



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034**

**SUBJECT:- English Class 8**

**CHAPTER: -1 The Eyes Have It (New Images)**



Dear Students

Welcome to the new academic session 2020-21!

Before you go through this e-lesson, ensure that you have thoroughly read the lesson 'The Eyes Have It' from your book - **New Images**. Mark the vocabulary words, find out their meanings and practice them.

The following lesson will help you understand the lesson and make it easier for you.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

- 'The Eyes Have It' is a short story written by the famous Indian writer of British descent, Ruskin Bond.
- It was originally published in *Contemporary Indian English Stories*.
- This story is an example of **situational irony** (detail provided on pg-2)
- The story revolves around the conversation between two people travelling together, each unaware of the similarity that they have, which is being blind.

## **II. CHARACTERS**

**The Narrator** - He is the main character in this short story who is travelling to Dehra by train. He has been described as blind. He tries to strike a conversation with a pretty girl sitting in the same compartment.

**The Girl** - She is the pretty passenger who joins the narrator in the train journey. The narrator makes many conjectures (guesses) about the girl, unaware of the fact that she is also blind. This fact is revealed to the narrator only after the girl has gone away.

**The Fellow Passenger** – He is the passenger who reveals to the narrator that the girl was blind.

## **III. CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

- The author started the story in a very simple yet mysterious way.
- The narrator was talking to the girl so confidently as he could refer to his past experiences.
- Through the narrator's character, the author highlighted the human tendency of making early and false assumptions about people.

## **IV. IRONY IN THE STORY –**

- The story is an excellent example of **Situational Irony** (Situational irony occurs when the opposite of what we expect to happen, happens. For example, bringing an umbrella outside only to find the sun shining.)
- Ironically the author employs two blind people as his main characters, yet neither knows that the other is blind.
- The narrator does not realise that the girl sitting next to him is also blind, even after listening to her parents' advice and instructions to their daughter.
- In order to hide his blindness from the girl, the narrator describes the outside view from his past memories when he could see.
- To continue the ruse (trick), he tells the girl that she has an interesting face.
- The narrator ends up fooling himself.

## **V. LEARNING FROM THE STORY**

The story teaches us a very valuable lesson that

- God has given a fair share of luck and talent to every individual. Instead of hiding our shortcomings, we must appreciate what we have and not complain about what we do not have.

## VI. SUMMARY –

The Eyes Have It is a marvellous short story written by Ruskin Bond, who has used first person narrative technique in the story.

The story is narrated by the person who himself is blind. His eyes are sensitive only to light and darkness.

While going to Dehradun by train, he comes across a girl. He starts the conversation and gradually becomes interested in her.

He tactfully hides his blindness from the girl to impress her. But the conversation doesn't last long.

The girl bids him good-bye as the train arrives at her destination. After her departure, a new male passenger comes into the compartment.

From that man the narrator learns that the girl was completely blind. The revelation shocks the narrator.

He feels that he has deceived himself. This is an ironical twist that makes the end of the story so appealing.

## VII. ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS –

*(To be attempted in the English notebook)*

1. How did the girl's parents show their concern for her? (30-40 words)
2. Justify the title of the story. (30-40 words)
3. Elucidate(explain) the narrator's attempt to keep his blindness a secret by giving suitable examples from the text. (60-80 words)
4. Comment on the end of the story. How is it ironical? (60-80 words)

**VIII. Further Reference –**

Kindly refer to the link shared below for the animated version of the story. It's an attempt to ensure better understanding of the story through visuals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKPjrJoaBC0>

Link of Textbook

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/121n8oLb5yG8Mfa7\\_Iryd29Mx63Jiev88/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/121n8oLb5yG8Mfa7_Iryd29Mx63Jiev88/view?usp=sharing)

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