

Lesson from the Battle of Uhud

By the end of the unit, the students will be able to:

- Use pre-reading strategies to predict the content of a text from topic / picture, title / headings, key words and visuals etc. by using prior knowledge, asking questions and contextual clues.
- Skim text to
 - have general idea of the text.
 - infer theme/ main idea.
- Apply critical thinking to interact with text, use intensive reading strategies (while-reading) to
 - scan to answer short questions.
- Use critical thinking to respond orally and in writing to the text (post-reading) to
 - give a personal opinion and justify stance related to viewpoints/ ideas and issues in the text read.
 - relate what is read to his or her own feelings and experiences.
 - explore causes and consequences of a problem or an issue and propose various solutions.
- Write extended narrative incident that include action, spoken words, observation and feeling, having proper beginning, middle and end.
- Use various reference sources to refine vocabulary for interpersonal, Academy and workplace situation including figurative, idiomatic and technical vocabulary.
- Recognize and pronounce and represent primary and secondary stress in words.
- Use the knowledge of roots, suffixes and affixes to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Identify, analyze and construct conditional sentences.



Lesson from the Battle of Uhud

It was fury, it was a wrath, it was vengeance and above all it was the ignominy of defeat in the Battle of Badar that brought the Qureish of Mecca at the threshold of Madina to settle the score of Badar with Muslims. Abu Sufian, the commander-in-chief was leading the mighty force of three thousand seasoned warriors, seven hundred men in armour and two hundred men on horseback, accompanied by fiery band of women under the direction of Hind, thumping Tambourine in singing enthusiastic war ballads.

When the news of the marching enemy reached the beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ), he convened the meeting of his comrades to work out strategy for defence. Looking at the strength of enemy, the beloved Rasool (ﷺ) wanted to adopt defensive strategy, allowing the enemy to besiege the city of Madina. This act of beleaguering would have greatly dissipated the strength of enemy and the Muslims could have easily decimated them in phases. But the younger elements amongst Muslims, seething with intense desire to annihilate the belligerent enemy, insisted on battle in the open field away from Madina. In deference to the enthusiasm of youth, the beloved Rasool agreed to confront the enemy in open outside Madina.

When the Rasool (ﷺ) of Allah gave order for march to battlefield, seven hundred devotees placed themselves at his command. Initially the strength of Muslim army was one thousand but Abdullah Bin Ubbay, the hypocrite, withdrew his three hundred men on the pretext that his suggestions were not entertained by the holy Rasool (ﷺ).

The Muslim army positioned itself at Uhud, a barren mountain, a few miles away from Madina. To cover the rear of his army the beloved Rasool (ﷺ) posted them at the foot of mountain Uhud. Their right flank and rear were covered by the mountain, but their left flank lay in open ground and was thus exposed to a charge by enemy's cavalry. To guard against this, the beloved Nabi posted fifty archers on this flank with strict directives of never to abandon their post without his permission.

The battle started with duels, Talha, the standard-bearer of the idolaters, was the first challenger. As he stepped out of the ranks of polytheists, Hazrat Ali (رضي الله عنه) stepped out of the ranks of Muslims. Talha never stood a chance. Hazrat Ali's scimitar flashed in the morning sun and the head of the standard-bear leaped from his shoulder and rolled away on the sand. Allah-o-Akbar! chanted the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ), Allah-o-Akbar! 'Allah-o-Akbar!' echoed from the eagerly watching Muslim army. When Hazrat Ali (رضي الله عنه) returned to his line, Talha's brother

made an attempt to retrieve the banner. But Hazrat Hamza (رضي الله عنه) came out of his line and sent him to hell. The Muslims had won the first round and gave fatal blow to the morale of the enemy.

After the duels, the battle began. It appeared that the happening of events at the beginning of battle were going the same way as the Rasool (ﷺ) had imagined. The charge of Ali (رضي الله عنه), Hamza (رضي الله عنه) and Abu Dujana (رضي الله عنه) spread panic and consternation in the ranks of enemy and they began to waver. The unsteadiness and the confusion of the army of Makkah had become very much visible and the Muslims assumed that they had already won a victory. This manoeuvre was seen by the archers who had been posted by the Rasool (ﷺ) at the strategic pass. They also thought that the enemy had already been beaten, and was in retreat. They left their post and made a tactical mistake to descend into the plain below against the express orders of the Rasool (ﷺ). Their captain, Abdullah ibn Jubair, adjured them not to abandon the pass but they paid no heed and swept into the valley and started collecting Mal-e-Ghanimat. Khalid Bin al-Walid who had not yet converted to Islam noticed that the strategic pass to the left of the army of Muslims was unguarded. He immediately seized the opportunity to attack the handful of the pickets, still at the pass, with his cavalry. The pickets fought bravely but all of them including Abdullah ibn Jubair were overpowered and martyred. Khalid ibn al-Walid captured the pass and attacked the army of the Muslims from the rear.

