

UNIT 15

And Now Miguel

Joseph Krumgold (1908-1980)

Students Learning Outcomes:

On the completion of this unit, the students will be able to:

- make simple inferences using context of the text and prior knowledge.
- generate questions to understand text.
- extract salient points and develop a mind map to summarize a text.
- identify the narrator.
- write a research report.
- translate from English to Urdu.
- use direct and indirect speech.

Pre-reading:

- Have you ever wished for any task?
- How did you feel when your wishes came true?

Scene (1)

Miguel: I am Miguel Chavez. To my family, I am just a boy. But I want to be a man. The men in my family raise sheep in the mountains of New Mexico. It has been our work for hundreds of years. I, too, will be a shepherd someday. I hope and I wait. But "someday" never comes.



Narrator: *Miguel and his brother Gabriel are driving out to the new pasture. Miguel is quiet.*

Gabriel: What's up, Miguel?

Miguel: I've been thinking how easy it is for you to be Gabriel.

- Gabriel (laughing): I guess so, little brother. After all, that's who I am.
- Miguel: But it's not easy for me to be Miguel.
- Gabriel: May be not. It takes a little time. Wait a year or two, and it'll be easier.
- Miguel: Isn't there something I can do now? Like practice?
- Gabriel (shaking his head): Being Miguel it's not like playing basketball. As I say, it takes time.

Scene (2)

- Miguel: I had a wish, to take the sheep into the Sangre de Cristo Mountains along with the other men.
If they know you are ready, you will go. But if they don't, you must wait again for another year.
I must try to make them see that I am ready.
- Narrator: *The first lamb of the year is born. Before long, there are many new lambs. Miguel gets the job of painting numbers on the sheep. That way, it is easy to tell which lamb belongs to which mother in case they get separated. During a break in the work, Miguel's grandfather speaks to him.*
- Grandfather: That's the real work of a pastor, of a shepherd. To see that no sheep strays away from the flock. All must stay together.
- Miguel: Why do they go off by themselves? Why are sheep so dumb?



Grandfather
(laughing):

Miguel (confused):

Grandfather:

That's a good question! Sheep are like people.

What do you mean?

When people don't stick together, they get lost. Now let's get back to work!



Scene (3)

Miguel:

Some boys dream of becoming policemen or airplane pilots. But for me, there is only one kind of work. At night, I look at the mountains and I dream of becoming a shepherd.

Narrator:

One night, there is a storm. The next morning, more than a dozen sheep are gone. At breakfast, Miguel and his father talk.

Miguel (excited):

I can find them! I can help!

Father:

It's time for school, isn't it?

Miguel:

All I want to say.

Father

(shaking his head):

It's all right, Miguel. We'll find them. This is not a job for you.

Narrator:

Miguel runs out of the house. At school, a boy tells Miguel he saw the sheep.

Miguel:

Where did you see them? Where?

Juby:

What's the matter, Miguel? Is something wrong?

Miguel (impatiently):

Just tell me, where are the sheep?

Juby:

Give me a chance, Ok?

Narrator:

The bell rings as Juby explains where he saw the sheep. It's in the opposite direction from where

the other plan to look.

Miguel: I stood there thinking. But not for long. I knew if I came home with the missing sheep, they would have to say I'm ready. I didn't look back as I ran down the hill, away from the school.



Narrator: *Miguel searches for hours, but he can't find the sheep. He is tired, and his feet hurt. He is about to give up when he spots the sheep coming up the hill towards him.*

Scene (4)

Narrator: *A little while later, Miguel arrives home with the sheep. "Bravo!" the men shout. But Miguel's father has something to say.*



Father: I am glad that the sheep are back. Sheep are important. But school is even more important.

If you stayed away from school every time something had to be done, you'd grow up to be a burro.

Miguel: I understand, Papa.

Father (smiling): I want to thank you for what you did, though.

Narrator: *Later, Miguel tries to ask his father about going up to the mountains when school is over.*

Miguel: I can go to the mountains? Yes?

