UNIT 2  RUKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE – A LIFE DEDICATED TO ART

Structure
2.0 Objectives
2.1 Pre-Reading
2.2 Reading Comprehension: Rukmini Devi Arundale – A Life Dedicated to Art
2.3 Vocabulary
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2.7 Speaking
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2.0 OBJECTIVES

The aim of this Unit is to develop in you the ability to:
• read a brief biography and understand its main points;
• comprehend new lexical items using cues from within the text;
• make inferences from the text;
• evaluate a situation and provide personal opinion;
• look for patterns and generalize; and
• narrate a sequence of events from personal life

2.1 PRE-READING

Activity 1
1. Why do we need to preserve our arts and culture in the modern world? Discuss your ideas with your friends.

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2. Name some institutions in our country that are devoted to the development of the performing arts. Example: Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi for fine arts.

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A little over a hundred years ago, on February 29, 1904, exactly at noon, a baby girl was born to Neelakanta Sastri and Seshammal. They named her Rukmini Devi. She would one day be known the world over as Rukmini Devi Arundale, a respected authority on dance, music and culture.

Though she lived in a house next to a Bharatanatyam dancer, she was not drawn to dance as a child. A nattuvanar (conductor of bharatanatyam) lived behind her house, and she grew up listening to music and the beat of the thattukadhi (a wooden block and stick instrument used for beats), but it did not mean anything to her. Later she wrote, ‘I am sometimes surprised that my destiny led me to be a dancer’.

Her father was an engineer with the Public Works Department. It was a transferable job and the family moved frequently. In 1906, her father was introduced to the Theosophical Society. Though Rukmini Devi’s sisters were married even before they entered their teens, he and a group of his friends took an oath under Dr. Annie Besant (who headed the Society) that they would not allow child marriage in their families.

Dr. Besant helped Rukmini Devi’s elder sister Sivakam, who was married at the tender age of 12, complete her studies at Banaras. Later, Sivakam went to London where she earned her medical degree.

Rukmini Devi’s father became a firm believer in Dr Besant’s movement. The whole family moved from Chengalpet to Chennai (then known as Madras), bought a piece of land next to the Theosophical Society in Adyar, built a house and named it Buddha Vilas.

It was only after shifting to Madras that Rukmini Devi began attending regular school. She spent most of her free time on the grounds of the Theosophical Society. Slowly, Rukmini was drawn to art, nature and animals.

Rukmini Devi was just 14 when she first met Dr George Arundale in 1917. Dr Arundale’s aunt Francesca was a leading figure in the Theosophical Society movement. He worked closely with Dr Annie Besant and was in charge of her paper, New India. What attracted Rukmini Devi to Dr Arundale was his ‘striking personality and sense of humour’. They met quite often. After a couple of years, Dr Arundale proposed to her. Rukmini Devi wrote, ‘I really cannot tell why I decided to marry Dr Arundale. Maybe there is a destiny in these matters. I did not even think that it was a revolutionary step that I was taking’.

After they decided to get married, Dr Arundale took her to meet Dr Annie Besant. Rukmini Devi’s mother was also with her. When Rukmini Devi saw Dr Besant at close quarters, she felt she was looking at a ‘maharishi’.

Though Rukmini Devi’s mother was supportive of her decision (her father had passed away by then), there were strong protests from relatives and the
community. The public protest was so bad that the couple were forced to marry in Mumbai. Dr Besant stood by them. At her instance, the governor of Madras hosted a reception for the Arundales when they returned. It amused Rukmini Devi to see all those people who opposed her marriage at the reception.

10 It was Anna Pavlova, the legendary ballet dancer, who first suggested she learn dance. Rukmini Devi was in her late twenties then. Meenakshisundaram Pillai, her guru, was quite old so he would remain seated as he taught her. Once she made up her mind to learn dance, she worked very hard. She began practising from seven in the morning till seven in the evening, with an hour’s break for lunch. Still, her guru felt she was not working hard enough. Sometimes, he would call her again for training at night.

11 Initially, conservative Madras could not accept the fact that a Brahmin girl had taken up dancing. But her astounding performances converted them.

12 She also revolutionized many things connected with dance. She made the musicians sit on the side of the stage. She designed her own costumes.

