

The Prospect of Flowers by Ruskin Bond.

What guesses the author has made about Anil's often visits to Miss Mackenzie?
OR

Why did Anil come to see her so often?

The author said that Anil came to see Miss Mackenzie so often partly because she knew about wild flowers and he really did want to become a botanist. And partly because she smelt of freshly baked bread and that was a smell his own grandmother had possessed. And partly because she was lonely and sometimes a boy of twelve can sense loneliness better than an adult. And partly because Anil was a little different from other children.

What was the condition of Miss Mackenzie when she was on her last legs

Miss Mackenzie was all alone when she was on her last legs. One night the hot water bottle burst and her bedding becomes wet. There was no sun for several days to get it dried up ^{and had to keep to her cold, uncomfortable bed.} she feels too weak to rise and look after herself. The misery of old age and loneliness cripples her life.

One night when the forceful gales of wind thrust open the window of her room, she was too weak to get up and close it and therefore all night she lays in utter coldness, as a result she dies by the morning.

In the beginning of the story, the author talks about some old houses. Explain

Ferns hills, The Oaks, Hunter's lodge, The parsonage, The Pines, Dumbasine Dumbarnie, Mackinnon's hall and Windmere are the names of some of the old houses. Most of them have fallen into decay and ruin. They are very old, of course built over a hundred years ago by the British people to save themselves from the scorching heat of the Plains. But now all those big mansions, that once reflected the glory of opulence and comfort ^(richness) now lie in abeyance. Now, no one lives there they have been deserted by their inhabitants.

Who is the main character of the story prospect of flowers? Explain

The main character of the story is Miss Mackenzie, An eighty-year-old spinster. She didn't marry, though had a few love affair in her youth. Her parents are dead long ago, her siblings who were in India are dead. In all sense she was at that age where strokes of loneliness are bound to happen (inevitable). She lived on a small monthly pension and gifts that were sent to her from New Zealand by a friend of her youth. She was living alone in a well-maintained cottage called Mulberry Lodge. To her company she had kept a black cat with two yellow eyes. She holds a good knowledge about plants, flowers, trees, birds

and insects. She maintains her garden beautifully and loves the flowers.

How does Miss Mackenzie describe the book, *Flora Himaliensis*?

Flora Himaliensis is a very valuable book published in 1892, and probably the only copy in India. Miss Mackenzie described that no other naturalist has recorded so many wild Himalayan flowers and also that there are many flowers and plants which are still unknown to the modern botanists who spend all their time with microscopes instead of in the mountains. She feels happy to give it to Anil as a present.

Who were her frequent visitors?

Miss Mackenzie had few visitors. The padre from the local church, the postman with the letters from New Zealand or her pension papers. The milkman called every second day with a litre of milk for the lady and her cat and some times the egg seller.

How did Anil and Miss Mackenzie become friends?

One day a school boy called Anil accidentally slip into her garden. Upon confronting her, he said that he was picking up some flowers as he wants to be a botanist. He also told her the names of different flowers. It was a long time since she had seen a boy taking an interest in flowers and ~~was~~ this impresses her and soon they both become good friends.

Fill in the blanks:-

She knew a great deal about plants.

She ~~saw~~ saw a school boy, plucking wild flowers.

The boy belonged to the local English-medium school.

The boy wants to be a botanist.

Andrew had been fair-haired and blue-eyed.

The postman arrived with her pension papers.

One night the hot water bottle burst.

The cat left the bed and started scratching about on the floor.

The milkman called a greeting to Miss Mackenzie, but received no answer.

Miss Mackenzie gave the book named Flore Himaliensis.

Today's visitors to the hill stations prefer to live near the markets and cinemas.

But amongst these neglected mansions stands a neat white washed cottage called Mulberry Lodge.

Miss Mackenzie was more than elderly, being well over eighty.

Miss Mackenzie lived on a small pension of forty rupees per month.

Barriers to Communication

The ability to communicate effectively plays an important role in achieving success. The objective of communication is to get desired feed back but many a times this does not happen.

Communication breaks down due to a number of factors. These can be termed as barriers of communication.

Barriers to communication can be broadly grouped under three headings.

- Physical
- Personal
- Organizational ^{structure} barriers

PHYSICAL BARRIERS:-

The physical barriers to communication include noise, time, distance etc. The physical barrier is the environmental and natural condition that acts as a barrier in communication in sending a message from sender to receiver.

