



PUBLIC SCHOOL DARBHANGA

SUBJECT– ENGLISH

CLASS : VIII

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Hindi Literature has this vast heritage behind it. But the form of present standard Hindi Literature in Hindi Language is of comparatively recent origin, not earlier than the first decade of the nineteenth century. It is built on the basic structure of a western Indo-Aryan dialect spoken in and around Delhi known as *Khari Boli*—an epithet originally used in a derogatory sense implying rough and crude speech.
2. Hindi has evolved as a distinct literary form of its own; out of several dialects which were used in India since centuries. The early period of Hindi literature is known as *Adikala*. The *Adikala* period was embellished by the Siddhas, the Jain poets, the *Nathapanthis* and the heroic poets. From the middle of the fourteenth century to the middle of the seventeenth century, *Bhakti kavya* dominated Hindi literature. Kabir was the outstanding poet of the *Nirguna* School which believed in an abstract God. Guru Nanak was another great poet of this school. The *Saguna* School believed in a God with attributes and this school was represented by the *Vaishnava* poets singing in praise of either Rama or Krishna.
3. The second half of the nineteenth century saw Hindi literature enter the modern period. “Hindi had to face the difficult task of cutting a new broad channel into which the waters of its many tributaries could flow and which could be perennially fed from the vast reservoir of Sanskrit. This feat was performed by Bharatendu Harishchandra and Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi”, says Krishna Kripalani.
4. Bharatendu Harishchandra was regarded as the father of modern Hindi literature. He deliberately chose the *Khari Boli* as the medium of prose and dramatic works, even as he used *Braj-bhasha* for his poetry. His writings reflected the impulses of an age in which the old and the resurgent were inseparably woven together. Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi brought a new vigour to literary activities and rejuvenated prose writing. It was an age when social, political and economic problems were taken up.
5. In the field of fiction in Hindi Literature, the name of Premchand stands out. Munshi Premchand brought contemporary realism into the Hindi novel and short story. His imaginative insight into the life of the common folk, especially in the villages, and his simple and direct delineation of that life had a great influence on many other writers of the time. The ‘Progressive’ school owed much to Premchand.

On the basis of your reading of the passage above, answer the following questions.

- a. What is *Khari Boli*?
- b. What ruled the Hindi literature before and after the 17th century?
- c. How were Harishchandra and Dwivedi considered to be the pioneers of the modern period?
- d. Who is considered an innovator in the field of Hindi fiction and why?

Write the meanings of the given words from the passage:

(1x4=4)

- a. Antonym of the word ‘complimenting’. (Para 1)
- b. Antonym of the word ‘criticize’. (Para 2)

- c. Synonym of the word 'regarded'. (Para 4)
- d. Synonym of the word 'modern / present-day'. (Para 5)

SELF- CHECK

- a. Hindi Language used in Delhi and around is of comparatively recent origin and is known as *Khari Boli*—an epithet originally used in a derogatory sense implying rough and crude speech.
- b. From the middle of the fourteenth century to the middle of the seventeenth century, *Bhakti kavya* dominated Hindi literature.
- c. Harishchandra was regarded as the father of modern Hindi literature. He deliberately chose the *Khari Boli* as the medium of prose and dramatic works, even as he used *Braj-bhasha* for his poetry. His writings reflected the impulses of an age in which the old and the resurgent were inseparably woven together. Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi brought a new vigour to literary activities and rejuvenated prose writing. It was an age when social, political and economic problems were taken up.
- d. In the field of fiction in Hindi Literature, the name of Premchand stands out. Munshi Premchand brought contemporary realism into the Hindi novel and short story. His imaginative insight into the life of the common folk, especially in the villages, and his simple and direct delineation of that life had a great influence on many other writers of the time. The 'Progressive' school owed much to Premchand.
- e. Derogatory
- f. Praise
- g. Considered
- h. contemporary