

You Tube



**Subscribe my
channel on
youtube. Sawab
chu 😂**

**Chapter: The Letter A
Class: 12th
Subject :General English**

**Easy, simple and comprehensive notes
made by sahil sharifdin English**



Christy Brown

Class: 12th

Subject : General English

Topic: The Letter A

Notes prepared by: sahil sharifdin English

Components of the lecture :

- 1) What is Autobiography?**
- 2) Life of Christy Brown**
- 3) Title of the chapter**
- 4) Paraphrase /main points of the chapter**
- 5) Discussion on Themes**
- 6) Glossary**
- 7) Textual Questions**
- 8) character sketches**
- 9) Note on the theme**

1) What is Autobiography?

_A self-written account of the life of oneself.

Autobiography is always subjective and everything in it can't be true. It reveals events in order and sequence.

However, a memoir is different from

Autobiography. It doesn't care for chronological order. It mostly focuses on memories, feelings and emotions.

2) Life of Christy Brown (1932-1981)

***He was suffering from paralysis and could not move any organ of his body except his left foot.**

***He could not talk, walk, eat or bathe on his own. But, still he became a poet, novelist and painter. How? Watch/read till end.**

*** Born in Ireland in 1932. Had 22 siblings. 13 lived and 9 died in infancy.**

*** Patrick and Bridget were his parents.**

*** A social worker, **katriona Delahunt** helped him to read.**

*** A writer, **Robert collis** , helped him to write books and got his first book, **My Left Foot** published in 1954 and that made paralytic christy an international celebrity.**

* A married American woman, **Beth Moore** read his book, exchanged letters with Christy, fell in love and wanted to marry him. Their relationship lasted about ten years. But, Christy fell in love with another girl **Mary Carr** and married her in 1972 . She was habitually unfaithful and had an abusive nature. She perhaps killed christy in 1981 but it was said in media that christy died with choking food.

* christy depended on alcohol.

* Books by christy :

- . **My Left Foot (1954)**
- . **Down All The days (1970)**
- . **Wild Grow the Lilies (1976)**
- . **A promising career (1982)**
- . **Come softly to my Wake (poetry)**
- . **Background Music (poetry)**
- . **Of snails and skylarks (poetry)**

*** Christy was problematic like Stephen Hawking, John Nash, Frida Kahlo, Nick vujicic and Helen Keller. He was not normal but he did something which many people can't even dream of.**

3) Title : The Letter A

_well, in English language, we have 26 Letters and the very first letter is A.

_ when we start to learn English language, we first of all learn to read and write the letter A

_ For normal people, it is easy but for christy, it was a challenge. It took him six years to learn how to write A and that too with his left foot.

_ The title of the chapter is suggestive of Christy's tough and struggling life.

4) Main points of the chapter :

*** Narrates the story of his difficult birth.**

*** why was he baptized late?**

*** List of problems his mom detected in him:**

_ Can't hold his head steady.

_ Hands always clenched.

_ Mouth locked or wide open

_ unable to sit on his own

*** Doctors' reaction:**

_ very interesting but an incurable case. He is mentally defective.

Relatives' reaction :

_ Send him to the institute. He will waste time and energy of family members at home.

*** Mom's important decision :**

_ I will prove doctors wrong. My son is physically challenged but mentally alright.

_mom gets at times discouraged also but doesn't stop loving him.

***Miracle :**

Christy once saw his siblings write something with a yellow chalk. He snatched the chalk with his left foot from them and tried to write on the floor. Later, mom helped him to write the letter A and christy did that. That was a miracle as that opened the door for him to a new world.

5) Discussion on Themes :

*** Power of faith ... Faith defeated science**

*** Every problem has a solution. So, have patience.**

*** Never give up.**

*** Mother - son love**

*** Never listen to negative forces.**

***fate is changeable**

6) Glossary :

- * **Recuperate** : **Recover to health**
- * **Baptism** : **Church bath**
- * **Grasp** : **Hold fast**
- * **Teat** : **Nipple, mouth of milk bottle**
- * **crippled** : **Damaged / Lame**
- * **convulsed** : **seized**
- * **Triumph** : **victory**
- * **vivid** : **clear**
- * **scribble** : **Write in haste**
- * **swoop** : **Dive over**
- * **primers** : **Kid books**

6) Textual Questions :

Q. No. 1 How did Christy's mother know that her son was physically impaired?

Ans: Christy's mother noticed that her son could not hold his neck steady, his hands were all the time clenched, his mouth motionless and he could not sit on his own without the support of pillows. Thus, she summed up that her son was physically impaired.

Q. No. 2 The doctors were so very sure of themselves that Mother's faith in me seemed almost an impertinence.

A) What did Christy's mother think about him?

Ans: Christy's mother thought that her son was not an imbecile as declared by the doctors. She believed that her son was only physically challenged and his mind was alright.

B) why is her faith in him being described as impertinence ?

Ans) Her faith in him is being described as impertinence because she disregarded the opinion of qualified doctors.

Q. No. 3 in spite of all that doctors and specialists told her, Christy's mother would not agree that he was an imbecile. what does this reveal about her a person?

Ans: This reveals that she was a woman of strong faith and firm convictions. In other words, she believed that it was possible to achieve impossible with faith, love and encouragement.

