

Tender Heart High School, Sec-33B Chandigarh
Class - VI

Sub: English Literature

The Happy Prince

Good Morning Students,

Today we will understand the story of the chapter "The Happy Prince" written by Oscar Wilde which is about love and sacrifice and the terrible divide between the rich and the poor.

There was once a prince who had never experienced sorrow or unhappiness as he lived in his grand palace and so was called "The Happy Prince". But alas! one day he died. His people got his statue made, gilded with thin leaves of gold. For his eyes it had two bright sapphires and a ruby for his sword. The statue was erected on top of a tall pillar in the middle of the city of Paris.

In France, the winters were very cold so ~~the~~ every autumn the swallows flew to a warmer place. That year, one little swallow was the last to leave. It came to the town and rested right between the feet of the happy prince. As the little swallow was going to sleep a drop of water fell on its head. He saw tears falling down from the eyes of the statue.

"Why are you crying?" asked the swallow.

"Far off there is a house in a poor street. Inside is a woman, in a bed close to her lies her son who is ill but mother has no money to pay the doctor's fee. Little swallow, will you give her the red jewel from my sword? She can sell it and buy food." said the prince. So the swallow pecked out the jewel and off it flew and placed the jewel close by her. Then back it came to the prince and said that it doesn't feel cold any more. To which the prince said "that's because you did a good deed." So that night it said to the prince, "Good bye, I am off now."

Now the prince said that "I can see a young man where there is no fire. He cannot write because his hands are too cold to hold the pen and has nothing to eat. So take out blue jewel from my eye to give to him." So the swallow did as the prince asked him to do and dropped the jewel into a bunch of flowers kept on the table. The man got happy ~~man~~ and said that now he could buy some food and pay his rent. Back flew the bird and asked the prince for his leave. Now the prince showed the swallow a poor little girl who was trying to sell the ~~wet~~ matches which had fallen down and got wet. Her father,

would beat her when she gets back home. So he asked the swallow to peck out the jewel from his other eye and give her. The swallow was reluctant to do so as the prince would get blind but eventually had to take it and drop it in the little girl's hand. Happily she ran back home.

Now the swallow said that "I cannot leave you as you are blind. You can use my eyes to see around." The prince asked the swallow to take a round over the town and tell him what he saw. One day the bird told the prince about the two boys who were homeless. The prince asked the bird to peck a bit from his clothes and give to the children.

Like this the prince's statue looked lifeless and dull but on the other hand people who got help looked good. During snowtime also the bird did not leave the prince. He died at the prince's feet.

When the Mayor of the town councillors saw the statue they said that it looked very shabby. So the mayor advised to replace the statue ~~with~~ with his statue. So they put down the statue and melted it but the happy Prince's heart did not melt. So they threw it next to the body of the swallow.

That night God asked his angels to bring the most valuable things from the town. They took the broken heart of the prince and the dead swallow. God said that the little bird would always sing in the garden of heaven and the happy prince shall praise God's name for ever.

