SCERT Kerala · Class 11 · English

English

ORIGINAL STUDY COMPANION
PADIKAM
CLASS 11 | COMMON TO ALL STREAMS
English Reader 2026
Kerala SCERT / prescribed NCERT core lessons
17 chapter lessons
Quick explanations, core points, exam practice and chapter-specific notation in one consistent format.
Padikam explanations are independently written. Official textbooks are used as the coverage map, chapter sequence and terminology reference.

Contents
01 Prelude: What I Have Lived For 10 The Window is Blurred
02 Fufi 11 What a Wonderful World
03 So Much Happiness 12 Cat in an Empty Apartment
04 An Angel in Disguise 13 Radha, Just Radha
05 A Draught of Kindness 14 Let's Live with Them
06 Ozymandias 15 Across the Graveyard of Ships
07 Classic Cars: Poetry on Wheels 16 The Trouble with Eggs
08 A Retrieved Reformation 17 Designing Dreams
09 Women's World
Study rhythm
Read the quick explanation, recall the core points aloud, then answer the prompts without looking back. Use the official textbook links for full prescribed readings, activities and diagrams.
Textbook and verification links
1. https://scert.kerala.gov.in/hss-2026/
2. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ipMw0or_BI5M_OPYxz4VDwo69LOTsziO/view

CHAPTER 01
Prelude: What I Have Lived For
Quick understanding
Bertrand Russell names love, knowledge and compassion for suffering as the three passions that give his life direction.
Core points Check your learning
Love relieves isolation and offers joy. Write a reflective paragraph on values that guide a life.
Knowledge reaches outward to human hearts and the universe. Analyse the three-part structure and imagery.
Compassion brings thought back to real suffering and responsibility.
Literary craft
Autobiographical reflection
Parallel structure
Extended metaphor of winds and ocean

One-line recall Love relieves isolation and offers joy.
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CHAPTER 02
Fufi
Quick understanding
Trevor Noah's bond with his dog becomes a lesson that affection does not give one person ownership over another being.
Core points Check your learning
Fufi's deafness changes how her behaviour is understood.
Discovering her visits to another boy feels like betrayal to young Trevor.
His mother reframes love as freedom rather than possession.
Narrate the turning point from Trevor's viewpoint.
Debate: love does not entitle possession.
Literary craft
Personal anecdote
Humour and cultural observation
Realisation at the close
One-line recall Fufi's deafness changes how her behaviour is understood.
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CHAPTER 03
So Much Happiness
Quick understanding
Naomi Shihab Nye presents happiness as a light, overflowing force that cannot be contained or claimed.
Core points Check your learning
Sadness gives the sufferer something definite to tend; happiness floats freely.
Ordinary imperfect things become part of joy.
The night sky and moon suggest holding and sharing without ownership.
Write a critical appreciation.
Compare happiness and sadness through the poem's images.
Literary craft
Free verse
Personification
Simile, contrast and domestic imagery
One-line recall Sadness gives the sufferer something definite to tend; happiness floats freely.
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CHAPTER 04
An Angel in Disguise
Quick understanding
After an impoverished mother dies, Joe Thompson carries her disabled child Maggie home; her presence awakens tenderness and transforms a joyless household.
Core points Check your learning
The neighbours readily place the healthy children but avoid responsibility for Maggie.
Joe's compassion begins with one practical act.
Maggie becomes the "angel" whose need restores love to the home.
Explain the title and its irony.
Trace Mrs Thompson's change in attitude.
Literary craft
Sentimental realism

Contrast
Character transformation and symbolic title
One-line recall The neighbours readily place the healthy children but avoid responsibility for Maggie.
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CHAPTER 05
A Draught of Kindness
Quick understanding
In an excerpt from The Old Curiosity Shop, Little Nell and her grandfather travel uncertainly through the countryside and receive sustaining human kindness.
Core points Check your learning
The journey is driven by debt, fear and mutual devotion. Describe the relationship between Nell and her grandfather.
Detailed rural description slows the movement and creates atmosphere. Show how setting and kindness shape the passage.
Small hospitality matters because the travellers are vulnerable.
Literary craft
Novel excerpt
Panoramic description
Pathos and social observation
One-line recall The journey is driven by debt, fear and mutual devotion.
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CHAPTER 06
Ozymandias
Quick understanding
A ruined statue in a desert exposes the temporary nature of political power and human pride.
Core points Check your learning
The ruler's boast survives only beside decay and emptiness. Explain the central irony.
Analyse the frame narrative and desert imagery.
The sculptor captured arrogance more successfully than the king preserved power.
Time and nature defeat monuments and empires.
Literary craft
Sonnet
Irony
Symbolism and visual imagery
One-line recall The ruler's boast survives only beside decay and emptiness.
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CHAPTER 07
Classic Cars: Poetry on Wheels
Quick understanding
H. L. Barber traces the slow evolution of automobiles from early steam experiments to admired classic designs.
Core points Check your learning
Technological progress comes through repeated trial and improvement. Prepare an article on responsible mobility.
A classic car combines engineering history, design and cultural value. Create a timeline of major automobile developments.
The article also connects vehicle use with road responsibility.
Literary craft

