

UNIT FIVE: TELEVISION

The Wretched Stone

Chris Van Allsburg, USA (1949-)

The story “The Wretched Stone” is written by an American writer, Chris Van Allsburg. This is symbolic story in which the writer is talking about the disadvantages of the television. The title “The Wretched Stone” symbolizes the television. The story tries to show the negative sides of the television i.e. it kills the creativity, makes idle, irresponsible, violent etc. The writer with an incident of voyage tries to relate the story with disadvantages of the television.

The article is about a voyage from 8th May to 12th July. The name of the ship was Rita Anne. In the beginning of the voyage, the crew members were in the good condition. They use to read the books, tell the stories, share the views to each other and were conscious, helpful, harmonious etc. On the process of voyage, they reached to an island where they saw a glowing stone that symbolizes the television, which they brought into the ship. Then they started watching it being unconscious. Once the ship was in the trouble due to the storm and the captain was expecting help from the crew members but they were inside the room locking the door and were indifference even on their own life. They were stricken by fever. They turned into an ape which means their creativity, duty, and responsibilities were forgotten. Later, the captain played a violin and was able to turn their unconscious state of mind into consciousness. At last, the captain thinks of burning the ship in order to destroy the glowing stone or television that destroyed the creativity of the crew.

Hence, this is a symbolic story because wretched stone and glowing stone meant television and the crew turned into an ape symbolically meant it destroyed creativity, potentiality, imagination and innovativeness of the people.

TV Can be a Good Parent

Ariel Gore, USA (1970-)

The article “TV Can be a Good Parent” is written by an American writer, Ariel Gore. This article is about the advantages of television and television is compared with the good parents. “Television helps children to be creative, curious, and potential and plays the role of the parents” is the central idea of the article. The television programs are very useful for the children as the programs are related to education, entertainment, discovery, invention etc. The parents get an opportunity to do the household works and part time jobs and can earn money in the time when children are busy watching television. The programs like PBS suggested that television helps the parents to bring up their children and plays the role to transform the children from house to the society developing at appropriate social emotional and cognitive skills (internal skills).

Television helps the parents to be released from children’s inquisitiveness and provides time to do extra work and earn money.

Hence, the article is about the positive effects of the television.