

GLIMPSES OF INDIA

Class 10 CBSE NCERT English (First Flight) — Complete Revision & Study Guide

Subject: English Language & Literature (Code 184)

Class: Class 10 CBSE

Textbook: First Flight (Prose)

Parts Covered: Part I, Part II & Part III

Chapter Overview & Introduction

'Glimpses of India' is a prose chapter divided into three distinct narratives that showcase the rich cultural heritage, traditions, natural beauty, and historical legacy of different regions of India.

- **Part I: A Baker from Goa** by *Lucio Rodrigues* — Explores Goan culture and the enduring influence of Portuguese traditions through the life and role of traditional village bakers (**pader**).
- **Part II: Coorg** by *Lokesh Abrol* — Takes us to the smallest district of Karnataka, known for its scenic beauty, coffee plantations, brave martial race (Kodavus), and unique customs.
- **Part III: Tea from Assam** by *Arup Kumar Datta* — Highlights the sprawling tea gardens of Assam through a dialogue between two young friends, weaving in legends, history, and scientific facts about tea.

PART I: A BAKER FROM GOA — BY LUCIO RODRIGUES

1. Theme & Cultural Background

This lesson is a pen-portrait of a traditional Goan village baker who still has an important place in his society. Goa was ruled by the **Portuguese** for a very long time. Although the Portuguese left years ago, their love for traditional **loaves of bread** and the art of baking remains deeply embedded in Goan culture.

2. Key Concepts & Detailed Explanation

- **Nostalgic Recollection:** Elders in Goa nostalgically remember the "good old Portuguese days" and their famous loaves of bread. Though the old eaters of bread might have vanished, the **makers (bakers)**, furnaces, and traditional age-old family recipes still exist.
- **The Baker's Arrival:** The baker, traditionally called **Pader**, used to arrive twice a day — once in the morning during his selling round, and again in the evening after emptying his huge basket.
- **Distinctive Sound:** The baker made his entry with the musical '**jhang, jhang**' sound produced by a specially made bamboo staff. One hand supported the basket on his head while the other banged the bamboo on the ground.
- **Children's Delight:** Children were woken up by the bamboo thud. They didn't run to wash their teeth or face, but ran straight to buy **bread-bangles (bolinhas / bangles)** or sweet bread.
- **Traditional Attire:**
 - *Portuguese Days:* Bakers wore a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees, known as the **Kabai**.
 - *Author's Childhood Days:* Bakers wore a shirt and trousers shorter than full-length pants but longer than half pants (hence the modern saying: "Anyone who wears a half-pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a pader!").
- **Economic & Social Status:** Baking was a highly profitable profession in the old days. A baker's family and servants never starved; they always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique (**jackfruit-like appearance**) was open proof of their prosperity.

3. Cultural Significance of Bread in Goan Festivities

Occasion / Event	Type of Bread / Special Item	Cultural Importance
Marriages & Social Gatherings	Sweet bread known as Bol	Marriage gifts are completely meaningless without 'bol'.
Daughter's Engagement	Sandwiches	The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches for guests.
Christmas & Other Festivals	Cakes and Bolinhas	An absolute must for every family during festive celebrations.

4. Important Vocabulary (Part I)

Word	Meaning	Contextual Use
Nostalgic	Thinking fondly of the past	Elders are nostalgic about Portuguese bread.
Pader	Traditional Goan village baker	The baker is known as pader in Goa.
Kabai	Single-piece long dress reaching knees	Traditional dress of Portuguese bakers.
Plump Physique	Pleasantly fat / chubby body	Sign of financial prosperity for bakers.

Cause-and-Effect Relationship

Cause: Portuguese rule introduced European bread-making culture to Goa.
Effect: Even after the exit of Portuguese rulers, baking became an integral part of Goan socio-cultural identity and economic livelihood.

Exam Tip & Common Mistakes

Common Mistake: Confusing 'Bol' with 'Bolinhas'. **Bol** is sweet bread essential for wedding gifts, while **Bolinhas** are sweet coconut/semolina cookies served at Christmas.
Frequently Asked Question: Describe the baker's attire during Portuguese times vs. the author's childhood.

Memory Trick: P-A-D-E-R

Portuguese legacy | Attire (Kabai / Half-pants) | Daily bread bangles for kids | Essential for marriage (Bol) | Rich/Prosperous (Jackfruit physique)

Key Takeaways — Part I

- Baking in Goa is a living heritage from the Portuguese era.
- Bakers were friends, companions, and guides to children.
- No Goan celebration is complete without traditional bread.

1. Introduction & Location

Coorg (also known as **Kodagu**) is the smallest district of Karnataka, situated halfway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore. Described as a "piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of god," it is famous for its evergreen rainforests, spices, coffee plantations, and fiercely independent people.

2. Key Features & Geographical Facts

- **Best Time to Visit:** The season of joy commences from **September to March**. During this time, the weather is perfect with occasional light showers, and the air breathes invigorating coffee fragrance.
- **Rainforest Cover:** **30 percent** of Coorg district is covered with evergreen rainforests. During monsoon, it rains heavily so visitors stay away.
- **River Kaveri:** Originates from the hills and forests of Coorg. It is home to **Mahseer** (a large freshwater fish), kingfishers, squirrels, and langurs.

