

"Dutch Courage" - Gopal Bharatham

Introduction

There are ten worksheets altogether for students to work with Gopal Bharatham's "Dutch Courage." The worksheets are arranged in sequence from lesson to lesson according to stages. The first two worksheets are done to introduce the story. The next six worksheets contain activities that intrigue students to read further. These activities are thought provoking and help students to understand the story. They also introduce literary conventions and elements such as character study, plot, theme, figure of speech and setting. Though they are not implicitly introduced the activities subtly introduce these elements to the students. The worksheets are also done with consideration of students ability to be able to do them. The last two worksheets help to consolidate students reading of the story. They help to conclude the story and bring it to a close. Writing the report not only involves reading but writing critically as well. Writing a journalistic report helps students to present the facts clearly. They also have to interview imaginary characters. In fact the teacher can hold a role playing session where students assume the role of the characters while others interview them . This would help student to delve deeply into the feelings of the characters. The last worksheet deals with writing an epitaph for the leading character, Cornelius. In the story Cornelius dies sacrificing his life to save his wife. It was a heroic things. Students would very much like to write an epitaph for such a character, However it can also be hilarious as some of the example epitaphs show. Either way the students would enjoy writing it.

In doing the worksheets I have referred to the Class readers Theory and Practise book and some of the teaching files. Apart from that, references were made to several other books. Hence some of the worksheets have activities that are adapted from these books. The objectives and rationale had been derived from the literature syllabus prepared by the Ministry of Education.

Worksheet 1

1) Scan the text and identify as many characters as possible and state their names in the column titled characters. Next write a brief description of each character in the next column. One has been done as an example.

No	Character	Description/Role
1.	Noonan	A tall big sized man, hairy hands, a Christian father, drinks in order to be brave, runs an orphanage, Conelius' friend, always wears a white cassock, rides a little motor-bike.
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

Worksheet 2

Identify and tick the events that occurred in the story. Next number them in a sequence as they occurred in the story. Use the table on the left for sequencing

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

A
After the war Conelius gets married to Midah. She is more than 20 years younger than him.

B
Cornelius left his home after both his parents had died.

C
Cornelius left for Singapore on a British steamer.

E
As soon as he arrived in Singapore war broke out and he joined the Singapore Volunteer Corps.

F
When the British surrendered to the Japanese Cornelius escaped to Malaya in a raft across the straits.

G
In Malaya Cornelius joined the anti-Japanese resistance. Together with the locals he fought the Japanese from the jungles of Malaya.

H
They have a four year old son by the name of Asif. Cornelius loves his wife and son very much

I
Cornelius served as a Major in the Volunteer Corps. He fought valiantly against the Japanese.

Worksheet 3

Fill in the blanks below with the relevant details to complete the statements. Do not exceed the space given.