13 Her performance at the Diamond Jubilee convention of the Theosophical Society amazed Dr Arundale, who had till then thought dance was a delightful hobby his young wife had picked up. After the performance, he realised it was more of a spiritual experience like meditation. He also felt dance could be a part of Theosophical Society’s work.

14 They decided to start a dance academy. Pandit Subramanya Sastri suggested the name Kalakshetra. At Kalakshetra, Rukmini Devi wanted the best of music by the greatest of musicians. She wanted Sanskrit classics set to pure classical music and made into dance dramas. She wanted everything – the music, the dance, the story – to be pure and classical. Kalakshetra grew to become a pioneering institution; path-breaking artists from all over the country taught there.

15 Even as a child, Rukmini Devi loved animals. She was horrified to see goats being sacrificed in temples. She would say, ‘The frightened look in the eyes of the animals used to haunt me in my dreams for a long time’.

16 The person who used to jokingly say that she would one day be elected to Parliament by her friends, the animals, became a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1952. She said, ‘I should like to be the chosen representative of the tiger, the lion, the dog and the deer, the helpless and the voiceless’.

17 She was instrumental in getting the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960) passed as a Central Act. As a result of her effort, the Animal Welfare Board of India was established in 1962 as a statutory body under the PCA Act. Her landmark achievement was making sure Act 51 (G) of the Constitution of India was included under Part IV, making it the fundamental duty of every citizen to show kindness and compassion to all living beings. She also started a powerful national vegetarian society in India.

18 On February 20, 1986, Rukmini Devi was admitted to the Vijaya Hospital in Chennai. It is said she refused to use allopathic medicines or injections as she was against testing the medicines on animals.

19 On February 23, 1986, early in the morning, she breathed her last. She was 82.

(Shobha Warrier, From the Internet)
Check Your Progress 1

1. Complete the sentences given below. Select the most appropriate phrase from those given.

   i. As a young girl Rukmini
      
      a) was very interested in dance and was encouraged by her family.
      b) was very interested in dance but was not encouraged by family.
      c) was not interested in dance even though she had a dancer as a neighbour.
      d) disliked dance even though she was surrounded by dancers and artistes.

   ii. In Rukmini’s house child-marriage was a custom
       
       a) even after her father was introduced to Dr. Annie Besant and the Theosophical Society.
       b) till her father was introduced to Dr. Annie Besant and the Theosophical Society.
       c) because her father was a follower of the Theosophical Society.
       d) because her father was not a follower of the Theosophical Society.

   iii. Rukmini was attracted to art, nature and animals
        
        a) when she was a small child.
        b) when she met Dr. Arundale.
        c) when she began learning to dance.
        d) when she was at school in Chennai (Madras).

   iv. Rukmini Devi wrote, ‘I really cannot tell why I decided to marry Dr Arundale. Maybe there is a destiny in these matters. I did not even think that it was a revolutionary step that I was taking’. It was a revolutionary step because
       
       (More than one answer may be correct here.)
       
       a) she was very young to get married.
       b) she was marrying outside caste and religion.
       c) her family did not like him.
       d) she was marrying for love.

   v. ‘It amused Rukmini Devi to see all those people who opposed her marriage at the reception in Chennai (Madras)’. Why do you think they had come to the reception?
       
       a) because they realized that they had been wrong.
       b) because it was a reception of a different kind.
       c) because Dr. Besant requested them to attend.
       d) because it was a reception thrown by the governor of Madras.

   vi. Dance for Rukmini was:
       
       a) a noble and spiritual experience.
       b) just a hobby.
       c) a little more than a hobby.
       d) a good way to achieve something in life.
vii. Rukmini Devi’s institution became a pioneering institution because it:
   a) it was the first institution of its kind.
   b) it helped to preserve our culture.
   c) it was devoted to classical dance forms.
   d) it took the help of great masters of dance.