The Muslim army was busy in gathering Mal-e-Ghanimat, utterly oblivious of everything else. Suddenly they were startled by the charge of enemy's cavalry and its rear. Abu Sufyan also noticed the manoeuvre of Khalid and the bewilderment of Muslims. He rallied his troops, returned to the scene of action and launched a frontal attack upon them. The Muslims found themselves caught in a pincer movement of the enemy, and they panicked. In a short time the tables were turned on them and victory was wrenched out of their hands.

The Rasool (ﷺ) had given the banner of Islam to Masaab ibn Umayr. He was martyred by the enemy and the banner of Islam fell on the ground. But Hazrat Ali (رضي الله عنه) seized the sacred banner and bore it aloft amidst the storm of battle. As Masaab resembled the Rasool (ﷺ) in person, a shout was put up by the enemy that Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) God forbid, was martyred. The morale of the polytheists of Makkah was beefed up by this shout but demoralized Muslim army.

The beloved Rasool (ﷺ) was fighting in the other part of the battlefield, had been wounded, and his head and holy face were bleeding. A few Muslims mainly

the Ansar were defending him. It was this little group and its battle cries that caught Ali's (رضي الله عنه) attention. He tore his way through the enemy lines and came up to his comrades-in-arms. They stood surrounding the Rasool (ﷺ), led by Abu Dujana (رضي الله عنه). They were doing their best to shield him from the weapons of the enemy. He was thrilled to see his master alive. The idolaters renewed their attacks, charged repeatedly but Hazrat Ali (رضي الله عنه) repulsed them each time. The strong defense of Hazrat Ali (رضي الله عنه) and other Sahabas, therefore, prevented the non-believers to take advantage of the victory and averted destruction. The battle that would have otherwise ended in annihilation of Muslims, ended in a draw.

The price for disregarding the commands of the holy Rasool (ﷺ) and negligence of the duty and responsibility by the band of the archers was paid by Muslims with seventy martyrs, stress, woes and grief. This incident is an invaluable lesson for the Muslims, never to disobey the holy Rasool (ﷺ) in their lives.

Glossary

Word	Meaning
adjured(v)	to urge or advise earnestly
annihilate(v)	to destroy something completely so that nothing is left
beefed up(ph.v.)	to make something stronger or more effective
beleaguering(n)	Lay siege to
belligerent(adj.)	hostile and aggressive
besiege(v)	surround (a place) with armed forces in order to capture it or force its surrender
bewilderment(n)	a feeling of being perplexed and confused
comrades-in-arms(n)	someone who has worked for the same cause or purpose as you and has shared the same difficulties and dangers
consternation(n)	a feeling of anxiety or dismay, typically at something unexpected
decimated(v)	to destroy a large part of something
dissipated(v)	becomes less or becomes less strong until it disappears or goes away

flank(n)	the right or left side of a body of people such as an army, a naval force, or a soccer team
ignominy(n)	Public shame or disgrace
manoeuvre(n)	a clever and planned action, movement or activities to gain advantage or avoid something
pickets(n)	a soldier or small group of soldiers performing a particular duty, especially one sent out to watch for the enemy
pincer movement	a movement by two separate bodies of troops converging on the enemy/ a situation involving pressure from two different sides or forces.
scimitar(n)	a short sword with a curved blade that broadens towards the point.
seething(adj.)	filled with or characterized by intense but unexpressed emotions
tambourine(n)	an instrument resembling a shallow drum with metal discs in slots around the edge, played by being shaken or hit with the hand.
threshold(n)	A point of entry

Reading Comprehension

1. What was the composition of the army of the Qureish that marched to Madina to attack the Muslims?
2. Why did the holy Rasool (ﷺ) suggest the defensive strategy in the battle of Uhud?
3. What was the opinion of youth with respect to facing the army of the Quraish?
4. Why did the holy Rasool (ﷺ) prefer the opinion of youths regarding facing the enemy in the battle of Uhud?
5. How did the course of the battle of Uhud change for a time in favour of the Quraish of Mecca?
6. What happened after the false rumour about the martyrdom of the holy Rasool (ﷺ) was spread by the Infidels?
7. What lesson does lie in the battle of Uhud for the Muslims in general?
8. What would have been the result of the battle had the archers not left their high post?
9. How would you relate the battle of Uhud to the battle of Badr?

