

CLASS XII

VISTAS: THE ENEMY

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Gist of the Lesson:- Dr. Sadao, a Japanese surgeon finds a wounded American soldier on the beach near his house - He is unable to throw him back though he was his enemy as he was a doctor and his first duty was to save a life - Hana, his wife, though initially reluctant because it was dangerous for all including the children to keep the enemy in the house, joins her husband in operating and nursing the enemy soldier back to health, even though the servants desert the house - Hana assists Dr. Sadao in operating the soldier in spite of her physical discomfort and hesitation - Though it was war time and all hands were needed at the front, the General did not send Sadao with the troops as he is an expert surgeon and the General needed him - Sadao tells him about the enemy soldier but he does not take any action as he is self-absorbed and forgets his promise that he would send his private assassins to kill the enemy and remove his body - Taking advantage of the general's self-absorption Sadao decides to save the soldier's life. After the soldier is out of danger Dr. Sadao helps him to escape from his house to safety.

Textual Long Answer Questions: Introductiontwo sentences...- name of the lesson and author, and the theme.....body (1 - 2 paragraphs)

1. There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to the story you have read.

A conflict of interest arises in a situation when someone like a doctor has conflicting interests- Japanese doctor- dislikes Whites- as a Japanese patriot –his duty was to hand over the escaped prisoner to the police- Sadao risks his safety and saves an enemy- fears the consequences of harbouring an enemy- overcomes his hatred of the Americans- like a hero stands up for what he believes in and doesn't calculate the repercussions-in spite of conflicts- is human and lives up to the oath of being a doctor.

2. Dr. Sadao was compelled by his duty to help the enemy soldier. What made Hana, his wife, sympathetic to him in the face of open defiance from the domestic staff?

When Sadao and Hana saw the prisoner of war they were in a dilemma for a moment- but the doctor in him surfaced- even Hana knew that if he were left there he would die- in the bedroom- she covered him with a quilt- and also washed him when Yumi refused- she helped Sadao operate- was afraid lest the servants report about them hosting an enemy- when the soldier regained consciousness-served him and reassured him- perhaps both Hana and Sadao, because of their stay in America were not as parochial as the rest.

3. How would you explain the reluctance of the soldier to leave the shelter of the doctor's home even when he knew he couldn't stay there without risk to the doctor and himself?

As the American recovered after the operation- he was weak and terrified- Hana reassured him- fed him and comforted him- Sadao tended to him as a doctor giving him the utmost care- soon the soldier began trusting them- he says, 'If all the Japs were like you there wouldn't have been a war' – when the assassins were to be sent- Sadao spent sleepless nights- after telling the soldier of his plan of escape- reluctant to escape –Sadao also told him how to safeguard himself.

Short Answer Questions:-

1. Why did the General overlook the matter of the enemy soldier?
2. Why was Dr. Sadao not sent with the troops?
3. How was the plan of the prisoner's escape executed in the story?
4. Why did the servants leave Dr. Sadao's house?
5. Who was the white man whom Dr. Sadao and Hana found?
6. "But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward". What was the reward?
7. What message does "The Enemy" give?
8. Who was Dr Sadao? Where was his house situated?
9. What makes Dr Sadao comment, 'This man must have extraordinary vitality'.
10. How did the old gardener react when Sadao told him about the wounded American soldier?
11. What was Hana's reaction while assisting Sadao during the operation?
12. How did Hana react when she saw a messenger at the door in official uniform?
13. How did the General offer to help Sadao get rid of the American?
14. After the General's assurance of getting the American prisoner slain, the doctor should have felt relieved, but he spends sleepless nights. How do you account for his behaviour?
15. How did the doctor save the American Prisoner of war?
16. Justify the title of the lesson.

Long Answer Questions:

1. How did Dr. Sadao rise above narrow prejudices of race & country to human being in need?
2. Do you think the doctor's final solution to the problem was the best possible one in the circumstances?
3. There are moments in life when we have to make hard choice between our role as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to the Enemy.
