



Class: XII	Department: ENGLISH	2026 - 2027
Question Bank	Topic: THE ENEMY – PEARL S. BUCK	Note:

Introduction-

It is the time of World War. An American prisoner of war is washed ashore in a dying state and is found at the doorstep of a Japanese doctor. Should he save him as a doctor or hand him over to the Army as a patriot?

The story is set during the Second World War. A Japanese doctor finds an American POW at his doorstep. He is in a dilemma that being a doctor, should he save the wounded man or being a Japanese, should he hand over the enemy to the army.

Theme of the Lesson-

The short tale “The Enemy” by Pearl S. Buck tackles the subject of prejudice and its damaging impact on interpersonal relationships. The plot centres on the connection between a Chinese doctor and an American soldier, who are originally strangers, amid a period of American war on Japan during the second world war. Despite their difference in nationality, the Japanese has to remain loyal to his profession and thus, saves the life of the injured enemy soldier. However, this does not go well with his fellow men who consider him not to be loyal towards his country. The narrative shows us how the Japanese doctor, Sadao balances these two duties and emphasizes on the importance of humanity over everything else.

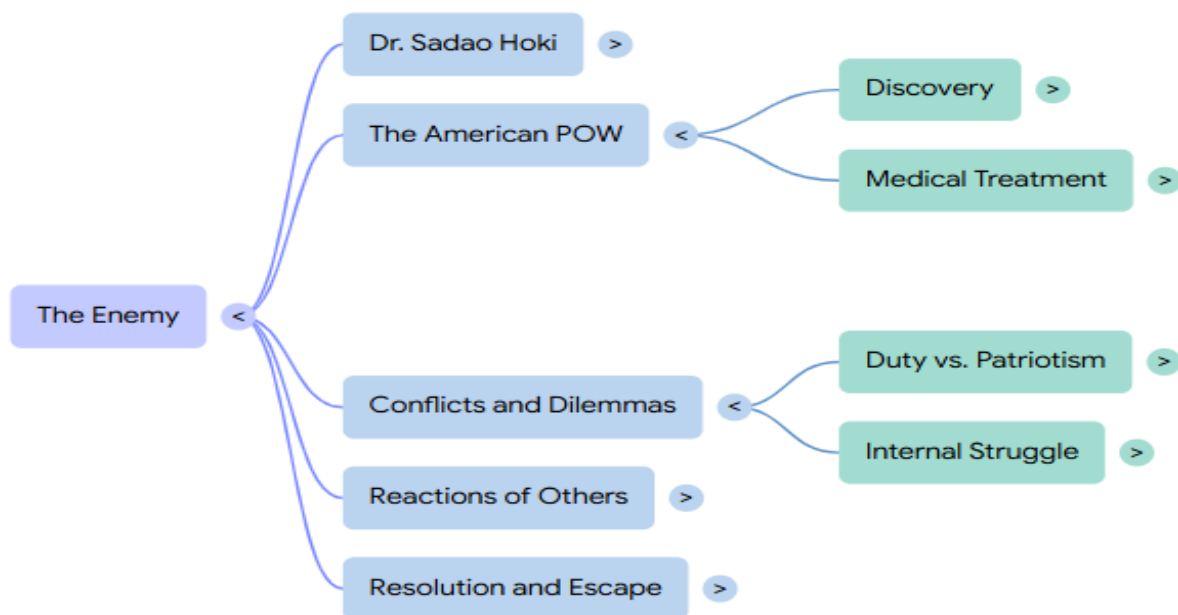
Summary-

The Enemy is a story set in Japan during the second world war. In this story, an injured American army man washes up on the beach near the home of a Japanese surgeon, Dr. Sadao Hoki. Although he has lived in America and follows a modern profession, Dr Sadao’s family lives a traditional Japanese life.

Dr Sadao is in a dilemma to leave the American man to die, to throw him back into the sea, to hand him over to the army or to save his life. He reluctantly takes him home and decides to save his life. The presence of an enemy disrupts his family life. His wife is against his idea of operating upon and taking care of the soldier. The servants of the house oppose the idea and leave their master. Yet, Dr Sadao shelters him, operates upon him, and saves his life.

