

Sample Responses: Prejudice and Mechanical Living

The Valley School children come to the Study Centre in groups during the academic year. The following are sample responses to questions that were posed to the Middle School Students (Class V-VII) in mixed aged groups. The students had to write their responses.

What does prejudice do in relationship?

- When there is prejudice in a relationship, there is no understanding as the judgment is fixed.
- There is ignoring of the other person and not trying to know about them; thereby think wrong about them.
- There is a wall between 2 people and strained relationships.
- It destroys relationship.
- We will have less friends when we have prejudice against many people which will make us insecure. Our attitude is different in the case of having prejudice.
- If one has prejudice against one's brother, then one might not share anything with him.
- When there is prejudice, we can't make out clearly what people mean.
- It blocks one from knowing a person.
- We then don't take the time to know the other person's personality.
- Prejudice blocks a relationship like a dark window blocks the sunlight. If someone has prejudice, that relationship can't happen. The person will be too partial or too mean to the other person.
- One will be biased not to listen to the other person.
- When we have prejudice, we don't realize even if the other person has changed.
- It stops one from seeing a person newly as we don't observe the change.
- One can't be friends with the person one has a prejudice against and even if one becomes friends, one has to be careful about being cheated.
- It leaves one's friend with less trust on me.

Why do I get used to the Banyan tree? Do I notice the trees, flowers, friends, teachers changing? What is the significance of change?

- One gets used to the Banyan tree as one is watching casually. If one watches the trees, flowers, friends, teachers carefully, think and try to learn something, then one won't get used to anything.
- Since we see it everyday, I don't bother about it too much.
- I don't get used to it as I see some change in it every time. If I didn't, the it would be boring.
- I see the change in trees, flowers and friends but not in teachers. The meaning of change – and example: If I see my father after 2 years, he might have a beard, a different attitude and a different manner of speaking.
- If I am alert, I see the change.

- I notice that the trees, flowers, friends and teachers are changing.
- I don't like change- I like having a routine; so my mind becomes a routine. The significance of change is that one can learn a lot from it when one tries and watch it.
- The significance of change is knowledge.
- In trees and flowers there is change because of new leaves, flowers falling, roots breaking and changes due to rain. In a friend or a teacher, there is change because of their mood or when sometimes, the teacher gives us a free period.
- Sometimes when the change is noticeable, I notice it.
- The significance of change is the difference one finds when one watches carefully.
- I get used to the banyan tree because it perhaps doesn't have any significance to me. It melts into the background. In my friends, I might notice a haircut but not a personality change.
- I know the trees, flowers, friends and teachers and therefore don't need to watch them unless there is a huge and obvious change.
- Sometimes, I would be thinking about other things and would not notice the change in the things around me.
- It is hard to notice change when the opinion that one has about things do not change in one's head.
- I don't pay attention to the details of the banyan tree and just know that it is there. I don't notice the change in people unless I've been away from them for a long time.
- Change plays a vital role in man's life as one can change for the good or for the bad ; either way change is necessary in a man's life.
- I get used to the banyan tree as I am watching it only with my eyes.
- The significance of change is that everyone can start afresh everyday.
- Change might signify that things are forever new and no one thing is the same as the other.
- If one compares a person physically, mentally and emotionally between what he was a 3 years of age and 13 years of age, there is a lot of change.
- The significance of change – Initially a person might be shy to talk but after sometime, he might not be. In sports also, the interest keeps changing.
- We might become better comparing to what we were before the change.
- The significance of change is that it makes us look at things more clearly.
- I do notice a change in all these things but not a lot.
- Since we can't stop change, we should accept it.
- The banyan tree might have grown another root or the color might've changed.

Why do I consider everyday chores as routine? Is there a different approach to my chores?

- I try to make a different approach to my chores.
- If I am aware, nothing becomes a routine.

- Everyday chores get boring.
- We can see or take the chores differently each time so that it feels new every time. Everyone likes new things, don't they?
- No, there isn't a different approach to my chores.
- If one doesn't watch carefully, one might miss the details.
- I consider everyday chores as a routine as I am not learning anything new from them. A different approach would be to learn something from them.
- Once in a blue moon, I actually see the fun in doing the chores and feel that it is a game that I happily play.
- We could make the chores fun.
- I do my chores monotonously.
- I consider homework as a routine because I am assuming that homework is boring and that all homework is the same. A different approach is to look at every homework as a whole separate thing; the same with other chores.
- We don't want to open our eyes and watch the world intensely.
- We don't think of every day as a new day.
- I don't think that there is a different approach to my chores.
- Everyday chores are not a routine as I do everything in a different manner keeping up some similarities of course.

How do I differentiate learning from memorizing?

- When we have a test, we memorize and look at the text book that we are reading, so we are learning at the same time.
- They are not the same.
- I do not differentiate these two.
- Learning is when one has to listen very carefully ; to learn something new and memorizing is when one has learnt something and wants to keep it in the mind like a tape.
- I find learning and memorizing different because when one sees something one learns from it and one memorizes it when one is asked to.
- Learning is when one has understood the meaning.
- Learning is like staring into the sky and discovering that it is not going to rain and memorizing is like looking at the weather report to know whether it will rain or not.
- One learns because something is interesting and memorizing is boring as we say it again and again.
- Memorizing is by-hearting to pass an exam whereas learning is questioning and trying to understand things out of interest.
- There is a fine line between these 2. In the beginning of memorizing, there is learning.
- Learning is when I understand everything and appreciate it. Memorizing is when I blindly record everything that I see.
- One sees new perspectives when one learns.
- Memorizing is like being confined to the 4 walls of a room and learning happens outside the classroom where one experiments for oneself.

- Learning is when one gets a benefit whereas in memorizing, there is no learning.
- When I started playing football, I didn't know the rules but later I learnt by making mistakes.
- Learning is getting to know information about different things.
- In learning, we don't forget what we learnt for a long time whereas in memorizing, we forget whatever we memorized in weeks.
- Ex: When one memorizes a poem, it is just that and learning would be getting to know the meaning of the poem.
- In memorization, there is force and in learning, there is interest.
- Memorizing is temporary.