

Grade 10 & 11 (*New Syllabus*)

Appreciation of English Literary Texts



The Lahore Attack

An extract from the Colin Cowdrey Lecture

by Kumar Sangakkara.



Introduction to “*The Lahore Attack*”.

“The Lahore Attack”, comes under the prose passages, is an extract from Kumar Sangakkara’s Colin Cowdrey Lecture delivered on 5th of July 2011 at Lords.

Colin Cowdrey was a batsman and a bowler who played cricket for the England team during 1954-1975. He was a member of the M.C.C. (Marylebone Cricket Club) which was the governing body of cricket in England and world wide. The whole world mesmerized or fascinated by this speech because of its sincerity, dignity and patriotism. He was contributory in including the “spirit of cricket” in accordance with the code of cricket laws, ensuring that cricket is always played in a truly sportsman like manner. The MCC spirit of cricket Cowdrey lecture was inaugurated in 2001 in memory of the late Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge.

Introduction contd...

As a cricketer, Kumar Sangakkara had the privilege to deliver his lecture at this event on the 5th of July 2011, touching on the history, culture and opportunities for Sri Lankan cricket as well as a moving recounting of the terrorist attack on their team, in a bus, in Lahore-Pakistan.

The Lahore attack took place on the 3rd of March, 2009 at the Gaddafi stadium in Lahore, Pakistan when the Sri Lankan team was on their way to play the 3rd day of the 2nd test. The bus was fired upon by 12 gunmen. 6 Pakistan policemen and two civilians died whereas 6 members of the Sri Lankan team were injured.



About the Author/ Speaker – Kumar Sangakkara

Kumar Chokshananda Sangakkara, a world class cricketer, best known as Kumar Sangakkara is one of Sri Lanka's leading cricketers . He has received international recognition and acclamation.

He was born on 27th October 1977, in Matale, Kandy. He is the youngest of four children. He has two sisters and one brother. His father was a lawyer, sportsman and an ardent lover of literature, art, and philosophy etc.

He studied in Trinity College, Kandy.

He is addressed as “Sanga” by his team mates and his fans and loved by many Sri Lankans as well as foreigners.





He is a left-hand batsman. Not only as a top-order batsman, he used to play as the wicket keeper too. He has been ranked as the number 1 Test batsman in the world several times during his career.

Sangakkara was one of the most important members of the team that won the 2014 World T20 as well as the team that made the finals to the 2007 World Cup and the 2012 World T20. Sangakkara captained the national team from 2008 to 2011 stepping down after the 2011 world cup finals. The same year, he was named the ODI cricketer of the year at the ICC Cricket Awards Ceremony. He is a holder of some records in Cricket too.

Sangakkara is married to Yehali and they have two children, girl and a boy. Sangakkara is currently a law undergraduate.



A note on the Extract – *The Lahore Attack*

“*The Lahore Attack*” is an extract taken from the speech delivered by Kumar Sangakkara on the 5th of July 2011. Being a multilingual and fluent speaker of English, it was a very eloquent speech packed with emotionally charged expressions. At the end of his speech he received a standing ovation as he stunned the audience by his speech.

In his speech, he focused on our history, culture and opportunities for Sri Lankan cricket and also the tragic encounter of the terrorist attack on Sri Lankan cricket team, in a bus, in Lahore-Pakistan. The team was lucky to escape from the attack without having fatal damage.

As he said, despite the turbulence in Sri Lanka, violence and war, it had never affected directly on Sangakkara’s life until terrorists fired on the bus taking his team to a stadium in Lahore in March 2009. So he experienced the terrorism out of the motherland. He shared the horrified moment he thought he would be killed.

His speech was full of love and regard for his motherland, Sri Lanka and its people. He has given his ideas about his role as a cricketer, his relationship with team members and other people. It is a unique and genuine expression of Kumar about the responsibility as a leader, a leader in cricket. He shared the great love and regard the Sri Lankans have for the cricket and cricketers with the whole world.

This oration has made a great influence on the listeners as well as it will influence the readers of this extract as well. In this moving speech, Sangakkara told about the civil war and the role cricket has played in healing the conflict. The extract further reveals the features of the ‘good cricket player’ as well as the ‘good leader’. Moreover, it reveals the qualities of Sangakkara as a great Sri Lankan and great humanist to the world.

Glossary

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|
| • detached | - | apart/ away from |
| • imperative | - | important, |
| • meandering | - | winding |
| • whizz | - | move quickly |
| • Numb | - | deadened |
| • debut tour | - | first appearance (First tour) |

Activity.

1. When and where this attack was happened?
2. What are the idea put forward by Sangakkara in this extract?
3. Who were hit by the terrorist attack?

Answers

1. In 2009, Lahore-Pakistan
2. His role as a cricketer, his relationship with his fellow cricketers, his relationship with the public, his responsibility towards his countrymen.
3. Mahela, Thilan, Sangakkara, Tharanga Paranawithana, Ajantha Mendis