

ENGLISH



GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

~Summary~

-by S.D. Sawant

The lesson "**Glimpses of the Past**" is written by **S.D. Sawant**. The story deals with the **incidents** that lead to the **First War of Independence**. The East India Company extended its power in India during the **18th century**. The Indian princes took help from the **Britishers** to kill their **enemies**. The Britishers considered **Indian princes** "**short-sighted**" because they failed to understand the plan of the **Britishers**. Later on, the **East India Company** defeated Indian princes one by one. Indian people witnessed many **superstitious** beliefs like **untouchability** and **child marriage**. They blindly believed in **religious beliefs**. The Britishers **imposed heavy taxes** on farmers so that farmers had to give up their fields to the **English men**. **Raja Ram Mohan Roy**, a learned person from **Bengal**, understood what was **wrong** with this **country** and thought of saving his country from the **Britishers**.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy went to **England** and met the **Britishers**. He spoke to them for the welfare of the **Indian people**. But the Britishers continued to **oppress Indians**. In 1818, they had passed a new law called **Regulation III**. Later on, **Thomas Macaulay**, an English man, suggested some changes in **Indian Education**, and very soon, they taught Indians the English language. By **1856**, the British conquered the most of the regions of India. Some of the Indian soldiers working under the Britishers were **dissatisfied** because the Britishers **treated their soldiers** in a rich way by providing **big houses** and **high income**. But they provided only **less income** for the **Indian soldiers**. Later on, an Indian soldier named **Mangal Pandey** attacked the **regiment's adjutant**, and he was **executed**. In 1857, a vast, violent **revolt** was started, and the **rebellion** spread all over India. Many landlords, peasants and farmers lost their lands because of the **newly passed British policies**. Many rulers aroused India's people to fight against the Britishers. At last, in the lesson, an **eighty-year-old Kunwar Singh of Bihar** received a **bullet** in his wrist. So he cut off his hand to avoid major health issues and gave it as an **offering** to **Mother Ganga**.

~Conclusion~

The chapter – Glimpses of the Past teaches a lesson to students that if we stand together for a good cause, we can achieve success just like our brave freedom fighters did. They had an organised approach in India's struggle for independence as they sacrificed their lives so that we can lead a life of freedom from the British rule. Presenting the CBSE Class 8 English Honeydew Prose Summary of Glimpses of the Past that must have helped students to have a comprehensive understanding of the chapter.