1. After joining the resistance in Malaya Cornelius met _____

2. Peng's family was _____

3. Cornelius taught Peng _____

4. After the war Cornelius _____

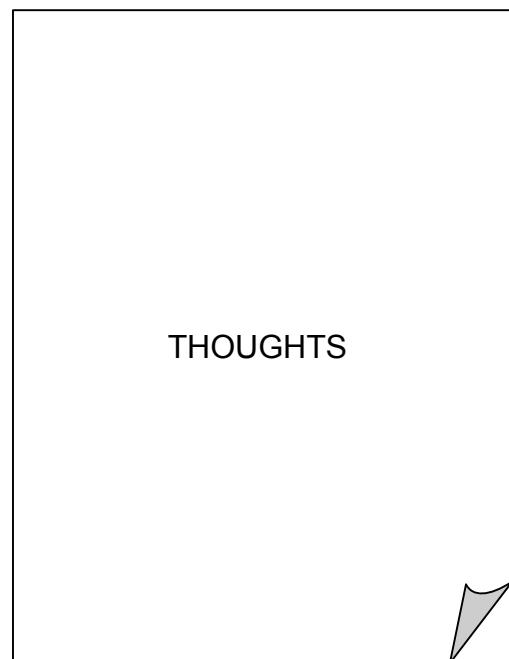
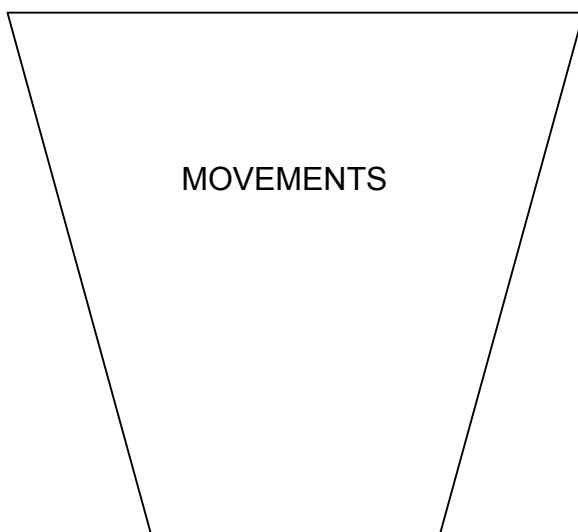
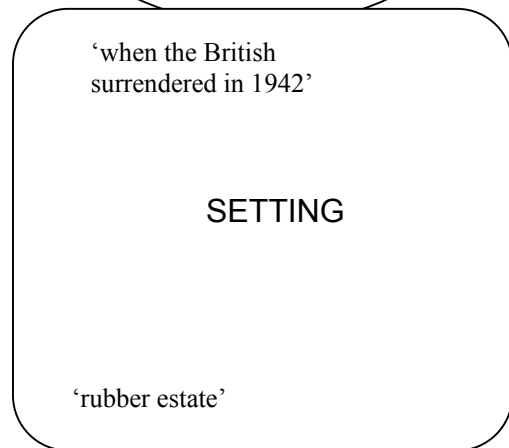
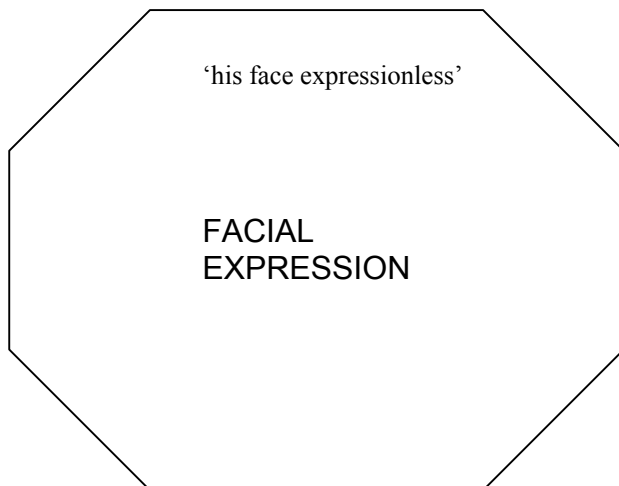
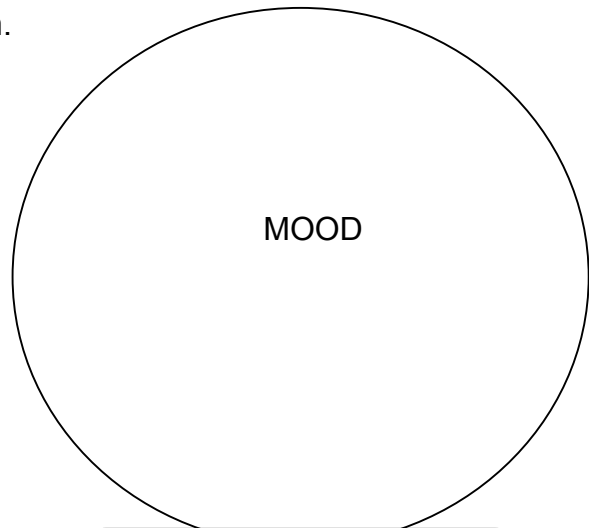
5. Cornelius now works as a _____

6. After the war Peng did not leave the jungle. For him _____

7. In intimidating Cornelius, Peng is using the same tactic that _____

Worksheet 5

Scan through the story for phrases and words to be listed under the following headings. Some examples had been given.



Worksheet 7

Without looking at the text recall and Identify the speaker and the addressee in the following extracts. Than write the mood of the speaker.

A) "There are no demons in the dark, my friend and even if there were, surely they would hold no terrors for you."

