5.A Roadside Stand by Robert Frost (Flamingo)

Robert Frost lived from 1874 to 1963, was a renowned American poet.

‘A Roadside Stand’ presents the lives of poor deprived people with clarity and with the deepest sympathy and humanity.

An old house has a small shed in front of it where the farmer is selling a vegetable that looks like pumpkin, and wild berries in wooden containers.

The farmer wants to earn some cash, not to buy bread, but to buy other necessities for his family.

It is the hard work of the farmers that enables the city people to prosper and thrive and earn money.

So many cars pass that way but they stop only to ask the cost of the ‘Sale products’, or they are looking for a filling in their cars.

Some ask the way, some reverse their vehicles. Nobody buys anything.

The party in power is referred to ‘greedy good doers’, only extracting advantages from the poor farmers. They do everything to make the villagers miserable.

The poet is full of compassion for the farmer with a roadside stand. He wishes to put the farmer out of pain by solving his problem; but then he realise it is not a one day matter.

Someone may offer to put the poet out of his problem, but these are temporary solutions.

If the money circulation is good, the farmer can earn a little from the city folk. He can afford to spend on a few luxuries he craves for.

At the end of the day, the farmer with a roadside stand feels unhappy, inferior and deprived. The city motorists are selfish, and thoughtless and do not understand the needs of the farmer.

Word Meaning

1.shed adhoc shop

2.sped past tense of speeding

3.pathetically sadly

4.pled past tense of plead, request,beg

5.dole to give

6.expand increase

7.beasts of prey suffering people

8.swarm hover, linger

9.pitiful kin suffering farmers

10.bought out bribed with promises of a better future

11.lurks lingers

12.requisite what is required

13.sane normal thinking person

14.out of my pain take away my worries

Phrasal meanings:

Phrase Meaning

1.dole of bread begging for bread

2.roadstand pathetically pled the stand is waiting for the customers to come

3.the cash whose flow supports the flower of cities from sinking and withering faint the village people are farmers and their produce enables the city people to earn more money for luxuries

4.trusting sorrow of what is unsaid the farmer says nothing; does not complain

5.pitiful kin are to be brought out bribed

6.benefecent beast of prey the greedy city people who gain from the suffering of the poor

7.enforcing benefits making false promises

8.requisite left of spirit has never been found the poor people have nothing to be happy about

9.to put these people at one stroke out of their pain to urgently solve their problem and make them happy

10.as I came back into the sane as I started thinking sensibly