Father (firmly): No! it cannot be arranged. Not this year. (he nods toward Gabriel.) Gabriel will go. That is part of his

work. It's not yet time for you to go.

Miguel (disappointed): Yes, Papa.

Narrator: *That night, Miguel prays to San Ysidro.*

Miguel (praying): If you think it is a good idea, please arrange it so I may go up into the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Scene (5)

Narrator: *It's June. After the sheep are sheared, the flock will leave for the mountains. During the shearing, Miguel sweeps the floor.*



Miguel: It's a big job, to be the one with the broom. When the fleeces come off the sheep, they fall on the floor. And if they get dirty, the buyer is disappointed. So the floor has to be swept in the best and most careful way. My father trusts me to do a good job. May be he believes I'm becoming a man.

Narrator: *Miguel is a hard worker. The men praise him because he sweeps up so much dust. Miguel feels proud. But suddenly one day, Miguel slips. He falls into the bottom of a big sack of fleeces.*

Eli: Did anyone see Miguel?

Gabriel

(looking down in the sack): Here! He's in the sack!

Narrator: *All the men yell and laugh, except for Miguel's father.*

Father (snapping): Is this any time to start playing games, like you were a little boy? Now come on! Up!

Miguel: I was ashamed. I no longer felt like a man. If I

could have stayed at the bottom of the sack, I would have stayed there.

Scene (6)

- Narrator:* Two days later, Miguel's father has news for Miguel.
- Father (seriously): You will go with us to the mountains, Miguel.
- Miguel (puzzled): Me? Go to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains for the whole summer?
- Father: Yes.
- Miguel: I'm glad, Papa.
- Father: I'm glad too.
- Miguel: How did this happen?
- Father: Gabriel can't go. He has to go into the army to train to be a soldier. There was a letter this morning.
- Miguel: I stood there quietly. I did not know what to think. There was too much good mixed up with the bad.

Scene (7)

- Narrator:* Miguel feels terrible. He thinks it's because of his prayers that Gabriel has to go away. Finally, he had Gabriel talk together.
- Gabriel: It's dangerous to wish so hard, Miguel. Sometimes wishes come true in ways that surprise you.
- Miguel: I'm sorry.
- Gabriel: I made a wish, too. For a long time, I have wished to see other places like an ocean. Now I have my wish.



- Miguel: I think I understand.
- Gabriel: While I'm gone, Miguel, you learn everything about sheep. When I come back, you and I will be the best two pastors in all New Mexico.
- Miguel (smiling): I promise.

Scene (8)

- Miguel: The next morning, I left with the men for the mountains. And Gabriel left for the army.
- Five days later, we reached our camp, high up in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Many men named Chavez had come to this place. And now, watching the country below I, Miguel, stood there at last.

About the Author

Joseph Krumgold (1908-1980)

Joseph Krumgold was born in New Jersey. He wrote novels, children's books, and screenplays for movies. Krumgold's books tell stories about growing up and how we learn to accept and respect one another. In 1966, his book *About Miguel Chavez* was made into a movie *And Now Miguel*.



Reading and Thinking Skills

1. Answer the following questions.

- Who is the elder brother, Miguel or Gabriel?
- Why is Miguel quiet?
- What wish did Miguel have?
- What is Miguel doing when his grandfather speaks to him?
- What happens if people don't stick together?
- Why did Miguel want to find the sheep?
- Why is school more important than the sheep?
- Where did Gabriel have to go?

- ix) Why is Miguel unhappy to go to the mountains even if he had wished for?
- x) What did Gabriel wish for?