2. **Chronological Sequence:** Read the statements given below and arrange them in the correct sequence according to the passage.
   a) On February 29, 1904, Rukmini was born to Seshammal, an engineer in the public works department and his wife Ncelakanta Sastri.
   b) They moved to Chengalpet in Chennai (then called Madras) where they built a house close to the Theosophical Society.
   c) When she was fourteen, Rukmini met Dr. Arundale who was in charge of Annie Besant’s paper ‘New India’.
   d) Though she had a Bharatanatyam dancer and a Bharatanatyam conductor as neighbours she was not really attracted to dance.
   e) She began attending school regularly here and spent most of her free time in the grounds of the Theosophical Society.
   f) She married Dr. Arundale to the displeasure of most of her family members except her mother who supported her.
   g) While she was only two, her father was influenced by Dr. Annie Besant and took a vow not to allow child marriage in his family.
   h) She was inspired to learn dance from the legendary ballet dancer, Anna Pavlova.
   i) Rukmini Devi was elected to the Rajya Sabha where she espoused the cause of animal rights.
   j) She mastered dance and brought about many innovations in it.
   k) She and her husband opened a dance academy called Kalashetra where the best artistes from all over the country were invited to teach.
   l) Rukmini Devi died at the ripe old age of 82 and not before she had let everyone know that her heart was always with the poor animals that suffered as a result of our medical experiments.

3. **Rukmini Devi Arundale was a revolutionary in many ways. Describe how?**
4. Even as a child, Rukmini Devi loved animals. She was horrified to see goats being sacrificed in temples. She would say, ‘The frightened look in the eyes of the animals used to haunt me in my dreams for a long time’. What did she do to prove her love for the animals?

5. How did Dr. Annie Besant help in the uplifting the cause of women in our country in her time?

2.3 VOCABULARY

Check Your Progress 2

1. Read the passage carefully and locate the following words:
   i) A word which means the same as ‘expert’. (Paragraph 1)
   ii) A phrase, which means that one is very young and does not have much experience. (Paragraph 4)
   iii) A word that means the same as most successful or most important. (Paragraph 7)
   iv) A phrase that means ‘a position of having control over something or holding the responsibility for something’. (Paragraph 7)
   v) A word that means the opposite of ordinary and unimpressive. (Paragraph 7)
   vi) A word that means the opposite of ‘conformist’. (Paragraph 7)
   vii) Word that is opposite of ‘unsupportive’ (para 9)
   viii) Word that is similar to ‘famous and renowned’. (para 10)
   ix) Word that is similar to ‘orthodox’. (para 11)
   x) Word that is similar to ‘groundbreaking’. (para 14)
   xi) Word that is similar to ‘kindness’. (para 17)
   xii) Words that means the same as ‘responsible for’. (Paragraph 17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>legendary</th>
<th>authoritative</th>
<th>revolutionary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>leading</td>
<td>striking</td>
<td>memorable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Complete the sentences given below using appropriate words from the box.
   i) Fifty years back a father was an ......................... figure in the household whose word was law.
   ii) Subramaniam Bharati was a ......................... poet and he has written many poems expressing his desire for India’s freedom.
   iii) The Conference was attended by most of the ......................... heart surgeons of the country.
   iv) Have you seen the new advertisement? It has the famous Raja Ram Mohan in a ......................... pose.
   v) This is an article on P.C. Sorkar, the ......................... magician of our country.
   vi) Few children can resist reading the Harry Potter series because of its......................... characters.

3. Look at this sentence from the passage: ‘Kalakshetra grew to become a pioneering institution; **path-breaking artists** from all over the country taught there’.

The word ‘path-breaking’ is a compound word, which means innovative artists who have evolved new art forms.

There are other compounds that aptly describe certain things/persons.

Read the sentences below and complete them using appropriate words from those given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>soft-targeting</th>
<th>hard-hitting</th>
<th>confidence-building</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>path-breaking</td>
<td>nerve-wracking</td>
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   i) This department had done some ......................... research in the management of diabetes.
   ii) Due to the resource crunch the company had to take the ......................... ......................... decision to retrench its staff.
   iii) Driving alone down the forest road was a ......................... experience.
   iv) Nowadays we have many games and activities as part of ... exercise.
   v) The terrorists have begun ......................... women and children in their attempt to create panic amongst people.

### 2.4 GRAMMAR: NOUN CLAUSE

Read the sentences below.

1. ‘I am sometimes surprised *that my destiny led me to be a dancer*.’

2. He and a group of his friends took an oath *that they would not allow child marriage in their families*.

3. *To err* is human.

4. *That he has committed this silly mistake* is indeed surprising.

In the above sentences the part that is in *italics* is a noun clause. Noun clauses function like nouns or noun phrases. Just as nouns or noun phrases can appear in subject, object or complement positions, so can noun clauses. Noun clauses are often introduced by *that, wh- words (what, when, where, etc.), if, whether.*
Check Your Progress 3

1. Given below are clauses. Match them to make meaningful sentences. You may make more than ten sentences.
   i) She was eager that...
   ii) I’m worried that...
   iii) The father said that...
   iv) That the weather might suddenly change...
   v) It seems unlikely that...
   vi) We promised ourselves that...
   vii) We can’t even think that...
   viii) The people demanded that...

