

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B Chandigarh

Subject: English Literature

Class: V

Chapter: 13 “Heidi”

Good morning students,

*Today let us read and understand “**Heidi**” written by ‘Johanna Spyri’ Chapter -13 in your English Reader.*

The story begins with a vivid description of the Swiss Alps. The natural beauty of the mountains is emphasized, with fragrant flowers, lush pastures, and bright sunshine. The charming village of Dorfli serves as a midway point on their climb up to Uncle Alp's hut, a remote location high in the mountains.

Introduction to Characters:

1. **Heidi:** A cheerful and curious five-year-old girl with black eyes, curly black hair, and sunburnt cheeks. Despite her aunt dressing her in multiple layers for convenience, Heidi is unbothered by discomfort and shows a lively, practical nature. When they stop for a break, she quickly sheds the heavy clothing and prepares herself for the journey ahead, showing her adaptability and independence.
2. **Detie (or Dete):** Heidi's aunt, who has cared for her since Heidi's parents died. Detie is practical and opportunistic, more concerned with her new job than Heidi's emotional needs. She decides it's time for Uncle Alp to take responsibility, viewing Heidi as a burden now that she has a good employment (work) opportunity.
3. **Barbie:** A friendly, plump villager who recognizes Detie and stops to talk. Barbie expresses concern over Detie's plan to leave Heidi with Uncle Alp, painting a negative picture of him as a fierce, antisocial man who terrifies the villagers.
4. **Uncle Alp (or Grandfather):** A reclusive and rough old man with wild looks, long grey beard, and bristling eyebrows. He has distanced himself from the village after his son's death and is known for his solitary life. Despite his stern exterior, the story hints at his potential for transformation through his relationship with Heidi.

The Journey Up the Mountain:

Detie and Heidi's trek up the mountain is long and challenging. Heidi, though small, keeps pace without complaining, showing her resilience. When they stop

in Dorfli, Detie's old acquaintances greet her warmly, but she avoids engaging much with them, focused on her task. Barbie, however, stops her for a conversation, during which Detie explains her decision to leave Heidi with Uncle Alp.

Barbie is shocked and warns Detie about Uncle Alp's reputation. She describes him as a withdrawn, frightening figure who has cut ties with the community and lives like a hermit. Despite these warnings, Detie is determined and brushes off Barbie's concerns.

Heidi Meets Her Grandfather:

After another hour of climbing, they reach Uncle Alp's hut, which is situated in a picturesque but exposed spot. The hut overlooks a stunning valley, symbolizing the beauty and solitude of Uncle Alp's life. He is found sitting outside, smoking his pipe.

Heidi immediately approaches her grandfather without fear, offering her hand and greeting him warmly. This moment highlights Heidi's innocence and openness, qualities that will later play a key role in softening Uncle Alp's tough exterior.

The Confrontation:

Detie wastes no time in telling Uncle Alp why she has brought Heidi to him. Her blunt and unapologetic explanation angers him, as she insists it is now his turn to care for Heidi. Uncle Alp protests, questioning what will happen when Heidi misses her aunt and starts crying. Detie dismisses his concerns, essentially leaving the responsibility to him.

Detie's attitude shows her lack of emotional connection with Heidi. She sees the child as an obligation she no longer wishes to fulfil. Uncle Alp, on the other hand, reacts with frustration and resistance, not wanting to take on the responsibility either.

Detie Leaves:

Detie quickly departs after delivering Heidi, afraid of Uncle Alp's temper. Heidi is left with her grandfather, and despite his gruff behaviour. This sets the stage for a developing relationship between Heidi and Uncle Alp. The chapter ends with the focus shifting to Heidi's potential to change the lives of those around her.