Out of the fear of being accused of sheltering an enemy, he narrates the incident to a general in the Japanese military. The general helps Dr Sadao and offers to get the man killed by hired killers. However, the killing doesn’t take place, and after waiting for three nights, Dr. Sadao thinks of getting rid of the American himself. He arranges a boat for the man to help him reach the nearby island. He provides him necessities like food and clothing to survive till he finds a Korean fishing boat which could rescue him. Dr. Sadao wonders that why did he save the life of an enemy

MINDMAP-



RTC /COMPETENCY BASED QNs-

A. "You are well", Sadao agreed. He lowered his voice. "You are so well that I think if I put my boat on the shore tonight, with food and extra clothing in it, you might be able to row to that little island not far from the coast. It is near the coast that it has not been worth fortifying. Nobody lives on it because in a storm it is submerged. But this is not the season of storms. You could live there until you saw a Korean fishing boat pass by. They pass quite near the island because the water is many fathoms deep there." The young man stared at him, slowly comprehending. 'Do I have to?' he asked.'

"I think so", "Sadao said gently. "you understand - it is not hidden that you are here."

1. Who is young man being talked to in the extract given above?
2. The arrangements of food and clothing by Dr. Sadao portrays him as
 - a. a kind and compassionate person
 - b. an experienced and patriotic sailor
 - c. a good planner and event organizer
 - d. a good doctor and advisor
3. 'not been worth fortifying' indicates that it
 - a. has been left uncared for and neglected.
 - b. can be easily spotted by the Korean boats.
 - c. will be easy for the white man to enter the island.
 - d. is dangerous to stay there alone.
4. The speaker's tone in the expression: "*Do I have to?*" is irritated.
True /False
5. What traits of Dr Sadao are revealed through this action?

B . Choose the correct option with respect to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: Dr Sadao saved the American as he was aa true human being.

Statement 2: Dr Sadao was angry when the General did not send his assassins.

- A. Statement 1 can be inferred but Statement 2 cannot be inferred.
- B. Statement 1 cannot be inferred but Statement 2 can be inferred.
- C. Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
- D. Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

C. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:

The mists screened them now completely, and at this time of day no one came by. The fishermen had gone home and even the chance beachcombers would have considered the day at an end. "What shall we do with this man?" Sadao muttered. But his trained hands seemed of their own will to be doing what they could to stanch the fearful bleeding. He packed the wound with the sea moss that strewed the beach. The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken. "The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea," Sadao said, answering himself.

1. What does the speaker mean by 'The mists screened them'?

2. Who is a beachcomber?

3. The word 'strewed' means.....?

- A spread out
- B protected
- C Uncovered
- D Unavailable

Ans A spread out

4. They want to throw the man back into the sea as?

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS-

Q. 1. Who was Dr. Sadao Hoki and where did he live ?

Ans. Dr. Sadao was a famous Japanese surgeon. He went to America to study surgery and medicine. By the time his father died, he had established himself as a surgeon and scientist. Dr. Sadao Hoki's house was built on the Japanese coast. It was a low, square stone house above a narrow beach.

Q. 2. What was the chief concern of Sadao's father ?

Ans. The influence of his father was quite strong on Sadao. His father never joked or played with him. Sadao's education was his father's chief concern. For this reason at 22, he was sent to America to study surgery and medicine. By the time his father died, Sadao had established himself as a famous surgeon and scientist.

Q. 3. Why was Dr. Sadao kept in Japan and not sent abroad with the troops ?

Ans. Dr. Sadao was a famous surgeon and a scientist. He was perfecting a major discovery. It would render wounds entirely clean. There was another reason of keeping Sadao in Japan. The old general might need an operation. Dr. Sadao's services were needed at any time. Hence, he was not sent abroad with troops.