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

B) "Drink up and have a bitty more yerself. Do you good. Help keep out the cold."

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

C) "It's not one of my workers."

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

D) "He now uses my own methods against me".

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

E) ".....somebody's cut the wire fence near the generator."

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

F) "No. Things that reduce the damage of guns and the jungle."

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

G) "Stay well, my captain."

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

H) "Yes, yes, I know. I did not forget medical supplies arrive today."

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

I) "We'll be doing a public body count on the estate when it's all over, and that ain't a sight for a lady."

Speaker : _____ Addressee: _____

Mood : _____

Worksheet 8

With reference to the text briefly explain the meaning in the following extracts. Do not exceed the space provided.

1) "To be sure, disquiet of the heart is not the easiest thing in the world to hide."

2) "There are no demons in the dark, my friend and even if there were, surely they would hold no terrors for you."

3) "And what's nearer the heart of the matter is how familiar I am with the humiliation of men."

4) "Then surely, Cornelius, you are inventing the demons to justify your terror. The arm of coincidence is long..."

5) "You taught him to write. I reckon you'd read his hand best."

6) "To risk one's life without reason is to act no differently from a lunatic."

7) "Those without childhoods have no time for childish jokes."

Worksheet 4

Answer the following questions.

1. How did Cornelius escape the Japanese invasion of Singapore?

2. What was his intentions upon escaping to Malaya?

3. Why do you suppose he did not return to Singapore after the war?

4. Father Noonan was not as terrified as Cornelius even though he was an easy target on his little motor-bike. Was it merely Dutch courage? Elaborate.

5. What were Peng's reasons for staying on in the jungle after the war?

6. "He now uses my own methods against me?"
What are the main elements of the "methods" which Cornelius refers to?

Worksheet 10

Captain Cornelius Vandermeer had been a legend in his own time. He escaped being captured by the Japanese and later joined the resistance in the jungles of Malaya. He sacrificed his life to save his wife in a communist ambush. Write a suitable epitaph for his tomb. Some examples are given.

Here lies Sgt. James
of the 2nd Brigade
who gave his life
that others may live
in an independent
nation

Born 12.3.1919
Demised 12.2.1941

*Poorly lived
and poorly died
poorly buried
and no one cried*

Captain Cornelius Vandermeer

John Padaiyappa

Through skill and hard
work amassed a fortune
in his lifetime. A kind
and humble soul
fearful of god, man and
wife. Always ready to
help the needy. A kind
and sporting father, he
will always be
remembered by family
friends, relatives and
neighbours.

Died: 13.9.45

POPO

My beloved
puppy who
died when I
reversed the
car. Sorry.

LIM SOON HUAT

He was the founder president
of LSH conglomerate of companies
The beacon of our life and our
company.

A kind and genial friend ever ready
to help the poor.

He died after a life of 82 years
remarkable for it's integrity
and hard work.

May his soul rest in peace.