   ...was everyone’s worry.
   ...he may not be able to withstand the harsh weather.
   ...the last date for fee submission would be extended.
   ...the flights might be cancelled due to fog.
   ...she would have invested in jewellery in place of repairing the kitchen.
   ...we would never embark on a journey without confirmed tickets.
   ...we would lead an ethical life.
   ...the accounts be made public.
   ...the government will do nothing about it.
   ...the government should do something about it.
   ...was not known to anyone.

2. Read the introductory speech made by the Team Leader to the new recruits at the BPO centre. Complete it with sentences given in the box.

   ‘The Great Communications Call Centre’ welcomes all the newcomers on board. Mind you I said ‘on board’ because the organization is a ship that ................. and secondly because the organization promises that ................. while you are here on duty. I would like to mention that ................. It is also expected that ................. . It is also suggested that ................. . Then on it is smooth sailing.

   a) you will maintain confidentiality regarding the strategies and projects of the company.
   b) needs to be kept afloat
   c) no business, personal or otherwise, will be given priority over work here.
   d) your food and comfort would be looked after.
   e) you feel at home here
   f) the company expects you to abide by the rules and regulations.
   g) the company will reach new heights with your contribution.

2.5 WRITING A BIOGRAPHY

Activity 1

Read the points given below and write the biography of a family member or friend whom you admire. You would need to address these points:
1. Place and date of birth (mention any significant happening during those times like war, calamities, partition, great discoveries or achievements to create the existing environment of those days)
2. Kind of childhood spent (schooling, religious or cultural influences, conservative or modern, restrictive or fostering independence etc.)
3. Education received (Degrees, training or any other certificates)
4. Likes and dislikes or affinities (Leaning towards something)
5. Childhood ambitions (whether realized or not)
6. Kind of profession joined (whether he/she enjoyed it or not)
7. Excelling in some thing
8. The qualities that make the person endearing to you
9. Your relationship with the person over the years etc.
10. Any other point you would like to mention.

2.6 LISTENING AND SPEAKING

Activity 2
Listen to this excerpt from the book ‘Ladies Coupe’ by Anita Nair and answer the questions given below. You may listen to the audio from the CD provided with the course material.

1. Who is Appa?

2. To which part of the country does this story belong?

3. Who are the other characters in the piece?

4. What did Appa love to do on Sunday mornings?

5. Why did he like his Sunday paper?
6. Do you think he was the most important person in the family? How can you tell?

7. Did Appa make any sacrifices for the family? What sacrifice did he make? Pick out the relevant phrase.

8. If you were to narrate his Sunday morning routine to someone in about four sentences what would you say?

9. Appa has been described in three ways. Select the one that is true.
   
   a) Appa was a serious man. His shoulders stooped. His head was a bad pate covered by thinning hair. He sat in his office quietly shuffling the files and ensuring that the files in the ‘in’ tray found their way to the ‘out’ tray by the end of the week. He did not demand anything from anyone. He just wanted them to let him be.

   b) Appa was a quiet man. His shoulders were stooped, his head full of graying hair. He sat in his office quietly shuffling the files. But the files he worked upon seldom reached the ‘out’ tray even by the end of the week. Otherwise he did not demand anything from anyone. He just wanted them to let him be. He loved to read the newspaper.

   c) Appa was a quiet man. His shoulders were stooped, his head full of graying hair. He sat in his office quietly shuffling the files and ensuring that the files in the ‘in’ tray found their way to the ‘out’ tray by the end of the week. Otherwise he did not demand anything from anyone. He just wanted them to let him be. He loved to read the newspaper.

2.7 SPEAKING

Discuss with your friends or mates at the study centre a character from a book that fascinated you. You might like to use expressions like:

Of all the characters I have come across..........is the most memorable.

What I found most noteworthy was....... .

What fascinated me about him/her was...... .

What impressed me was........... .

While you go on to describe the exceptional qualities of the character, you could use linkers like: thus, so, in addition, best of all, in comparison to..., however, etc.

