




Welcome!

1. Turn off your microphone.
2. Turn on your camera.
3. Do you hear the music playing?
4. Please write your **Good News/Bad News** in the chat
5. Problems? Please send a message to me privately in the chat.



Norms

- Change your name to your real name
- Have your materials ready
- Be 100% present! No social media, no phone, avoid distractions (we'd love to meet your cat, but this is not the time!).
- Participate at **least** once during the session
- Take notes
- Dress appropriately and keep your workspace tidy (okay, you can wear PJ bottoms and slippers if you want, but you need to be dressed appropriately from the waist up!)
- Take care of each other: please help each other and your teacher!
- Be patient and calm.

Reminders

Vacation Homework:

- Mme Carpenzano will email you feedback from your first OIB Essays
- Read SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH by Tennessee Williams
- Be prepared for a multiple choice “test” à la “rentrée”
- OIB Essay Practice on April 28th, debut M4

Questions

- Why was Mala meeting Mrs. Croft so important for the narrator?
- “As ordinary as it all appears, there are times where it is beyond my imagination.” How is attitude significant to a successful life?
- What did the piano symbolize?
- “We had spent only a handful of days in each other’s company. And yet we were bound together”. Are you surprised by arranged marriages?
- What makes a good life according to this story?
- Discuss the positive and grateful ending to this story.

- Find two other key quotes and discuss their significance.
- In what ways was Mrs. Croft remarkable in her own right?
- What is the narrator's attitude to Mrs. Croft, and how does it show differences in cultural expectations?
- Being new to a country, what support seems to help people find their way?

comparing prices with those in England. In the end I bought a carton of milk and a box of cornflakes. This was my first meal in America. Even the simple chore of buying milk was new to me; in London we'd had bottles delivered each morning to our door.

at the throat and cuffs. Her hands, folded together in her lap, had long pallid fingers, with swollen knuckles and tough yellow nails. Age had battered her features so that she almost resembled a man, with sharp, shrunken eyes and prominent creases on either side of her nose. Her lips, chapped and faded, had nearly disappeared, and her eyebrows were missing altogether. Nevertheless she looked fierce.

"Yes, Madam."

But she was not satisfied with my reply. Instead she commanded, "Say 'Splendid!'"

I was both baffled and somewhat insulted by the request. It reminded me of the way I was taught multiplication tables as a child, repeating after the master, sitting cross-legged on the floor of my one-room Tollygunge school. It also reminded me of my wedding, when I had repeated endless Sanskrit verses after the priest, verses I barely understood, which joined me to my wife. I said nothing.

I waited to get used to her, to her presence at my side, at my table and in my bed, but a week later we were still strangers. I still was not used to coming home to an apartment that smelled of steamed rice, and finding that the basin in the bathroom was always wiped clean, our two toothbrushes lying side by side, a cake of Pears soap residing in the soap dish. I was not used to the fragrance of the coconut oil

As stunned as I was, I knew what I had to say. With no hesitation at all, I cried out, "Splendid!"

Mala laughed then. Her voice was full of kindness, her eyes bright with amusement. I had never heard her laugh before, and it was loud enough so that Mrs. Croft heard, too. She turned to Mala and glared.

alone and unprotected. But I remind myself that he has a father who is still living, a mother who is happy and strong. Whenever he is discouraged, I tell him that if I can survive on three continents, then there is no obstacle he cannot conquer. While the astronauts, heroes forever, spent mere hours on the moon, I have remained in this new world for nearly thirty years. I know that my achievement is quite ordinary. I am not the only man to seek his fortune far from home, and certainly I am not the first. Still, there are times I am bewildered by each mile I have travelled, each meal I have eaten, each person I have known, each room in which I have slept. As ordinary as it all appears, there are times when it is beyond my imagination.