

'The enemy'

Class 12

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Summary -

Dr. Sadao – a surgeon and scientist

Dr Sadao Hoki, a Japanese surgeon and scientist, lived with his wife Hana and two children on the Japanese sea-coast. His house was located on the sea-coast where he had spent his childhood. He was greatly influenced by his father whose chief concern was Sadao's education. At the age of twenty-two, he was sent to America to study surgery and medicine. Sadao too, as an obedient son, fulfilled his father's wishes and came back a famous surgeon and scientist to serve his nation and people.

Although there was a war going on, he was not sent abroad with the troops for two reasons – he was perfecting a discovery on wounds and the

old General might need him for an operation.

Hana – a dedicated wife

With his father's consent, Dr. Sadao had a love marriage with Hana whom he met in America. They now had two children. Hana was a devoted wife and a sympathetic woman. She kept the household in order and cared for every member under its roof.

A wounded 'white enemy'

Once while the couple was enjoying the mist at dusk on their porch, they noticed some movement near the sea. A man 'flung' out of the ocean, walked few steps and then fell unconscious. He was badly injured. They discover that the white man was an escaped prisoner of war, a sailor from an American warship. He had lost lot of blood due a gun wound and a rock injury.

The couple knew that they would be termed treacherous if they did not inform the police or the army about it, which would eventually kill the man. But, they could not bring themselves to do what seemed the best course of action at that point, i.e., to throw the man back into the sea. After a lot of speculation, the doctor thought of treating the dying man on humanitarian grounds before deciding his fate.

Saving the 'white enemy'

So, the unconscious American was brought home. The couple apprised their servants of their intention of handing the man over to the police after treatment. But the servants didn't approve of it and remained skeptical of their masters' intention, yet they kept their silence. When the nanny of the Hoki children, Yumi, refused to wash the American, Hana had to do the job herself. Prompted by the doctor in him, Sadao performed a difficult operation and removed the bullet efficiently. Hana helped her husband in whatever way she could. She herself took every possible care of the American, even fed him with her own hands.

Under Hana's care and the expert medical administration of Dr. Sadao, the young American recuperated but remained tensed about his future.

Servants' rebel

The Hoki family was constantly pressurized by the servants to disclose the secret and get the American caught by the police. Their displeasure at their master's decision made them decide to leave his household. Hana bears all this gracefully.

In the due course of treating the prisoner, Sadao planned to inform the police about the whereabouts of the prisoner but somehow could not execute his plan. He leaves an unfinished

letter to the Chief of Police in his drawer.

Hana's dilemma

Hana was not able to understand why she and her husband were in a dilemma about their next step concerning the fate of the prisoner. When she saw a messenger in an official uniform at her doorstep, she got scared that one of the servants might have informed the police. But the messenger came only to inform Dr Sadao that the General was in pain and wants to see him immediately. Realising Hana's situation, Sadao decided to do something about the soldier.

Dr Sadao discloses the secret to the General

Tensed and tired of hiding the enemy, Dr. Sadao revealed the secret to the general when he was summoned to his house for medical help. Looking at his present health conditions, General realised that he might need Sadao's surgical expertise at any point of time and is selfish enough to not to let Sadao get into any trouble. He assured Sadao that he would send his personal assassins to kill the American soldier and remove his body from Sadao's house.

Dr Sadao did not reveal the secret of assassins to Hana. For two nights, he remained uneasy and could not sleep soundly. However, every morning when he woke up, he found Tom alive and this made him more uneasy.

Dr Sadao changes plan and saves the 'enemy'

After three nights of restlessness, panic and terror, Sadao decided to get rid of the stranger and the inconvenience his presence caused. He packed him off on a boat with the basic necessities like food, bottled water and two blankets to a nearby isolated island from where he was to board a Korean ship to freedom and safety. He even gave the young man his own flashlight, to be used in time of need as well as to let Dr Sadao know about his wellbeing. Thus, Tom departed secretly.