Writing Suggestions

Narrate the whole event of the battle of Uhud giving it a proper beginning that may lead to the middle and then to its end.

Oral Communication

Ask the students to present their written work under "Writing Suggestion" in front of the class.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- A. Search the following words related to Economy in an authentic source and write the correct word in front of its meaning below.

bankrupt	investment	budget	capital	cost
Economics	consumer	fiscal	inflation	deposit
deficit	finance	credit	currency	recession
Stock				

1. a continual increase in the price of goods and services _____
2. a period of time in which there is a decrease in economic activity and many people do not have jobs _____
3. a person who buys goods and services _____
4. a science concerned with the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought _____
5. an amount (such as an amount of money) that is less than the amount that is needed _____
6. an amount of money available for spending that is based on a plan for how it will be spent _____
7. money that a bank or business will allow a person to use and then pay back in the future _____
8. money, property, etc., that is used to start or operate a business _____
9. of or relating to money and especially to the money a government, business, or organization earns, spends, and owes _____
10. the act of using money to earn more money: the act of investing money _____
11. the money that a country uses: a specific kind of money _____

12. the price of something: the amount of money that is needed to pay for or buy something _____
13. the supply of goods available for sale in a store _____
14. the way in which money is used and handled _____
15. to put (money) in a bank account _____
16. unable to pay debts _____

B. The syllable of the words written in capital letters is 'stressed' while that with small letters is 'unstressed'. Practically pronounce these words with stressed and unstressed sounds.

cruSADE, arCADE, aGREE, guaranTEE, sightSEER, puppeTEER, SiamESE, JapanESE, chEESE, cassETTE, CorvETTE, towelETTE, unIQUE, physIQUE, baLOON, afterNOON, carTOON, iCONic, GRAPHic, hyperTENSion, teleVISION, nuTRition, reveLation, deMOcracy, geOGRAPHy, ALLergy, NAUtical, CLARity, CRItical, SEAfood (sea + food), ICEland (ice + land), TOOTHpaste (tooth + paste), FOOTball (foot + ball), BASKetball (basket + ball), ten-METER, rock-SOLID, fifteen-Minute, old-FASHioned, AIRplane mechanic, PROject manager, BOARD member, North DAKOTA, Mr. SMITH, Apple INCORPORATED, mySELF, themSELVES, ourSELVES, TEN, FIFTy, ONE-hundred

C. Add the correct prefix to the word to complete each sentence.

- I wanted to ease my stomach _____ comfort, so I drank some ginger root tea.
- Moatasim looked funny in his _____ matched shirt and pants.
- Penelope felt _____ glamorous at the party because she was the only one not wearing a dress.
- My mother said those _____ aging creams do not work, so I should not waste my money on them.
- The child's _____ standard performance on the test alarmed his parents.
- When my sister first saw the meteor, she thought it was a _____ natural phenomenon.
- Even though she got an excellent job offer, Ayehsa did not want to _____ locate to a different country.
- With a small class size, the students get to _____ act with the teacher more frequently.
- I slipped on the ice because I did not heed the _____ cautions about watching my step.
- A _____ combatant is another word for civilian

C. A conditional sentence is a sentence that gives a condition (e.g., *If it rains*) and the outcome of the condition occurring (e.g., *the game will be cancelled*).

There are four types of conditional sentences:

Type	Function	Example
zero conditional	Expresses something as a fact	If you sleep, you dream.
first conditional	States the result of a possible future event occurring	If you get some sleep, you will feel better.
second conditional	States the result of an unlikely event occurring or an untruth being true	If you became an insomniac, you would understand. (unlikely event occurring) If you were an insomniac, you would understand. (untruth being true)
third conditional	States how the situation would be different with a different past	If you had slept last night, you would have beaten your record.

Activity: Match the clauses of zero conditional sentence in the given columns

A	B
1. If I am late for class,	he is very tired the next morning.
2. When he stays up very late,	he listens to music.
3. People get hungry	I always look left and right.
4. If you study hard,	I take a taxi to work.
5. When she watches a movie,	I watch a funny movie.
6. When I cross the street,	if I don't have my glasses.
7. I can't do my homework,	if they don't eat.
8. He always smiles	if you add some sugar.
9. If I miss the bus,	if you want to lose weight.
10. When you make lots of noise,	my teacher gets angry.
11. Tea tastes sweet	she likes to eat popcorn.
12. You should eat less	the librarian gets angry.
13. I always take my umbrella	when he is happy.
14. When I'm sad,	when it rains.
15. When he cleans the house,	you get good grades in school.