Q. 4. Who was Hana and where did Sadao meet her ? How were they married ?

Ans. Hana was a beautiful Japanese lady. She met Dr. Sadao in America at a professor's house. But he had waited to fall in love with her until he was sure she was Japanese. She was pure in her race. Otherwise, his father would not have accepted her in the family.

Q. 5. What did Hana and Sadao see coming out of the mist ?

Ans. Hana and Sadao were standing outside their house. Both of them saw something black coming out of the mist. It was a man. He seemed to be flung up out of the ocean. He staggered a few steps.

He was crawling. Then he fell on his face and lay there. Sadao thought him to be some fisherman who had been washed ashore.

Q. 6. How did Sadao and Hana come to know that the man was an American, a prisoner of war and an enemy ? (Imp.)

Ans. Sadao and Hana came closer to the man. They found some stains of blood on the sand. The man was wounded. He turned the man's head and they saw his face. He was a white man. They read the faint writing on the cap: "U.S. Navy". The man was a prisoner of war. He was an enemy soldier. At that time, Japan was at war with America.

Q. 7. What was the initial reaction of Dr Sadao and Hana on seeing the wounded man ? (Imp.)

Ans. Sadao saw a gun wound reopened on the right side of his back. "Oh, how he is bleeding !" cried Hana. Then they thought what they should do with that white man. Had he not been wounded, they could have put him back in the sea. But now there was only one thing to be done. They must carry him into the house.

Q. 8. "The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea". Who says it and why ?

Ans. Dr. Sadao and his wife were in a fix. Dr. Sadao couldn't handover even a dying enemy to the police as he was a doctor. Giving him shelter could lead to their arrest. Hana thought that the kindest thing would be to throw the man back into the sea. It was the easiest solution. However, they couldn't even do that.

Q. 9. How did the gardener react when Dr. Sadao told him about the wounded American soldier ? (CBSE 2008)

Ans. All the servants, including the gardener didn't like Sadao's efforts to save an American. America was at war with Japan. Tom was their enemy.

Q. 10. What was the reaction of the two servants and Yumi when they were told about the wounded American ? (Imp.)

Ans. The two servants were frightened at what their master had told them. They thought that their master should not heal the wound of a white man. The white man must die. If their master healed what the gun and the sea did, they would take revenge on them. Yumi refused to wash a white man.

Q. 11. Hana told Yumi to wash the soldier. How did Yumi react ? (CBSE 2008)

Ans. Hana realised that at first the soldier must be washed. She told Yumi to fetch hot water for washing. When she saw the white man she shook with anger. She told Hana that she had never washed a white man. She would not wash such a dirty man. Hana cried and commanded her to do as asked. Yumi gave a fierce look of resistance and left the room.

Q. 12. How did Hana help Sadao in operating on the wounded prisoner of war ?

Ans. Hana dipped a small clean towel into the steaming hot water. She washed his face carefully. Sadao came there with his surgeon's emergency bag. She was asked to give the anaesthetic if needed. The bullet was still there. Sadao proceeded swiftly. The doctor made a clean and precise incision. The bullet was out.

Q. 13. Why did the servants leave Dr. Sadao's house ? (CBSE 2008)

Ans. Japan was at war with America. Dr Sadao was nursing a wounded American a prisoner of war. The servants didn't like Dr Sadao's generosity. He was trying to save a white American. He was giving a new lease of life. They considered Dr Sadao's work an act of treachery. Hence, their patriotic feelings made them leave Dr Sadao's house.

Q. 14. Why did Hana say: "Why are we different from other Japanese" ? Were they really different ?

Ans. Hana thought that they were different from other Japanese. They were confused. Even their servants saw more clearly than what they did.

No doubt both of them considered Americans as their enemies. But they were trained in a different way. Being a doctor, Sadao couldn't desert even a dying enemy.

Q. 15. How did the General react when Sadao informed him about the prisoner of war? (Imp.)

Ans. The behaviour of the General was quite surprising. He didn't order the immediate arrest of the enemy. Nor did he take any action against Dr Sadao who had given shelter to an American soldier. He only offered to send two private assassins to get him killed secretly. But he never sent those men.