2.8 LET US SUM UP

In this Unit, you read a brief autobiographical sketch of Rukmani Devi Arundale, a dancer and an animal lover. We hope you answered all the questions given after
the reading passage. You learned to write a biography, speak about characters in a
book and listened to a description. In the grammar section, we helped you to
understand and practice sentences/texts using noun clause. Please attempt all the
activities/exercises and listen to the recording.

2.9 ANSWERS

Activity 1
Do it yourself

Check Your Progress 1

1. i. c) was not interested in dance even though she had a dancer as a
neighbour.

ii. b) till her father was introduced to Dr. Annie Besant and the
Theosophical Society.

iii. d) when she was at school in Chennai (Madras).

iv. b) she was marrying outside caste and religion.

d) she was marrying for love.

v. d) because it was a reception thrown by the governor of Madras

vi. a) a noble and spiritual experience.

vii. a) it was the first institution of its kind.

2. Chronological Sequence: a, d, g, b, e, c, f, h, j, k, i, l

i. a) On February 29, 1904, Rukmini was born to Seshammal, an
engineer in the public works department and his wife Neelakanta
Sastri.

ii. d) Though she had a Bharatanatyam dancer and a Bharatanatyam
conductor as neighbours she was not really attracted to dance.

iii. g) While she was only two, her father was influenced by Dr. Annie
Besant and took a vow not to allow child marriage in his family.

iv. b) They moved to Chengalpet in Chennai (then called Madras) where
they built a house close to the Theosophical Society.

v. c) She began attending school regularly here and spent most of her
free time in the grounds of the Theosophical Society.

vi. c) When she was fourteen, Rukmini met Dr. Arundale who was in
charge of Annie Besant’s paper ‘New India’.

vii f) She married Dr. Arundale to the displeasure of most of her family
members except her own mother who supported her.

viii h) She was inspired to learn dance from the legendary ballet dancer,
Anna Pavlova.

ix. j) She mastered dance and brought about many innovations in it.

x. k) She and her husband opened a dance academy called Kalakshetra
where the best artistes from all over the country were invited to

xi. i) Rukmini Devi was elected to the Rajya Sabha where she espoused
the cause of animal rights.

xii. l) Rukmini Devi died at the ripe old age of 82 and not before she had
let everyone know that her heart was always with the poor animals
that suffered as a result of our medical experiments.
3. She learnt to dance although she belonged to a Brahmin family where dance was not considered respectable. Fell in love and married the love of her life while being in a conservative society. Married outside her religion and caste. Pioneered the movement of animal rights in an age when animals were considered as creatures to be utilized for human comfort or research.

4. She was instrumental in getting the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960) passed as a Central Act. The Animal Welfare Board of India was established in 1962 as a statutory body under the PCA Act. She made sure that showing kindness and compassion to all living beings became a fundamental duty of every citizen in our Constitution. Even when she lay dying she refused to take allopathic medicines as they had been developed using experiments on animals.

5. Dr. Annie Besant helped in the uplifting the cause of women in our country in her time in following ways:
   - She ensured that girls also received education.
   - Started a movement to end child marriage.
   - Supported Rukmini in marrying the person she liked, thus symbolically announcing that women too have their freedom of choice.

Check Your Progress 2

1. i) authority  
   ii) at a tender age  
   iii) leading  
   iv) in charge of  
   v) striking  
   vi) revolutionary  
   vii) supportive  
   viii) legendary  
   ix) conservative  
   x) path breaking  
   xi) compassion  
   xii) instrumental in

2. i) Fifty years back a father was an authoritative figure in the household whose word was law.  
   ii) Subramaniam Bharati was a revolutionary poet and he has written many poems wishing India her freedom.  
   iii) The Conference was attended by most of the leading heart surgeons of the country.  
   iv) Have you seen the new advertisement? It has the famous Raja Ram Mohan in a striking pose.  
   v) This is an article on P.C. Sorkar, the legendary magician of our country.  
   vi) Few children can resist reading the Harry Potter series because of its memorable characters.

3. i) This department had done some path-breaking research in the management of diabetes.  
   ii) Due to a resource crunch, the company had to take the hard-hitting decision to retrench its staff.  
   iii) Driving alone down the forest road was a nerve-wracking experience.
iv) Nowadays we have many games and activities as part of confidence-building exercise.

v) The terrorists have begun soft-targeting women and children in their attempt to create panic amongst people.