Channel-noise:-

Noise hampers the flow of communication. For instance, the staff members of an institution gather for a meeting and just when the principal starts to address the meeting, the mike starts squeaking. ~~And~~ OR In a class room when the teacher is teaching and the whole class is in capt attention suddenly the bag of a student

falls down with a loud noise, diverting everyone's attention.

Time - Distance barriers

It is another physical barrier. Telecommunication has conquered it to a great extent but mechanical breakdowns, sender telephones in effective. Some times the office designs are faulty or employees have shift system of working leading to communication problems. Eg. The person from Asia will not be able to Skype a person in U.S if the time zone difference is wrong and the second person is sleeping.

PERSONAL BARRIERS:-

The Personal Barriers relate to the factors that are personal to the sender and receiver and act as a hindrance in the communication process. These factors include the life experiences, emotions, attitudes, behaviour that hinders the ability of a person to communicate.

Personal barriers are of numerous kind but the most common ones are —

- ➔ Assumptions and supposition of the communicator.
- ➔ Mindset and Attitude
- ➔ Listening skills
- ➔ Semantic barrier
- ➔ Different perception of reality

⇒ Inferences.

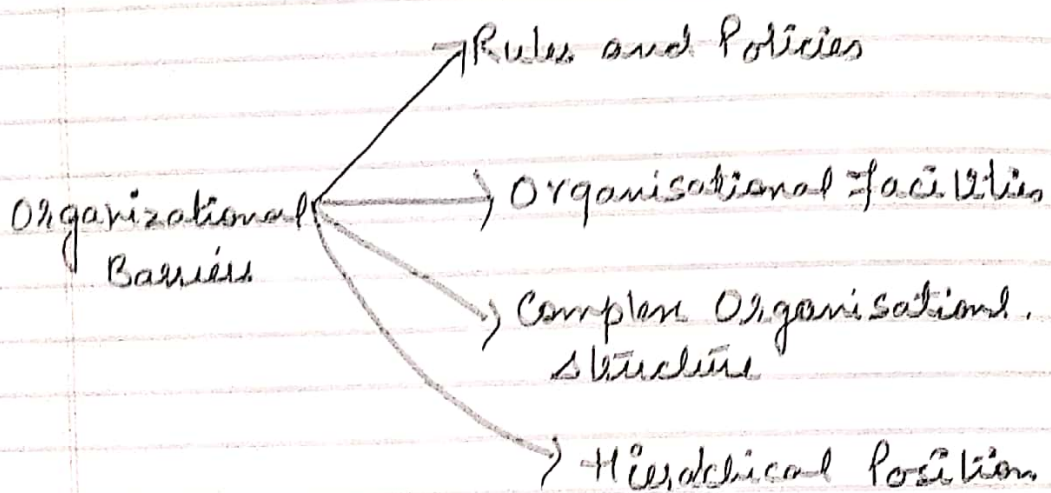
⇒ Cultural difference.

⇒ Level of the receiver.

⇒ Negative feelings.

⇒ Lack of communication skills.

Organisational structure barriers
The Organisational Barriers refer to the hindrance in flow of information among the employees that might result in a commercial failure of an Organisation.



Rules and Policies :-

Often organisations have rules with respect to what message, medium and mode of communication should be selected and due to the stringent rule the employees escape themselves from sending message. Similarly if the company policy

is that all the communication should be done in writing, then even for small message the medium used should be written. This leads to delay in transmission of the message and hence the decision making gets delayed.

Organisational Facilities:-

The organisational facilities means telephone, stationery, translator etc. which is being provided to employee to facilitate the communication. When these facilities are adequately offered to the employees then the communication is said to be timely, accurate and according to need. Whereas in absence of such facilities the communication may get adversely affected.

Complex Organizational Structure

The communication gets affected if there are a great number of management levels in the organisation. With more levels the communication gets delayed and might change before reaching the intended receiver. Thus communication is the key factor in the success of any firm and the communication is said to be effective when the employees interact with each other in such a way that it results in the overall improvement of the self as well as the organisation.

Status or Hierarchical Position in the Organisation

In every organisation the employees are divided into several categories on the basis of their levels of the organisation.

The people occupying the upper level of the hierarchy are superior to the ones occupying the lower levels, and thus the communication among them would be formal. This formal communication may often act as a barrier to the effective communication. Such as the lower level employee might be reluctant in sending a message to his superior because of a fear in his mind of sending the faulty or wrong message.