Q. 16. Did the old General lack national loyalty ? Was it a case of dereliction of duty? (Imp.)

Ans. The old General didn't take the issue of the prisoner of war very seriously. Being an experienced general, he should have acted promptly in this matter. The American soldier should have been arrested at once. America was at war with Japan. Certainly it was also a case of dereliction of duty on the General's part.

Q. 17. How did Hana behave on seeing the messenger in official uniform ? Why did he come for ?

Ans. In the afternoon Hana saw a messenger come to the door in official uniform. Her hands went weak and she could not draw her breath. She ran to Sadao gasping unable to utter a word. She thought that the man had come to arrest them. She was relieved to know that he was sent by the General. He was in pain and had sent for Sadao.

Q. 18. "If all the Japs were like you there wouldn't have been a war" said Tom. Justify his statement. (Imp)

Ans. The wounded American soldier was an enemy. In spite of all this Dr Sadao gave him shelter in his house. He didn't hand him over to the police. He operated on him. Dr Sadao risked his own life but saved an enemy from dying. Tom was right. If all the Japanese were like him, there would not have been a war between America and Japan.

Q. 19. What did Dr Sadao do to help Tom to escape to freedom ?

Ans. Dr Sadao knew that the wounded American sailor could be arrested at anytime. So he decided to help him in escaping. He decided to give his private boat with food and clothes in it. He could row it to a little island not far from the coast. Nobody lived there. In this way, he could escape to freedom.

Q. 20. Why did Dr Sadao help in the escape of the American soldier ? Was it an act of treachery ? Can you justify his action ? (Imp.)

Ans. Dr Sadao didn't like white people. But still he gave shelter to a wounded enemy.. Had the young American been healthy, Sadao would have handed him over to the police. But here was a bleeding and dying man. He was a doctor and was trained to save even a dying enemy. After having operated him on, and seeing him recovering fast, Dr. Sadao may have also developed a fondness for him and he definitely didn't want him killed. Also his presence was causing inconvenience to them. Therefore, he helped him in his escape. Human considerations outweighed all other petty things.

Q. 21. What made Dr Sadao sure that the wounded American soldier had escaped safely in the darkness ?

Ans. Dr Sadao had made elaborate arrangements for the safe escape of Tom. He was made to row to a nearby island. All necessary things were provided to him. He was to signal two flashes if he ran short of food. When no signal came, Dr Sadao was convinced that Tom had escaped safely.

Q. 22. Justify the title of the story 'The Enemy'.

Ans. Pearl S. Buck has given a suitable title to the story. The title is quite appropriate and logical. The wounded American prisoner of war is a natural enemy of Dr Sadao and his wife Hana. They should have handed him over to the police. But human consideration outweighed all other considerations. His duty as a doctor made Dr Sadao save the life of a dying enemy.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. Write a character-sketch of Dr. Sadao as depicted in your lesson, 'The Enemy'.

(A.I. CBSE 2008)

Ans. Dr Sadao Hoki was the only son of his father. He was highly influenced by his father. His education was his father's only concern. For this reason he had been sent to America at the age of twenty-two to study surgery and medicine. He married Hana in America when he became sure she was Japanese. This shows Sadao's love for Japan.

Dr Sadao was first a doctor and then anything else. He and Hana found a prisoner of war wounded and bleeding. He at once packed the wound with sea moss. Sadao was in a dilemma. The wounded man was an American. Japan was at war with America. If he sheltered a white man he could be arrested. If he handed him over the police, he would certainly die. All Americans were their enemies. Still he brought the man home, washed his wounds. He knew that the man would die if he was not operated on.

