

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI

Intermediate Section

I.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

ENGLISH CORE

(Study material prepared by Ms. Udit Mitra)

## The Enemy

- Pearl S. Buck

1. Who was **Dr. Sadao Hoki**? Where did he live?

- Dr. Sadao Hoki was a famous Japanese surgeon and scientist. At the age of 22, he was sent by his father to America to study surgery and medicine. After finishing his education, Sadao came back to Japan at the age of 30 and settled there. His house was on the Japanese coast. He was married to a Japanese woman Hana and they had two children.

2. What do you know about Sadao's father?

- Sadao's father **focused on the education** of Sadao. At the age of 22, Sadao was sent by his father to America to study surgery and medicine. After finishing his education, Sadao came back to Japan and settled there as his father was a **staunch (very loyal in believing or supporting something) Japanese**.

Father believed that America and Japan are enemies and Americans cannot be friends with the Japanese. **He had sent Sadao to America only for the sake of higher education.**

Father accepted Hana as Sadao's wife only after being sure that she was Japanese. By the time his father died, Sadao had become a famous doctor in Japan.

3. Who was **Hana**? Where did Sadao meet her?

- Hana was a Japanese woman. Sadao met her at his professor's house in America when he was studying surgery and medicine in America. She was also a medical student like Sadao. Before he fell in love with her, he made sure that Hana was Japanese. He knew that his father would not allow him to marry anyone other than a Japanese woman. Sadao married Hana and they settled in Japan

4. Why was Dr. Sadao kept in Japan and not sent abroad with the troops?

- It was the time of the Second World War. But Dr. Sadao was not sent abroad with the soldiers because of **two reasons**. He had been working on inventing a medicine that would keep the wounds entirely clean. On the other hand, the Japanese General was ill and might need an operation. Dr. Sadao was the perfect surgeon to perform that operation.

5. Who was the man on the beach? What did Sadao and Hana find out about him?

- One evening Sadao and Hana were walking on the beach behind their house. They saw that a man came up from the ocean and fell unconscious on the beach. At first Sadao thought that he was a fisherman. They went near him. They saw that he was a **white man**. On his cap it was written 'U. S. Navy'. He was wounded by a **gunshot** on the right side of his back. They understood that he was an American soldier who had been captured by the Japanese soldiers. He was a **Prisoner of War** who had running away. It was the time of the Second World War and Japan and America were enemies. Thus, the American soldier was an enemy.

6. What did Sadao and Hana do with the American soldier?

- In the Second World War, America and Japan were enemies. The American soldier was an escaped Prisoner of War. He was an enemy. Sadao and Hana were supposed to report to the police; if nothing else, it would be the easiest thing to put him back into the sea. **It would be a big risk to help the soldier in any way.**

However, the soldier was unconscious. He was wounded, with a gunshot on his right side. Blood was coming out of that wound. He needed urgent medical help to be alive. Sadao was a doctor. He could not put the soldier back into the sea. He could not leave the soldier there. He could not call the police in place of helping the soldier. Therefore, Sadao decided to take the soldier to his house and give medical treatment. Hana too supported Sadao's decision.

7. How did the servants at Sadao's house react when they came to know about the American soldier?

- All the servants were unhappy to see that Sadao and Hana had brought the soldier to their house. They thought that the American soldier was their enemy. He should be left to die. They thought that Sadao and Hana had done an unpatriotic act by giving shelter to an enemy. A servant, Yumi, went against Hana's orders and refused to wash the American soldier. The gardener was very disturbed that his master was trying to save an enemy. Finally, all the servants left Sadao's house. They felt that Sadao was betraying the country by saving an enemy. They could not be with such an unpatriotic man.

8. What happened when Sadao informed the General about the American soldier?

- Sadao felt that it was his duty to inform the General about the American soldier. However, the General reacted in an unusual manner. He was not angry that Sadao had given shelter to an American soldier. He did not take any action against Sadao. He did not order an immediate arrest of the soldier. He said that he would send **two private assassins (killers) to kill the soldier secretly.**

The General was ill. He might need an operation soon. Dr. Sadao was the best surgeon to do the operation. So, the General did not punish him. **The General gave more importance to his personal concerns and did not always act out of love for the country.**

9. How did Sadao look after the American soldier?

- After taking out the bullet from the American soldier's body, Sadao gave him treatment and care for several days. All the servants had gone away. Sadao and Hana looked after the soldier. The soldier remained in their house till he was able to walk properly. Then Sadao made arrangements to help the soldier go away.

The General had promised to send two assassins to kill the soldier. So Sadao wanted the soldier to go away. He fixed up a boat with food, water and other supplies. He told the soldier to take that boat and go to a nearby island, where the soldier could escape on a boat that came by. The soldier agreed and went away.

10. Why did the General not send the assassins to kill the American soldier? What happened when Sadao told him that the soldier had run away?

- **The General was busy in thinking about his own ill- health. It appears that he simply forgot about the soldier living in Sadao's house. For him, personal matters had become more important than national affairs.**

When Sadao told him that the soldier had gone away, the General did not punish Sadao. **The General needed to keep Sadao available for his own medical treatment.** Further, the General knew that **if people came to know how he had failed to kill or capture an American Prisoner of War, it would be a great trouble for him.** So, he told Sadao to forget the whole episode.

(See the next PDF for more questions related to the themes of the story.)