Expository article
Chronological organisation
Technical description and examples
One-line recall Technological progress comes through repeated trial and improvement.
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CHAPTER 08
A Retrieved Reformation
Quick understanding
Safe-breaker Jimmy Valentine builds a new life as Ralph Spencer, then risks exposure by using his old skill to save a child.
Core points Check your learning
Identity can change through love, responsibility and sustained choice.
The rescue proves reform more strongly than a promise could.
Detective Ben Price recognises the change and chooses mercy.
Literary craft
Short story
Suspense and reversal
Symbolism of tools and assumed name
Explain why Jimmy opens the suitcase of tools.
Justify Ben Price's final decision.
One-line recall Identity can change through love, responsibility and sustained choice.
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CHAPTER 09
Women's World
Quick understanding
An editorial celebrates India's women cricketers and examines how media can frame a sporting victory as a wider social turning point.
Core points Check your learning
The victory is placed within a history of pioneers and earlier setbacks.
Comparison with 1983 stresses possible institutional change.
The unit teaches headline, lead, caption, editorial and newspaper-layout literacy.
Literary craft
Editorial argument
Historical analogy
News vocabulary and layout
Write an editorial on equal opportunity in sport.
Design a front page and explain each structural element.
One-line recall The victory is placed within a history of pioneers and earlier setbacks.
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CHAPTER 10
The Window is Blurred
Quick understanding
Barack Obama argues that digital platforms expand knowledge and mobilisation while algorithms, disinformation and manipulation weaken shared reality.
Core points Check your learning
The internet has major democratic benefits and unintended costs.
Search and social platforms act as filtered windows, not neutral mirrors.
Write a speech on digital responsibility.
Explain the title as a metaphor.

Citizens need verification, regulation and responsible
sharing.
Literary craft
Public speech
Balanced argument
Metaphor, examples and call to action
One-line recall The internet has major democratic benefits and unintended costs.
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CHAPTER 11
What a Wonderful World
Quick understanding
The song notices skies, trees, people and human connection, choosing gratitude without denying
difficulty.
Core points Check your learning
Wonder begins in attentive observation of ordinary Prepare a song appreciation.
life.
Write a paragraph on mindful
Colour imagery joins nature and human emotion. observation.
The repeated affirmation creates a hopeful
communal voice.
Literary craft
Song lyric
Refrain
Sensory imagery and repetition
One-line recall Wonder begins in attentive observation of ordinary life.
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CHAPTER 12
Cat in an Empty Apartment
Quick understanding
A cat waits in a home altered by its owner's death and experiences absence through broken routines it
cannot fully understand.
Core points Check your learning
Grief is presented indirectly through an animal's How does the animal viewpoint deepen
expectations. grief?
Familiar rooms feel wrong because one presence is Analyse repetition and empty-space
missing. imagery.
The cat's imagined response combines anger, loyalty
and bewilderment.
Literary craft
Dramatic monologue-like viewpoint
Irony
Repetition and domestic imagery
One-line recall Grief is presented indirectly through an animal's expectations.
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CHAPTER 13
Radha, Just Radha
Quick understanding
Radha meets a world in which her friend, parents and neighbourhood no longer recognise her,
creating a disturbing crisis of identity and belonging.
Core points Check your learning
Recognition by others supports social identity, but Explain Radha's inner conflict.
Radha's inner certainty remains.

Analyse the final collective rejection by
Repeated rejection moves from confusion to nature.
existential isolation.
Darkness, sea and restless nature echo her distress.
Literary craft
Modern short story
Surreal situation
Repetition, imagery and open ending
One-line recall Recognition by others supports social identity, but Radha’s inner certainty remains.
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CHAPTER 14
Let's Live with Them
Quick understanding
Garry Kasparov reflects on losing to Deep Blue and argues that humans should collaborate with intelligent machines rather than define technology only as an enemy.
Core points Check your learning
Machines excel at scale and calculation; human Prepare an expository essay on human-
judgement supplies purpose and values. AI collaboration.
The famous defeat becomes a lesson about Explain the Everest metaphor.
adaptation.
The strongest future combines human creativity with
computational power.
Literary craft
Personal speech
Historical examples
Analogy, humour and argument
One-line recall Machines excel at scale and calculation; human judgement supplies purpose and values.
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CHAPTER 15
Across the Graveyard of Ships
Quick understanding
Commander Abhilash Tomy recounts sailing alone around the Cape of Good Hope, combining physical danger, navigation and reflective awe.
Core points Check your learning
Opposing currents and violent weather make the Write a travel essay on risk and
Cape a graveyard of ships. resilience.
Technical preparation works alongside endurance Explain how factual detail creates
and judgement. suspense.
Completing an orbit becomes both geographic fact
and personal achievement.
Literary craft
Adventure memoir
Scientific and historical detail
First-person suspense
One-line recall Opposing currents and violent weather make the Cape a graveyard of ships.
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CHAPTER 16
The Trouble with Eggs
Quick understanding
Khyrunnisa A humorously follows health advice into the practical chaos of buying, carrying and cooking fragile eggs.
Core points Check your learning

Changing nutrition claims are treated with sceptical Identify and explain three puns.
humour.
Write a humorous personal essay about
Puns and exaggeration turn a small domestic food advice.
problem into comedy.
The narrator’s appetite makes her an eager but
unreliable convert.
Literary craft
Humorous essay
Wordplay and pun
Conversational narration
One-line recall Changing nutrition claims are treated with sceptical humour.
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CHAPTER 17
Designing Dreams
Quick understanding
Oscar-winning costume designer Bhanu Athaiya explains how research, drawing and close collaboration turn clothing into character and historical world.
Core points Check your learning
Costume design serves story and character, unlike Prepare an interview profile of Bhanu
fashion’s different purpose. Athaiya.
Research, museums, travel and disciplined work Differentiate costume and fashion
sustain authenticity. design.
Recognition follows craft, but awards are not the
central motivation.
Literary craft
Interview
Professional vocabulary
Chronological reflection and process explanation
One-line recall Costume design serves story and character, unlike fashion’s different purpose.
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