Dr Sadao and his obedient wife faced the ire and displeasure of their servants. Yumi didn't want to wash a white man. The old gardener thought that his master must let the white man die. Dr Sadao ignored all these warnings. He heard the call of his profession and operated on the prisoner of war. Dr Sadao's heart overflowed with human kindness. Lest Tom be arrested, he made elaborate arrangements for his escape. He put his boat on the shore with food and extra clothing. He did all these sacrifices putting himself and his wife at maximum risk. He could even lose his life for sheltering an enemy and arranging for his escape. He rose to the occasion and did what only a devoted doctor could have done in the circumstances.

Q. 2. How did Sadao and Hana see the man crawling on his hands and knees ? Why did they bring him inside the house?

Ans. Sadao and Hana were standing outside their house. Soon they saw something black coming out of the mists. It was a man flung out of the ocean. The man was on his knees crawling. Then he lay down there. They thought him to be a fisherman. Perhaps he had been washed away from his boat. He was a white man. Upon his young and tortured face was a rough yellow beard. The faint letters on his cap revealed that he was a sailor of the "U.S. Navy". In short, he was a soldier of a hostile nation. Japan was at war with America and so he was their enemy.

Dr Sadao and Hana were in a fix. If they sheltered a white man in their house, they could be arrested. If they handed him over to the police, he would certainly die. "The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea". If the man were healthy, he could hand him over to the police without any difficulty. But he was a doctor and he was trained to save the life of even a dying enemy. So he decided to carry him into the house and save him from dying.

Q. 3. What conflict did Dr Sadao and his wife Hana face before the doctor operated on the wounded American soldier ?

Ans. Dr Sadao and his wife Hana remained in a state of conflict for quite a long time. They couldn't throw a wounded man again into the sea. If they gave shelter to him in their house, they could be arrested. Handing him over to the police, would have meant throwing him into the jaws of death. They were in a state of intense conflict. Ultimately, the duty of a doctor overpowered all other petty considerations. The servants revolted at the idea of serving a white man. Hana herself washed the wound. Dr Sadao had decided to operate on Tom.

Hana obeyed her husband without a word. Hana was to give the anaesthetic if the patient needed it. The doctor made a clean and precise incision. The bullet was out. At last, Dr Sadao declared : "This man will live in spite of all". So Dr Sadao saved a dying man. Love for humanity and the ethics of a doctor won over petty racial considerations.

Q. 4. Dr Sadao was compelled by his duty as a doctor to save a dying enemy. What made Hana to sympathize with the American sailor in spite of open defiance from the servants ? How do you justify the behaviour of the old General ? Was it human consideration or lack of national loyalty or dereliction of duty ?

Ans. Dr Sadao and Hana both loved their country. They didn't have any liking for the white people. He considered that Americans suffered from racial prejudice. Both of them were happy that Japan was fighting against the white people. But Dr Sadao had been trained as a doctor even to save a dying enemy. Handing him over to the police would have meant throwing him into the jaws of death. Hence, he put aside all other considerations and respected the ethics of his profession. Hana was a woman with a tender heart. She couldn't bear the sight of a wounded and bleeding soldier. Hence, she herself helped Sadao to carry the wounded man into the house. No doubt, the behaviour of the old General defies logic. Certainly, he lacks national loyalty. He can also be accused of dereliction of duty. Being a General, it was his duty to get the prisoner of war arrested at once.

Q. 5. Why and how did Dr Sadao help the prisoner of war to escape ? Do you find him guilty of harbouring an enemy ?

(Imp.)

Ans. Dr Sadao had given a new lease of life to the American prisoner of war. He didn't want to throw him into the jaws of death again. He asked the young soldier to take his private boat at night. He should row in the cover of darkness to a little deserted island nearby. The young American could live there until he saw a Korean fishing boat pass by. Food, bottled water and two quilts were put inside the boat. If the food ran out, he could signal two flashes.

He was not to signal in darkness because he could be seen. The young American came down into the darkness of the garden and escaped. The prisoner had gone quite safe.

No, Dr Sadao can't be found guilty of harbouring an enemy. No doubt, the nationals of countries at war are considered as enemies. But we shouldn't forget that Sadao was a doctor. And for a doctor saving a dying man is the foremost priority. It doesn't matter if the dying man is an enemy.

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