2. Mark the sentences as true or false.

- i) Miguel wanted to be a man. ☐
- ii) Miguel had a wish to join army. ☐
- iii) Miguel has been given the task to paint numbers on the sheep. ☐
- iv) More than a dozen sheep are lost due to a storm at night. ☐
- v) At school, a boy tells Gabriel he saw the sheep. ☐
- vi) Juby saw the sheep in the opposite direction from where the other planned to look. ☐
- vii) Miguel found the sheep easily after searching for few minutes. ☐
- viii) Miguel's father was not happy to see Miguel away from the school. ☐
- ix) Gabriel has to go into the army to train to be a pilot. ☐
- x) At last, Miguel left with the men for the mountains. ☐

3. Choose the correct option.

- i) The men in the Miguel's family raise:
- (a) horses (b) sheep
- (c) dogs (d) camels
- ii) Miguel wanted to be:
- (a) an army officer (b) a soldier
- (c) a shepherd (d) a police man
- iii) A boy had seen the sheep:
- (a) in the opposite direction of the school
- (b) in the opposite direction from where the others plan to look

- (c) in the school
- (d) in the pasture
- iv) Miguel's father says:
 - (a) going to mountains is more important than school
 - (b) staying at home is more important than school
 - (c) sheep are more important than school
 - (d) school is more important than sheep
- v) The men praise Miguel because:
 - (a) he sweeps up so much dust
 - (b) he cleans the house
 - (c) he goes to the mountains
 - (d) he grazes sheep in the pasture

Writing Skills

Activity

Work in groups of five to ten. Write a research report on "Country Life".

Follow these steps:

- i) Brainstorm your ideas.
- ii) Make an outline of ideas.
- iii) Get information from internet etc.
- iv) Write down your research report.
- v) Proof read it and redraft.

Grammar

Direct and Indirect Speech

Direct Speech: When we report the actual words of a speaker, we use **direct speech**.

For example:

- i) He said, "I am tired".

ii) Naeem said, "Asma studies daily".

Indirect Speech:- When we say or report what the speaker said without quoting his exact words, we use **indirect speech**.

For example:

i) He said that he was tired.

ii) Naeem said that Asma studied daily.

Changes of Tenses for indirect Speech

- Present Simple Tense **into** Past Simple
 - ❖ He said, "I write a book".
 - ❖ He said that he wrote a book.
- Present Continuous Tense **into** Past Continuous
 - ❖ He said, "He is watching a movie".
 - ❖ He said that he was watching a movie.
- Present Perfect Tense **into** Past Perfect
 - ❖ She said, "He has done his job".
 - ❖ She said that he had done his job.
- Present Perfect Continuous Tense **into** Past Perfect Continuous
 - ❖ He said, "I have been playing since 3 O'clock".
 - ❖ He said that he had been playing since 3 O'clock.
- Past Simple Tense **into** Past Perfect
 - ❖ He said to me, "You behaved well".
 - ❖ He said to me that I had behaved well.
- Past Continuous Tense **into** Past Perfect Continuous
 - ❖ They said, "We were enjoying the drama".
 - ❖ They said that they had been enjoying the drama.
- Past Perfect Tense **into** Past Perfect
 - ❖ She said, "She had consulted a doctor".
 - ❖ She said that she had consulted a doctor.

- Future Simple Tense, will **into** would
 - ❖ He said, "I will study very hard".
 - ❖ He said that he would study very hard.
- Future Continuous Tense, will be **into** would be
 - ❖ I said to him, "I will be writing to him".
 - ❖ I said to him that I would be writing to him.
- Future Perfect Tense, will have **into** would have
 - ❖ He said, "I will have completed the work".
 - ❖ He said that he would have completed the work.

Activity

Change the following direct speech into indirect speech.

- i) She said, "He goes to office daily".
- ii) She said, "I am washing my dishes".
- iii) He said, "I have written a book".
- iv) She said, "It has been raining for three days".
- v) Ibrahim said, "They went to cinema".
- vi) He said to me, "I was waiting for you".
- vii) He said, "I had started a campaign".
- viii) He said, "I will buy a mobile".
- ix) She said, "I will be singing a song".
- x) She said, "They will have achieved the target".

Translation

Activity

Translate the scene (2) of the play "And Now Miguel" into Urdu.