3. Descent & Traditions of Coorgi People (Kodavus)

The martial race of Coorg is fiercely independent. Two popular theories explain their origin:

Theory of Origin	Historical Narrative & Evidence
Greek Descent	A part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled here when return became impractical. They married among locals, and their culture is reflected in martial traditions, marriages, and religious rites.
Arab Descent	Supported by the traditional coat worn by Kodavus called Kuppia . It is a long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt, resembling the Kuffia worn by Arabs and Kurds.

4. Valor, Hospitality, and Wildlife

- **Hospitable & Brave:** Coorgi homes have a rich tradition of hospitality. They love recounting tales of valor related to their sons and fathers.
- **The Coorg Regiment:** One of the most decorated regiments in the Indian Army. The first Chief of the Indian Army, **General Cariappa**, was a Coorgi.
- **Special Privilege:** Kodavus are the **only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a license**.
- **Flora, Fauna & Adventure Sports:**
 - *Wildlife:* Macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs, slender loris, and wild elephants.
 - *Adventure Activities:* River rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing, mountain biking, and trekking.
 - *Key Landmarks:* Panoramic view from **Brahmagiri hills**, **Nisargadhama island** (64-acre natural island reached via rope bridge), and India's largest Tibetan Buddhist settlement at **Bylakuppe** (monks in red, ochre, and yellow robes).

Important Terminology

- **Kodavus:** Local residents of Coorg.
- **Kuppia:** Long black coat with an embroidered belt worn by Kodavus.
- **Mahseer:** A large freshwater fish abundant in the River Kaveri.
- **Bylakuppe:** Nearby settlement of Tibetan Buddhist monks.

Exam Tip for Board Exams

High-Yield Question: Explain the two theories regarding the origin of the people of Coorg. (Make sure to mention Alexander's army for Greek origin and the similarity between *Kuppia* and *Kuffia* for Arab origin).

Key Takeaways — Part II

- Coorg is a land of coffee, spices, rainforests, and brave warriors.
- Kodavus have unique cultural traditions separate from mainstream Hindu culture.
- General Cariappa, India's first Army Chief, hailed from Coorg.

PART III: TEA FROM ASSAM — BY ARUP KUMAR DATTA

1. Setting & Characters

This lesson revolves around two classmates studying in Delhi: **Rajvir** and **Pranjol**. Pranjol belongs to Assam, where his father is the manager of a tea garden named **Dhekiabari**. Pranjol invites Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation.

2. Train Journey & Description of Scenery

As the train moves through Assam, Rajvir is mesmerized by the vast greenery outside. Initial soft green paddy fields give way to magnificent **tea bushes** stretching as far as the eye can see. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, neat rows of tea bushes are pruned to the same height, with doll-like tea pluckers carrying bamboo baskets on their backs.

3. Legends Concerning the Origin of Tea

Legend	Story Details & Key Facts
Chinese Legend	A Chinese emperor always boiled water before drinking. One day, a few leaves from twigs burning under the pot fell into the water, giving it a delicious flavor. These were said to be tea leaves.
Indian Legend (Bodhidharma)	An ancient Buddhist ascetic, Bodhidharma , cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids. The leaves of these plants, when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep.

4. Historical & Scientific Facts About Tea

- **Origin:** Tea was first drunk in China as far back as **2700 BC**. Words like '*chai*' and '*chini*' are of Chinese origin.
- **Arrival in Europe:** Tea came to Europe in the **16th century** and was initially drunk more as a **medicine** than as a beverage.
- **Sprouting Season:** Rajvir displays vast knowledge when visiting **Dhekiabari Tea Estate**. He mentions that the second flush or sprouting period lasts from **May to July**, which yields the best quality tea. Pranjol's father is deeply impressed by Rajvir's homework and research.

Memory Tip: Historical Timeline

- **2700 BC:** First tea drunk in China.
- **16th Century:** Tea arrives in Europe (used as medicine).
- **May to July:** Second sprouting period (best tea season).

Exam Tip

Be prepared to compare the two tea legends (Chinese vs. Indian) in 3-mark or 5-mark long answers. Highlight words like *Bodhidharma*, *meditation eyelids*, and *Chinese emperor's boiled water*.

Key Takeaways — Part III

- Assam is the largest tea-growing region in the world.
- Tea has a rich history blending ancient mythology and European trade.
- Thorough preparation and curiosity (like Rajvir's) enrich travel experiences.

Comprehensive Chapter Summary Comparison

Aspect	Part I: A Baker from Goa	Part II: Coorg	Part III: Tea from Assam
Author	Lucio Rodrigues	Lokesh Abrol	Arup Kumar Datta
Region / Setting	Goa (Coastal West India)	Coorg / Kodagu (Karnataka)	Assam (North-East India)
Key Focus	Portuguese cultural legacy & village baker	Brave martial race, coffee & landscape	Tea gardens, legends & trade history
Unique Cultural Marker	<i>Bol, Kabai, Pader</i>	<i>Kuppia dress, Firearms license exemption</i>	<i>Tea pluckers, Sprouting season (May-July)</i>