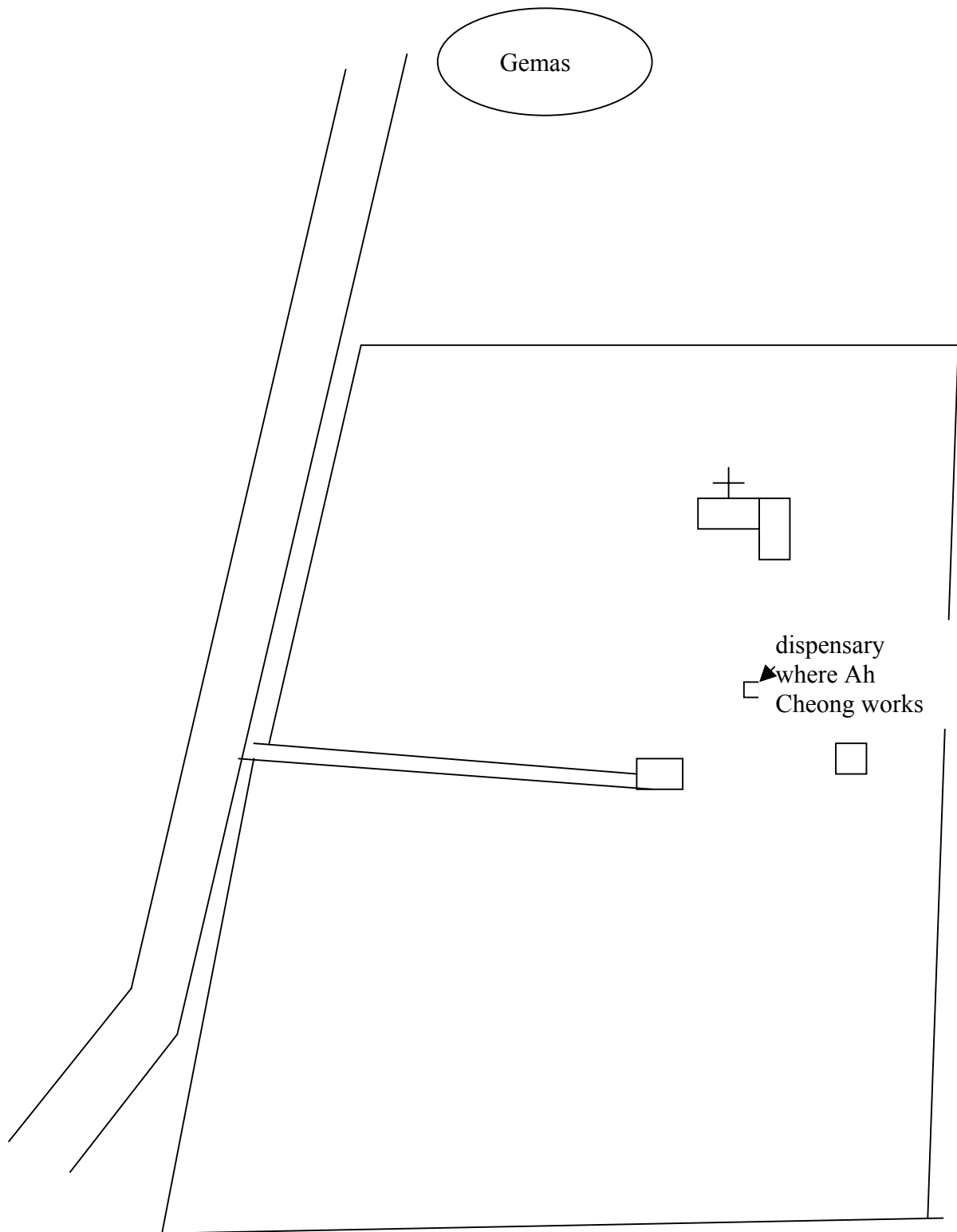
Worksheet 6

Read the following statements and answer true or false by ticking in the appropriate box.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Cornelius and his parents lived in Batavia. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Cornelius left Batavia in a Chinese junk. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. His father is British and his mother is Javanese. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. He arrived in Singapore just after the war. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. He was made captain in the volunteer corps. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Cornelius resisted being captured. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Cornelius captors were Japanese. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. He escaped by swimming across the straits of Tebrau. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. While swimming across the straits his leg was bitten by a shark. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 There were bodies of Japanese soldiers in the water. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. In the jungles of Malaya he joined the communist in fighting
the Japanese. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Peng's mother and sister were raped and murdered. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Peng was a good student for Cornelius. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Cornelius taught Peng Guerilla warfare. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. After the war Cornelius left Peng in the jungle. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Noonan runs an orphanage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Noonan always wears a white cossack. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. Father Noonan rides a large motor-bike. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. Midah is a Japanese girl whom Cornelius had rescued. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. Midah and s if live with Cornelius. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. The generator broke down the third time because the wires were cut. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22. Peng was using the same methods that he used in the war. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. Peng was suffering from an incurable illness. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24. Ah Cheong was an informer for the terrorist. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25. Cornelius always carried two hand grenades when he went out. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26. The medical supplies were coming from south. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27. For the locals ornelius was known as Kapitan only. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28. Cornelius laid an ambush for Peng. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29. Peng outsmarted the British. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30. Peng was shot in the ambush against Cornelius. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Worksheet 11

Here is a sketch of Cornelius' estate and it's surrounding. Try and identify the buildings. Then mark some interesting spots and the events that took part there. One has been done.



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