Virgenta Lane

Business English

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Independent Assignment #2 “Homeless Bird”

Vocab.

1. Dowry-

“My baap, like all fathers with a daughter to marry off, had to find a dowry for me.” (pg.1)

Actual- the money, goods, or estate that a wife brings to her husband at marriage

My def.- money for bride

1. Charpoy-

“There was only a curtain between my rope cot and the charpoy of my parents” (pg.16)

Actual- a light bedstead used in India, consisting of a web of rope or tape netting

My def.-hammock

1. Auspicious-

““That is not auspicious,””(pg.16)

Actual- promising success; propitious; opportune; favorable

My def.- in favor

1. Sullen-

“Hari had a sullen look” (pg.31)

Actual- showing irritation or ill humor by a gloomy silence or reserve

My def.-annoyed, irritated

1. Quarrel-

“…baap returned home, there was a terrible quarrel…” (pg.34)

Actual- an angry dispute or altercation; a disagreement marked by a temporary or permanent break in friendly relations

My def.- a fight

1. Sikhs-

“There were Sikhs from the Punjab…” (pg.47)

Actual- a member of a monotheistic religion, founded in the Punjab c1500 by the guru Nanak, that refuses to recognize the Hindu caste system or the Brahmanical priesthood and forbids magic, idolatry, and pilgrimages

My def.- a person of the religious belief of Sikishim

1. Coaxed-

“…a snake charmer who was old lazy, it could not be coaxed from its basket…”(pg.73)

Actual- to attempt to influence by gentle persuasion, flattery,

My def.- to persuade

1. Kohl-

“…her eyes darkened with kohl…” (pg.83)

Actual- a powder, as finely powdered antimony sulfide, used as a cosmetic to darken the eyelids, eyebrows

My def.- makeup

1. Tali-

“ A talli was brought out piled with…(pg.90)

Actual- indian dish with duck and other meat

My def.- ethnic dish

1. Impudent-

“As he turned away, he gave me a impudent wink.” (pg.116)

Actual- of, pertaining to, or characterized by impertinence or effrontery

My def.- shameless

1. Grudgingly-

“Sass grudgingly gave him the other two rupees”(pg.116)

Actual- displaying or reflecting reluctance or unwillingness

My def.- not wanting to

1. Inconspicuous-

“…,trying to make myself look inconspicuous as possible.” (pg.132)

Actual- not conspicuous, noticeable, or prominent

My def.- out there

1. Gaudy-

“…and gaudy scarves hung on the walls.” (pg.164)

Actual- brilliantly or excessively showy

My def.- cheaply showy in a tasteless way; flashy

1. Mournful-

“She looked as if some mournful tune had found its way into her head…” (pg.164)

Actual- feeling or expressing sorrow or grief; sorrowful; sad

My def.-grief

1. Hastened-

“…who hastened to return her bow.” (pg.173)

Actual- to move or act with haste; proceed with haste; hurry

My def.-to rush

Part Two:

1. “For my dowry I began to embroider a quilt, making all mu worries stiches, and all the things I would have to leave behind pictures to take with me.”

* I chose the passage because it spoke to me. Here is a girl that has nothing to remember her family by, no pictures, gifts, or letters so she makes her own way to remember them. She is pouring her whole life into that one quilt to carry with her to a whole new life.

1. The one character that made an impression on me other than the main character was Sass. She was so mean and rude to her and in the end just leave Koly alone in a big city by herself. She used her for her dowry and didn’t even let her try to even get her son. She yells at her all day and even yells at her when she tries to make Hari ( Sass’s son) feel at peace. Another reason I feel this way is that she just doesn’t show any compassion for Koly when she moves in, she just acted like she just another mouth to feed.
2. One change in character(s) would be Koly’s brothers. They would pick and make fun of her and make her feel ugly and worthless sometimes, but once they knew that she was going to get married the stopped. They notice that Koly was freaking out and didn’t want to leave so to make things easier on her (and so she wouldn’t run away) the treated her with love and care.
4. One discovery I made while reading this book is how much I love other cultures. I love learning about them and figuring out how each aspect within that culture works. There is so much going on in the world and one way to figure how to fix many wrong doing within the world is learning how other people live and act. It made me discovery that there is so much wrong and evil in the world and that sometimes there isn’t anything you can do about it till you work things out yourself.