

Book Club Meeting Report 📖

A Book Club meeting was held on **Friday, September 26**, at **2:00 PM** in the **Language Lab**. The session was dedicated to discussing three classic short stories: ***Namak ka Daaroga*** by Premchand, ***How Much Land Does a Man Need?*** by Leo Tolstoy, and ***Death of a Government Clerk*** by Anton Chekhov. The event saw active participation from both teachers and students.

Attendance

The meeting had a strong turnout, with a total of **56 participants**:

- **Teachers:** 6
- **Students:** 50

Discussion Highlights

The core of the meeting was the discussion of the three short stories, which successfully sparked engaging conversations.

- ***Namak ka Daaroga (The Salt Inspector)***: The discussion focused heavily on the story's themes of **moral integrity** versus **financial temptation**. Participants praised the character of **Munshi Vamshidhar** and debated the complexities of his ethical stand in a corrupt system. Insights were shared regarding the story's relevance to modern societal values and the power dynamics between the wealthy and the working class.
- ***How Much Land Does a Man Need?***: This story led to a profound philosophical discussion on **greed, materialism, and human aspiration**. Participants analyzed the tragic downfall of the protagonist, **Pahom**, noting the irony of his relentless pursuit of land culminating in only six feet for his grave. The conversation centered on the universal lesson about the futility of insatiable desire.
- ***Death of a Government Clerk***: The humorous yet poignant story prompted a discussion on **social hierarchy, fear, and over-politeness**. Members explored the character of **Ivan Dmitrich Chervyakov** and how his crippling anxiety over a trivial offense leads to his demise. This generated talk about the psychological pressures of bureaucratic life and the concept of "making a mountain out of a molehill."

Other Activities

In addition to the main discussion, the meeting included two other engaging segments:

1. **Recent Readings**: Participants took turns briefly sharing titles, summaries, and impressions of books they had recently finished reading, ranging across various

genres, which provided recommendations and inspiration for future personal reading.

2. **Poetry Recitation:** The meeting concluded with a lively session of poetry recitation. Participants recited poems in both **English** and **Hindi**, showcasing literary talent and adding a cultural flair to the gathering. The recitations were well-received and offered a refreshing break from the prose discussion.

Conclusion

The Book Club meeting was a resounding success, achieving its goal of fostering literary discussion and community engagement. The selection of classic stories proved excellent for stimulating thought, and the supplementary activities contributed to a well-rounded and enjoyable afternoon. All attendees participated actively, making the session intellectually stimulating and highly productive.