Q. No. 4 what did Christy's mother hope to achieve by showing him pictures of animals and flowers?

Ans: Christy's mother showed her son pictures of animals and flowers hoping that he might learn the names of the animals and the flowers. She wanted him to repeat their names or at least make signs if he had learnt them.

Q. No. 5 what was the advice offered by relatives and friends? Why was it lucky for the writer that his parents didn't heed the advice?

Ans: The relatives and friends advised Christy's parents not to take Christy seriously and send him to the institute built for such patients. But, it was lucky for the writer that his parents didn't heed the advice because that would have affected him adversely.

Q. No. 6 Christy's mother believed he was not an idiot because :

Option C _ she loved him and believed in him.

Q. No. 7 Christy feels that not many mothers would have treated him the way his mother did. How would Christy have been treated in another household?

Ans: Christy would have been treated badly in another household. He might have been admitted in some institute on the suggestion of doctors who declared him a hopeless case. Very few people are lucky enough to have loving mothers and Christy was one of them. It is actually his mother who made him a world famous celebrity with her deep love and affection.

Q. No.8 That was a momentous decision. What decision did his mother take about bringing him up? Why does Christy consider the decision a momentous one?

Ans: when all her relatives and friends insisted on sending Christy to the institute made for mentally challenged people, Christy's mother ignored them and decided to look after and educate Christy at home. She made up her mind that she would give him equal love and attention. The same decision is considered momentous by Christy because it changed his life for better and for ever.

Q. No. 9 Despite being surrounded by a loving family what were Christy's feelings as he lay on his back in the kitchen or in the garden?

Ans : Despite being surrounded by a loving family, Christy felt lonely and imprisoned as he lay on his back in the kitchen or in the garden because he wanted to run and play like his other siblings. But, he was unable to break loose from his bondage to paralysis.

Q. No. 10 while his father was busy brick laying, his mother was patiently pulling down the wall brick by brick. What wall was the mother pulling down?

Ans : Christy's mother was pulling down the invisible wall that separated Christy from his siblings and hindered him from communicating and interacting with them. At last, she demolished that wall completely and Christy started expressing himself through writing.

Q. No. 11 They now spoke of an institution.

A) who is they in the above line

Ans: The relatives and friends of Christy's parents.

B) what is the institution they are speaking of?

Ans: They are speaking of the institution made for the mentally challenged people.

C) How did Christy's mother respond to their suggestion?

Ans: Christy's mother rejected bluntly their suggestion and decided to take the matters into her own hands.

Q. No. 12 Christy's mother, father and siblings saw his forming the letter A as :

Ans: A sign of intelligence

Q. No. 13 why was christy surprised to see himself holding a chalk stick between his toes?

Ans: Christy was surprised to see himself holding a chalk stick between his toes because neither he knew what to do with it nor he knew how it got there. He had simply acted upon his impulse.

Q. No. 14 why was everyone tense in the room when they saw christy attempting to write?

Ans: Everyone in the room was tense when they saw christy attempting to write because they were waiting since years for this miracle to happen.

Q. No. 15 what do you think finally helped christy achieve the impossible?

Ans: Due attention, support and love from mother and Christy's own desire to communicate and paly with his siblings helped him to achieve the impossible.

Character sketch of Christy's mother

Christy's mother Was an angel in human form. She was kind and affectionate. She never got angry or bored with her crippled son, instead, she treated him with deep love. She was a determined woman who didn't pay attention to the discouraging words of the qualified doctors. She made her handicapped son express himself through writing. She was not foolish or a fanatic, on the contrary, she was a woman of great faith and high efficiency. She was a loving mother who didn't like to send her deformed son to any institute, instead, she gave him equal love and attention like she gave her other children. She fought all alone with the whole world for her son. In short, she was an ideal mother who had all motherly qualities and merits.

Character sketch of Christy

Christy Brown was a physically challenged person. He was suffering from cerebral palsy. He could neither speak nor mumble. He could not walk, eat, drink, change his dress, help himself in wash room or sit anywhere without any help or support. He made stiff snakelike movements unless he was asleep. His fingers twisted continually. His arms twisted backwards. He could not hold his head steady. He looked a queer and crooked little fellow. He didn't show any sign of intelligence till he was five. The doctors declared him a mentally challenged person. However, he had a loving mother who changed his fate. She taught him the art of writing. Later, he was able to write a number of books with his left foot. His Autobiography is titled MY LEFT FOOT. His character is a great source of inspiration for others. He proved that it is possible to achieve the impossible with faith and support from one's family.

Write the theme of the chapter The Letter A?

The chapter, "The Letter A" implies that faith together with hard work is stronger than everything else. Faith makes the impossible things possible. It is a great helper of a faithful and it often surprises a faithless. The mother of Christy Brown had faith that her son was mentally alright although the high qualified doctors declared him a case beyond hope and cure. She didn't heed to the opinion of doctors and gave her son proper love, care, support and attention. She, at last, proved that with the help of faith, one can achieve most difficult or apparently impossible goals by teaching her crippled son to express himself through writing. She was able to achieve through her faith something which astonished everybody including the efficient doctors. Thus the main theme of the chapter is that there is no better power than the power of faith.

**Never tell people that YOU HAVE
FEVER because then all of them
come to ask, "How DID YOU HAVE
FEVER?" and that makes you have
a headache also.**



– Sahil Sharifdin English