The true reward

Sadao operated the old General and when he recuperated a little after a week, he apprised him that the American soldier fled away. The General admitted to have forgotten his promise to send the assassins to the doctor's house and conveyed his apology.

One night there was no flashlight from the island, so Sadao understood that the soldier must have boarded a Korean fishing ship. Sadao wondered, though he had grown up thinking Americans to be enemies, why he couldn't kill the young soldier.

Questions and Answers-

Q1. Who was Dr Sadao? Where was his house?

Ans. Dr Sadao Hoki was an eminent Japanese surgeon and scientist. He had spent eight valuable years of his youth in America to learn all that could be learnt of surgery and medicine there. He was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean.

Dr Sadao's house was built on rocks well above a narrow beach that was outlined with bent pines. It was on a spot of the Japanese coast.

Q2. Will Dr Sadao be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy?

Ans. Dr Sadao knew that they would be arrested if they sheltered a white man in their house. The wounded man was a prisoner of war who had escaped with a bullet on his back. Since Japan was at war with America, harbouring an enemy meant being a traitor to Japan. Dr Sadao could be arrested if anyone complained against him and accused him of harbouring an enemy.

Q3. Will Hana help the wounded man and wash him herself?

Ans. The gardener and the cook were frightened that their master was going to heal the wound of a white man—an enemy. They felt that after being cured he (the white man) will take revenge on the Japanese. Yumi, the maid, was also frightened. She refused to wash the white man. Hana rebuked the maid who had refused to wash a

wounded helpless man. Then she dipped a small dean towel into the steaming hot water and washed the white man's face. She kept on washing him until his upper body was quite dean. But she dared not turn him over.

Q4. What will Dr Sadao and his wife do with the man?

Ans. Dr Sadao and his wife, Hana, had told the servants that they only wanted to bring the man to his senses so that they could turn him over as a prisoner. They knew that the best possible course under the circumstances was to put him back into the sea. However, Dr Sadao was against handing over a wounded man to the police. He dedded to carry him into his house. He operated upon him and extracted the bullet from his body. He kept the white man in his house. He and his wife looked after him and fed him till he was strong enough to walk on his legs. .

Q5. Will Dr Sadao be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy?

Ans. It was the seventh day since Dr Sadao had operated upon the young white man. Early that morning, their three servants left together. In the afternoon, a messenger came there in official uniform. He told Dr Sadao that he had to come to the palace at once as the old General was in pain again.

Hana, who had thought that the officer had come to arrest Dr Sadao, asked the messenger, "Is that all?" The baffled messenger enquired if that was not enough. She tried to cover her mistake by

expressing regret and admitted that the General's illness was enough. Dr Sadao told the General about the white man he had operated upon. Since Dr Sadao was indispensable to the General, he promised that Dr Sadao would not be arrested.

Q6. What will Dr Sadao do to get rid of the man?

Ans. Dr Sadao had told the old General that he had operated upon a white man. The General promised to send his private assassins to kill the man silently and secretly at night and remove his body. Dr Sadao left the outer partition of white man's room open. He waited anxiously for three nights. The servants had left their house. His wife Hana had to cook, clean the house and serve the wounded man. She was unaccustomed to this labour. She was anxious that they should get rid of the man.

Dr Sadao told Tom, the white man, that he was quite well then. He offered to put his boat on the shore that night. It would have food and extra clothing in it. Tom might be able to row to the little island which was not far from the coast. It had not been fortified. The water was quite deep. Nobody lived there, as it was submerged in storm. Since it was not the season of storm, he could live there till he saw a Korean fishing boat pass by. He gave the man his flashlight. He was to signal twice with his flashlight at sunset in case his food ran out. In case, he was still there and all right, he was to signal only once.

Dr Sadao gave the man Japanese clothes and covered his blond head with a black doth. In short, Dr Sadao helped the man to escape from

Japan. At the same time he also got rid of the man.

