciplined life.

Banished – forced to leave or driven away.

Veered – changed direction suddenly.

Sprouting – beginning to grow.

Flush – a fresh growth of leaves.

Tea-pluckers – workers who pick tea leaves.

Legend – a traditional story, often not historically verified.

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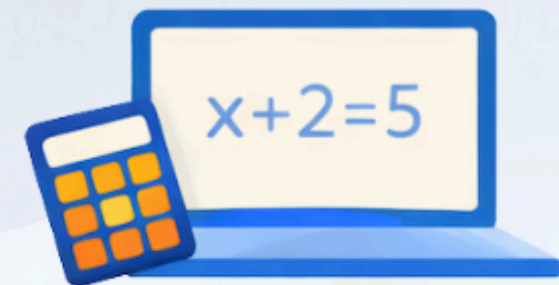
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