Class 9 English Kaveri – Chapter 7

Carrier of Words & Words

SUMMARY • CBSE 2026–27

Part A – Summary of Carrier of Words

The prose “Carrier of Words” focuses on Khetaram, a Gramin Dak Sewak (GDS) who works as the sole postman of Somarad Branch Post Office in a remote part of Rajasthan. He serves as a link between the people of the region and their families who live far away. The chapter begins by reminding readers that, although communication is now often only a click away, postal workers still serve communities in remote parts of India.

Khetaram’s Difficult Journey

Khetaram works in the harsh Thar desert. His route extends beyond the last railhead, telephone connection and usable road. The soft sand makes travel difficult, and he often walks across sand beds and dunes carrying the mailbag. His regulated load cannot exceed 28 kilograms, yet the physical effort remains demanding. During summer, the sand becomes extremely hot and temperatures can become severe. Sometimes the heat forces him to postpone deliveries until after sundown. His turban and uniform provide some protection from scorching winds and sandstorms.

The Importance of the GDS

The chapter explains that Gramin Dak Sewaks serve remote areas that may be inaccessible except on foot. After independence, the purpose of India Post expanded beyond the earlier British system of relaying company dak between administrative centres. India Post aimed to bring the entire population within the mailing network. GDS workers also help the postal system reach rural depositors who entrust their savings to post offices.

Why the Job Matters to Khetaram

Khetaram’s job is important for his family’s survival. He explains that famine is a way of life in his region and that even a good agricultural year may provide only one crop of bajra, which cannot feed his family of five. Without his job, his family would struggle to survive. Money orders sent by relatives are also important for families living in the arid region. His appointment therefore gave him a “new lease of life” and an assured income.

Trust and Human Connection

Khetaram is trusted by the villagers. People feel comfortable asking him to read their letters and write replies because many depend on him not only to carry mail but also to help them understand and respond to it. He receives small gestures of hospitality, such as tea from the BSF camp and jaggery when he brings news of births or weddings.

Carrying News of Death

Khetaram dreads delivering letters that contain news of death. The text explains that an envelope with its right corner torn off signifies such a message. He does not carry this “Ashubh Samachar” into the house. Instead, he stands outside, reads the letter twice and then tears it into pieces because he believes that bad news should be destroyed.

Khetaram’s Future and the Closing Tribute

Khetaram is waiting for phone lines to reach nearer to his area. He hopes to become a Gramin Sanchar Sewak, carrying a mobile phone as well as post from home to home. His words “Main tayyar hoon” show his readiness to continue serving. The prose ends by recognising people like Khetaram as an important part of the social fabric and as a great support to communities.

Part B – Summary of the Poem Words

The poem “Words” by Charles Swain reflects on the value and limitations of words. The poet suggests that words do not always satisfy what the heart wants to express. Words may disappear like summer birds and leave “empty air” behind. The heart is compared to a pilgrim, and words are compared to weeds, suggesting that words can sometimes be of little worth when they fail to meet a genuine emotional need.

Sincere Words vs. Many Words

The poet argues that a few words that are sincerely meant can bring deeper joy than a large number of words that merely reach the head without touching the heart. A voice that brings cheer to a lonely home may use very few words, yet those words can be precious because of their emotional value.

The Final Comparison

In the final part, the poet continues to question the value of empty words. He imagines that if words could truly satisfy the chest, the world might hold a feast. Instead, words often satisfy the least. He compares impressive but unproductive words to plants that make a colourful display but cannot grow fruit. The poem therefore contrasts appearance and quantity with sincerity and meaningful communication.

Central Idea

The central idea of “Words” is that meaningful communication is not measured by the number of words spoken. Sincere, carefully chosen words can have greater emotional value than many superficial words. The poem also highlights loneliness, emotional needs and the difference between words that merely sound impressive and words that genuinely touch the heart.

Poetic Features

• Simile: words are compared to summer birds.

• Metaphor: the heart is presented as a pilgrim; words are compared to weeds and plants.

• Hyperbole: the idea of the world holding a feast if words could satisfy the chest.

• Repetition: repeated references to “words” reinforce the poem’s central concern.

• Rhyme and rhythm: the poem has a lyrical quality, and the textbook asks students to identify rhyming sets, rhyme scheme and stressed syllables.

Quick Revision

• Prose: Carrier of Words

• Main person: Khetaram, a Gramin Dak Sewak

• Main focus: postal service, communication, trust and life in remote regions

• Poem: Words by Charles Swain

• Poem focus: sincere words versus empty or excessive words

• Grammar: present perfect tense; active and passive voice

• Writing: condolence message and essay on a quotation

Source note: This summary is based on the uploaded Kaveri Chapter 7 textbook, including the prose, poem, language activities and writing sections. It is a condensed study resource and does not replace the textbook.