Check Your Progress 3

1. i) She was eager that the last date for fee submission would be extended.

ii) I’m worried that the flights might be cancelled due to fog.

iii) The father said that we would never embark on a journey without confirmed tickets.

iv) That the weather might suddenly change was everyone’s worry.

v) It seems unlikely that the government will do nothing about it.

vi) We promised ourselves that we would always lead an ethical life.

vii) We can’t even think that she would have invested in jewellery in place of repairing the kitchen.

viii) The people demanded that the accounts be made public.

2. ‘The Great Communications Call Centre’ welcomes all the newcomers on board. Mind you I said ‘on board’ because the organization is a ship that b) needs to be kept afloat and secondly because the organization promises that d) your food and comfort would be looked after while you are here on duty. I would like to mention that f) the company expects you to abide by the rules and regulations. It is also expected that a) you will maintain confidentiality regarding the strategies and projects of the company. It is also suggested that c) no business, personal or otherwise, will be given priority over work here. Then on it is smooth sailing.

We are all eager that e) you feel at home here and hope that g) the company will reach new heights with your contribution.

Activity 1

Do it yourself.

Listening text: From ‘Ladies Coupe’ by Anita Nair

Appa

Appa was a quiet man with bowed shoulders and a grizzly head of graying hair. An income-tax office clerk who counted the passage of time by the number of brown files that crowded the ‘in’ tray on Monday and moved to the ‘out’ tray by Saturday. From morning to evening, he shuffled through the hours demanding little from them or anyone, except that they leave him alone for a day.

…On a Sunday, the first act of pleasure for Appa was the walk to the corner shop to buy the Hindu. At the income-tax office, by the time the newspaper reached him, it was stained with tea spills and ink blots, and tattered at the edges. A sheet or two was always missing. On a Sunday, Appa read the newspaper end to end, beginning with the Art Buchwald column on the back page and working his way to the front page, wading through miles of classified advertisements. Sometimes Akhila thought he read every word of those as well. Only when he had finished with it was anyone else allowed to even touch it.
At quarter past ten, Amma would stand at the kitchen door wiping her hands on a rag. He would glance up from the newspaper and stare at her appraisingly. When her lips parted, it was with an invitation that excluded everyone else. ‘Aren’t you hungry? You must be. You have had nothing to eat since you woke up.’

Akhila and the other children knew that they had to wait till Amma had attended to him first. If their stomachs rumbled, they were expected to stay out of hearing distance so that he didn’t hurry through his meal. Sometimes Akhila wondered if Appa would have preferred for all of them to dine together but she never found out. Amma liked it this way.

He would sit on a little wooden platform and she would lay the green plantain leaf before him. The mound of white rice glistened whiter than ever. On Sundays, Amma cooked Appa’s favourite dishes. Piping hot, fragrant with the alchemy of steam, spices and Amma’s devotion to this man who for her sake and the children’s sake lunched on rice and curd and a slice of lime pickle six days a week and never complained.

When Appa had belched to signal that he was replete, he would walk to the wooden plank that hung from thick iron chains fastened to the ceiling. He would lie on it with his legs crossed at the knees and allow the swing to lull him into a stupor where all his worries and fears had no place to roam.

From ‘Ladies Coupe’ by Anita Nair, Penguin 2001, © Anita Nair

Activity 2

1. Appa is the father.
2. To South India.
3. Akhila, her mother and her brothers/sisters.
4. He loved to read the newspaper from page to page.
5. Because it would be clean and new, unlike the crumpled and dirty newspaper he got in the office on weekdays.
6. Yes. Mother did not care whether her children were hungry. She made it a point to feed him properly before she gave them anything to eat. On Sundays she cooked all that he liked to eat.
7. …who for her sake and the children’s sake lunched on rice and curd and a slice of lime pickle six days a week and never complained.
8. After he got up, Appa went to the shop to buy the newspaper. He would return with the paper and read it from one end to the other. After he had finished reading it, he would have his lunch around mid morning. After lunch he would be on the swing suspended from the ceiling and fall asleep.
9. c) Appa was a quiet man. His shoulders were stooped, his head full of graying hair. He sat in his office quietly shuffling the files and ensuring that the files in the ‘in’ tray found their way to the ‘out’ tray by the end of the week. Otherwise he did not demand anything from anyone. He just wanted them to let him be. He loved to read the newspaper.