

Class - XII
Subject - English

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"The Artist" by Shiga Naoya

Shiga Naoya was a great novelist and short-story writer active during the Taisho and Showa Periods of Japan. "The Artist" is a thought-provoking story, composed by the Japanese writer Shiga Naoya.

This story shows the old thinking of teachers and parents towards the students. The teachers and parents think that spending time except studies is only wastage of time. In this story, Seibi is a twelve years old school going student who was passionately interested in collecting gourds. He is not interested in studying and playing with the students. After class, he usually wandered about the town looking for gourds. He would sit cross-legged in the corner of the living room, working on his newly acquired fruit. He used to walk everywhere in the search of gourds but his father did not like his son's work whatever Seibeï was doing. He wanted his son to give up this unwanted work. Seibeï's father did not want to listen any complains of his son. One day Seibeï purchases an attractive gourd from an old woman and goes to school with it. He starts polishing it under his desk but Seibeï is caught red-handed by his class teacher. The teacher became very angry with Seibeï. The teacher took the gourd with him

and following Seibei his home and complains to his parents against Seibei. The parents of Seibei scolded him very badly and broke all the gourds.

At last, by force, he made him give up that work and those things. Thus we see that the teacher and parents did not care for the interest of the child. This is an injustice to children.